

**Western Civilization 101-09 (GHP, GPM, GL, WI)  
Spring 2008  
Ancient Near East – the Protestant Reformation**

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### **Introduction**

Welcome to the study of Western Civilization! This semester, each of the primary sources (documents written in the period under discussion) we will be examining will concern the religious, political, and/or social and cultural development of western society. In addition to examining the contributions of these documents to western culture, we will be looking at two other questions. 1) How do individuals in pre-modern society understand their places in the world and 2) How do these individuals understand their relationships to one another?

In order to make good oral and written evaluations of the sources we will read, you must always consider the biases, both positive and negative, of the author and the nature of the source. All historical sources are not created equal; you'll need to make informed judgments about each of them. Since this is a history course, the topics of our discussions will be roughly chronological (beginning with Mesopotamian culture and ending with the Protestant Reformation), but we will be more concerned with analytical methods than with strict chronology. In other words, you will spend more time in this class reading and analyzing primary source materials than you will spend memorizing names and dates.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

At the end of the course you will be able to

- construct an analytical essay using related primary source material as evidence to support an argument in answer to a specific historical question.
- explain the significance of primary source document excerpts in relation to the origins of social, political, and religious elements of modern western society
- understand the differences and similarities among ancient, medieval, and early modern western culture.

### **Primary Sources (Required)**

Marvin Perry, et al. eds. *Sources of the Western Tradition: From Ancient Times to the Enlightenment*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition with atlas (Houghton Mifflin) ISBN 978-0547079561.

Anonymous. *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, (Penguin Epics), ISBN 978-0141026282.

Plato. *The Last Days of Socrates*. (Penguin) ISBN 978-0140449280.

Anonymous. *Beowulf*. (Penguin) ISBN 978-140449310.

Machiavelli, Niccolo, *The Prince*, (Bedford/St. Martin's, 2004) ISBN 978-0312149789.

### **Secondary Source (Required)**

Spielvogel, Jackson, *Western Civilization: A Brief History*, Volume I: To 1715, 6th edition (Wadsworth, 2004) ISBN 978-0534646035.

### **For Your Information**

**Attendance:** After you have missed four class periods for any reason, your final average for the course will be reduced by one percentage point (ie from 84 to 83) for each additional absence.

**Honor code:** Any violation of the honor code (such as plagiarism or cheating) will be dealt with according to UNCG's academic integrity policy. I am particularly concerned about plagiarism from the web. I do not want you to use websites for any of the writing assignments unless a particular website is specifically included as part of the assignment. The primary sources and the lectures will provide you with sufficient information to complete the assignments. For specific explanations about UNCG's academic integrity policy, see the Student Affairs website at <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/>.

**Assignment completion:** Failure to complete any part of the course – in-class writings, discussions, periodic short writing assignments, or any of the three essays– will result in an “F” for the course.

**Computer Use:** You are more than welcome to use your laptop computer to take notes and to look at websites to which I refer during lecture. I reserve the right, however, to ask you not to bring your computer to class if I discover that you have been using it for personal purposes (e-mail, shopping, web surfing, etc.) during class. Not only is this rude to me as the instructor, it's incredibly distracting to your fellow students.

### **Reading Advice**

Because most of these documents will be totally unfamiliar to you, I recommend taking notes on them as you read. It is also useful to write a brief summary (2-3 sentences) of each document so that you can remember the contents of each text for class discussion. Taking notes on the primary sources you will be writing papers on is especially important. It's much easier to note down important points as you read than it is to go back and find those points again once you've finished reading. Finally, I recommend reading each document more than once. Sometimes it will take two (or even three) readings for something to make sense to you. Because the amount of reading for our course is fairly small, you'll have plenty of time for re-reading.

### **Supplemental Reading**

In many cases, the supplemental readings will come from the on-line readers the Ancient History Sourcebook or the Internet Medieval Sourcebook. When the readings are to be found on-line, I will put a link on our Blackboard readings page. Occasionally, the supplemental reading will be in the form of a paper handout.

### **Blackboard**

Be sure to check on Blackboard (<https://blackboard.uncg.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>) for course announcements, assignments, and links to important websites.

### **Adverse Weather Conditions**

If you think that the university might be closed due to weather, either call the UNCG Adverse Weather Line at (336) 334-4400 or check the university's website ([www.uncg.edu](http://www.uncg.edu)). If the university is open, I will hold class.

### **Discussion Preparation and Writing Assignments**

For the purposes of evaluation (grading), we will focus on two interrelated skills. The first, active discussion of the material, requires reading the material before the day of the lecture with which it is connected so that you can contribute both comments and informed questions to the discussion.

### **Grade Breakdown**

Discussion	10%
Quizzes	10%
First Midterm	20%
Second Midterm	20%
Final	40%

### **Discussion Preparation and Written Assignments**

Discussion: To participate actively in the class discussions, you will need to read the materials assigned for each lecture before the day of that lecture. Your discussion grade will be based not only on the quantity but also on the quality of your comments. Remember that asking a question about something you didn't understand in the readings is a good way of participating in the discussion.

Quizzes: There will be periodic reading quizzes (based on the primary source readings) and periodic map quizzes.

Midterms and Final: All three of these exams will be take-home assignments. Each of them will consist of two parts: identifications of passages from the primary sources (including their significance) and a longer essay based on primary source material.

### **Lectures and Readings**

#### **Section I: The Ancient World**

Monday, January 14 – Introductions – What is *civilization*?

Wednesday, January 16 – Mesopotamia: The Beginnings of Western Civilization

Primary Source Readings: *Gilgamesh*, vii-37.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 1, 1-15.

