

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO
Western Civilization
WCV 101-11
Room: MHRA 2211
Tuesday: 6:00 PM – 8:50 PM
Spring Semester 2008

KEVIN L. CROWDER

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OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday and Thursday

10:45 AM – 11:15 AM

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

By Appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND THE SCOPE OF THIS COURSE

This course is a Western Civilization course that is designed to provide students with a general understanding of those intellectual and cultural trends which have flourished in the West from the Ancient Near East through the mid eighteenth century. The study of Western Civilization is important in order to understand the historical, cultural, political, and religious constructs which gives the world meaning to each and every one of us. This class will provide information that allows students to uncover and investigate world views as they appear throughout history. In the end, students should have an excellent grasp of Western ideals, intellect, culture, and the importance of Western Civilization to their lives. In short, Western Civilization is important, because Western Civilization tradition is in many ways, your tradition also.

The study of history entails more than memorization of dates, names and events, although such facts are important. Understanding history requires exposure to cultural, social, political, religious, and economic conflict among various groups of people. Appreciating history and Western Civilization requires one to view the Western World through the eyes of everyone; Kings, Emperors, and the like, are vital in this understanding – yet, examination and analyses of a cross section of classes allows for a much clearer picture of history. A bottom up approach reveals that every event, leader, and socio-economic activity creates common conflict that oftentimes has far reaching affects. The history of Western Civilization is not static; it is not antiquated, and has very real consequences that we may associate and relate to our present world. In short, the history of Western Civilization is indeed relevant to our present lives and understanding it enables us to better understand our common culture, traditions, and customs.

- **COURSE GOALS**

- 1 To understand Western development through the study of various cultures, societies, and people who made up “civilization” as we know it.
- 2 To realize and understand how Western Civilization developed through political, economical, and social changes over time.
- 3 To understand the different cultures and traditions of Western Civilization that created conflict; and how societies negotiated changing circumstances and events.
- 4 Lastly, students will learn how change over time was influenced by conflict and how changes created by conflict furthered advancements in Western Civilization.

- **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Required Texts (available in the College Bookstore)

The Western Heritage: To 1740 Volume 1, 9th edition (Kagan, Ozment, and Turner)

- **READINGS, CLASS PREPARATION, AND CLASS PARTICIPATION**

This course will require you to read and understand the various themes of history covered in the required text. As such, you will be held to the assigned readings for each class meeting, which means you should make notes during your readings, you should formulate questions about the various arguments, facts and material covered, and you should consult outside sources if you have difficulty understanding some aspects of the text. Outside sources are easily available from the Jackson Library and in many cases, the Internet. **Please, don't come to class unprepared or with a total lack of ideas, questions, or comments.**

- **CLASS PARTICIPATION**

It is imperative that you participate in class discussions each and every class meeting. I welcome dissenting views, comments, and I will expect you to discuss your ideas and interpretations of the assigned materials for each class. Believe me, class will go smoother, faster, and be far more enjoyable if everyone is prepared and can intelligently discuss the material – why not participate? The alternative: a lecture for a full period, a long drawn out class, and in all probability a lack of real understanding of the material.

- **ATTENDANCE:**

We only meet once a week, as this is the case, I will expect you each class unless you have an exceptional circumstance. Exceptional circumstances may include, but are not limited to, documented death in your immediate family or severe illness. If you find yourself unable to attend, then you need to e-mail me or better yet, give me a call, and let me know you will be absent and the reason why. It is your responsibility to let me know if you are going to be absent. Since we have a broad range of time and material to cover, it is imperative that you attend class. Being late to class and or leaving early is also a bad practice, if you enter class late, please enter as quietly as possible and see me at the end of the class period so that I can appropriately mark your status on my roll for that day. Consistent absences, tardiness or leaving classes early will be reason enough for me to impose a grading penalty; so don't put you or me in that position!

If you miss class, then you are expected to find a classmate with the notes from the class missed and catch up on any materials covered; to include, handouts, or other assigned readings for the next class. We cannot wait for you to catch up, that will only slow down your classmates and make learning difficult for everyone else.

- **NO MAKE UP WORK ALLOWED**

BECAUSE THE CLASS ONLY MEETS ONCE A WEEK, IT IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE UP ANY MISSED WORK. THEREFORE, I AM NOT INCLINED TO ALLOW FOR ANY LATE WORK, NOR WILL I PROVIDE FOR MAKE UP WORK. THE ONLY EXCEPTION WILL BE IN INDIVIDUAL CASES WHERE THE STUDENT HAS DOCUMENTED PROOF OF AN ABSENCE AND HAS CONTACTED ME IN **ADVANCE**.