Friday, January 18 – Mesopotamia: The *Epic of Gilgamesh*

Primary Source Readings: *Gilgamesh*, 37-63.

Monday, January 21 – Martin Luther King Day – No class

Wednesday, January 23 – Egypt: the Nile

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 1, 16-27.

Friday, January 25: Egypt: the Pharaoh

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 1, 10-16.

Monday, January 28: Creation Narratives of the Ancient Near East

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 1, 21-22; Chapter 2, 26-28.

Wednesday, January 30 – The Hebrew Covenant

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 2, 29-42.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 2, 31-49.

Friday, February 1: Hammurabi and Exodus

Primary Source Readings: <http://www.fordham.edu/HALSALL/ancient/hamcode.html>

Monday, February 4 – Archaic Greece & Homer's *Iliad*

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 3, 44-48; <http://classics.mit.edu/Homer/iliad.html>

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 3, 51-63.

Wednesday, February 6: The Classical Age of Greece: Drama

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 3, 59-62; 66-69; Plato, *Crito*, 73-96.

Friday, February 8: The Classical Age of Greece: Philosophy, History, Art, & Architecture

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 3, 56-59; Plato, *Phaedo*, 99-199.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 3, 71-81.

Monday, February 11: The Classical Age of Greece: the Peloponnesian War

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 3, 62-64; 70-74.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 3, 64-71.

Wednesday, February 13: Aristotle

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 3, 84-89.

Friday, February 15 – Hellenistic Greece: Alexander's Conquests

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 3, 89-97.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 4, 84-104.

Monday, February 18: Rome: The Republic

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 4, 99-118.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 5, 106-125.

Wednesday, February 20: Rome: End of Republic, Beginning of Empire

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 4, 119-124; Chapter 5, 125-140.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 5, 125-134; Chapter 6, 137-157.

Friday, February 22: Rome: Crises of the Third Century

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 5, 150-153.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 6, 157-158; Chapter 7, 166-168.

Monday, February 25: The Fall of the Roman Empire

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 5, 153-160.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 7, 169-172.

Wednesday, February 27: Early Christianity: Jesus & Paul  
Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 6, 162-165; 182-183.  
Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 6, 158-163.

Friday, February 29: Early Christianity: Creeds  
Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 7, 168-169.

Monday, March 3: Early Christianity: Monasticism  
Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 6, 171-177.  
Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 7, 180-186.

## **Section II: The Middle Ages**

Wednesday, March 5: Byzantium: the Roman Legacy in the East  
Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 7, 192-197.  
Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 7, 186-192.

Friday, March 7: The Appearance of Islam  
Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 7, 197-203; *Beowulf*, 3-58.  
Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 7, 192-196.

Monday, March 10: Spring Break – no class

Wednesday, March 12: Spring Break – no class

Friday, March 14: Spring Break – no class

Monday, March 17: *Beowulf*  
Primary Source Readings: *Beowulf*, 58-113.

Wednesday, March 19: Clovis & the Franks  
Primary Source Readings: Handout –Gregory of Tours  
Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 7, 172-176..

Friday, March 21: Spring Holiday – No class

Monday, March 24: Charlemagne & the Carolingian Empire  
Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 7, 205-212.  
Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 8, 198-208.

Wednesday, March 26: The Ninth-century Invasions and the Emergence of Feudal Society  
Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 8, 209-214.

Friday, March 28: Agriculture & Peasants in the Middle Ages  
Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 8, 215-218; Chapter 9, 228-231.

Monday, March 31: The Feudal Contract  
Primary Source Readings: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/agreement.html>

Wednesday, April 2: The Investiture Controversy

Primary Source Readings: Handout, Investiture  
Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 10, 267-268.

Friday, April 4: The First Crusade

Primary Source Readings: Handout, 4 Accounts of the First Crusade  
Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 10, 274-276.

Monday, April 7: New Religious Orders & Disorders

Primary Source Readings: Handout, the Franciscans; Perry, Chapter 8, 233-236.  
Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 10, 268-273.

Wednesday, April 9: Statebuilding: England

Primary Source Readings: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/mcarta.html>

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 10, 254-257.

Friday, April 11: Women in the High Middle Ages

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 8, 251-258.  
Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 9, 231-235.

Monday, April 14: Medieval Universities

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 8, 236-243.  
Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 9, 242-246.

Wednesday, April 16: Gothic Art & Courtly Love

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 8, 249-251.  
Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 9, 247-251.

Friday, April 18: Crises of the 14th century: the four horsemen of the Apocalypse

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 8, 265-273.  
Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 11, 283-310.

### **Section III: Early Modern Europe**

Monday, April 21: Italian Renaissance Art & Literature: Petrarch & Leonardo

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 8, 273-280; Chapter 9, 282-289; 295-299.  
Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 12, 330-336.

Wednesday, April 23: Italian Renaissance Politics

Primary Source Readings: Machiavelli, *The Prince*, 39-81.  
Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 12, 323-324.

Friday, April 25: Machiavelli and *the Prince*

Primary Source Readings: Machiavelli, *The Prince*, 81-123.

Monday, April 28: The Protestant Reformation: Luther

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 10, 307-322.  
Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 13, 346-356.

Wednesday, April 30: The Protestant Reformation: Calvin

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 10, 322-324; Handout, Calvin.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 13, 362-363.

Friday, May 2: Legislated change: Reform in England

Primary Source Readings: Handout, English Reformation

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 13, 360-362.

Monday, May 5: the Council of Trent & the Counter-Reformation

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 10, 324-328.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 13, 366-369.

Tuesday, May 6: Reminiscences: What is *civilization*?

Monday, May 12: *Final due in my office (MHRA 2102) by 9 a.m.*