- **EXAMS**

During the semester there will be three (3) Exams. The following class schedule will provide you with the Exam date and the chapters you are responsible for on each Exam.

We will discuss Exams in detail as the semester progresses.

- **RESEARCH / ESSAY PAPER**

During the semester I will provide you with a topic involving an aspect of Western Civilization during the period we are studying. You will in turn conduct research on the topic and submit a paper. This assignment is relatively straightforward. You must utilize two (2) sources for this paper. They are as follows:

1. A scholarly book on the topic
2. A scholarly journal or magazine article from a respected source.

Absolutely **NO INTERNET SOURCES ARE PERMITTED**. Because of the number of unreliable Websites on the internet, and the fact that many sites lack historical credulity and scholarly integrity, the use of the internet is oftentimes suspect in terms of research. Therefore you are not to use the internet as a source for this assignment.

The paper is to be a minimum of 2 pages in length and a maximum of 3. Therefore, you will have to compose your work in a concise manner, i.e., essay style, and write within the confines of the allotted pages. This is sometimes more difficult than you imagine.

We will discuss the paper at length during the semester, and I will have a handout as well.

- **COURSE GRADING**

This class is graded based on the averages of your exams and research / essay paper. Grading may be negatively affected by consistently violating the attendance guidelines. Likewise, attendance grades may be positively affected by your participation in discussions, questions, and your overall class involvement.

Grading is based on a 10 point grading scale.

- **HISTORY STUDY AIDS**

The publisher of your text provides a website that is very helpful. It is free and available to all students in this class and is a great tool to enhance your studies and knowledge of history. I would suggest taking a look at the site and exploring it; I did and found it a very good site that is interactive; it has practice quizzes and other information that will help you.

The web address is: **<http://www.prenhall.com/kagan>**

***I would highly suggest that you look at and use this site**

- **CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

Reading assignments are specified below, you are responsible for the reading **prior** to class.

The required text is: The Western Heritage: to 1740, Volume 1, 9th edition (Donald Kagan et al).

It is **imperative** that you regularly check **Blackboard** and your **e-mail** for updates to class, assignments, and announcements. I place documents, lectures, and other information on Blackboard as a routine, so PLEASE check Blackboard and e-mail regularly.

CLASS SCHEDULE
Western Civilization – WCV-101
Spring Semester, 2008 – UNCG

- January 15, 2008:** **Class Introduction to Western Civilization**
- Class Requirements – Review of Syllabus
 - Why study Western Civilization?
 - What makes Western Civilization relevant?

- Jan. 22: **Chapter 2 – The Rise of Greek Civilization**
- Greek Origins
 - The Polis (Sparta/Athens)
 - The Persian War

- Jan 29: **Chapter 3 – Classical and Hellenistic Greece**
- The Golden Age of Athens
 - Plato, Pericles, and Aristotle
 - The Peloponnesian Wars

- February 5, 2008:** **Chapter 4 – Rome: From Republic to Empire**
- Rome to Julius Caesar
 - August Caesar

- Feb 12: **Chapter 5 – The Roman Empire**
- Rome's Greatness
 - Constantine – Developments of Christianity
 - St. Augustine

- Feb 19:** **EXAM # 1 – Chapters 2, 3, 4, and 5**
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- Feb 26: **Chapter 6 – The Early Middle Ages**
- The Birth of Europe
 - Charlemagne
 - Birth of Islam

**CLASS SCHEDULE – Continued
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- March 4, 2008:** **Chapter 8 – Medieval Society**
- The Traditional Order of Life
 - Nobility / Clergy / Peasants
 - The Clergy and The Church

March 11: **NO CLASS - FALL BREAK**

- March 18:** **Chapter 9 – The Late Middle Ages**
- The Black Death
 - Church Schism

March 25: **Exam # 2 – Chapters 6, 8, and 9**

- April 1, 2008:** **Chapter 10 – Renaissance and Discovery**
- Humanism
 - Pico / Machiavelli
 - Erasmus

- April 8:** **Chapter 11 – The Age of Reformation**
- Martin Luther
 - John Calvin
 - Henry VIII
 - Catholic Reform

- April 15:** **Chapter 12 – The Age of Religious Wars**
- The Edict of Nantes
 - Imperial Spain
 - England – Queen Mary I and Queen Elizabeth I
 - The Thirty Years War

**CLASS SCHEDULE – Continued
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- April 22: **Chapter 13 – European State Consolidation**
- European Political Development
 - The Long Parliament
 - Oliver Cromwell
 - France and Louis XIV
 - Versailles

April 29: **Exam # 3: Chapters 10, 11, 12, and 13**

I retain the right to amend the class schedule if circumstances dictate, i.e. inclement weather, or some unforeseen event. As such, if the class schedule is amended, I will notify you immediately.