

**WCV 101-01-04  
Eberhart 284**

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Office Hours 11-11:45 MWF**

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**This course examines developments between about 800 B.C. and A.D. 1600 which shaped Western civilization (including developments which created a “west”). We will move through ancient Greek history, Roman history, medieval history, and early modern history. In doing so, we will focus on a sequence of “foundations” connected with each of these periods which provide the basis for the distinctive ideas and practices characteristic of Western civilization. These are Intellectual Foundations (Greek), Religious Foundations (Roman), Political Foundations (medieval), and Economic Foundations (early modern). The course would accurately be titled “The Foundations of Western Civilization”.**

**We will use a textbook, Frankforter and Spellman, *The West. Culture and Ideals*, vol. 1, as a narrative guide, and various web sites for additional readings. Lectures will concentrate on Foundations issues. Students will meet each week in both lecture classes (Monday and Friday) and smaller discussion sections (Wednesday). Students are responsible for completing the assigned textbook and web readings before each class. Lecture and discussion group attendance is mandatory. More than two unexcused absences will cause the loss of a full grade. More than three unexcused absences will cause the student to be dropped from the class. There will be four exams in the course (of equal value) (72% of total grade), regular writing assignments, and occasional quizzes (typically on the web readings) (writing assignments + quizzes = 20 % of total grade). Discussion group participation makes up the remainder of the total grade.**

**In addition to gaining an understanding of the pattern of events in each of these periods, students are expected to be able to describe what is involved in each of the “foundations” and to explain the circumstances in which the ideas and practices of each foundation emerged. To help achieve both these goals, students will regularly write and submit two kinds of summaries, one dealing with the text readings, the other with the Foundations topics.**

***Text Summary:* You will see that our textbook color codes the titles or headings of the sections and subsections in each chapter. Blue is the color used for section headings. When indicated in the syllabus by TS, you are to go through the assigned pages in *The West* and construct a brief summary of the material discussed under each blue heading. “Brief” means 3-4 sentences which identify the most important**

points in each section. Use the blue section titles as the headings for the parts of your summary. You can usually summarize each section by summarizing the subsections headed or titled in purple. These are due as indicated. Submit to your Discussion Group leader.

*Foundations Summary:* By the end of each part of the course, you should have a clear idea of just what is meant by the particular Foundations (Intellectual, Religious, etc.) we have been dealing with. To ensure this, you are to write a brief paper (2-3 paragraphs) which states just what we mean by “Intellectual Foundations”, “Religious Foundations”, “Political Foundations”, and “Economic Foundations” and indicates what historical conditions contributed to the development of that Foundation. These are due at the last discussion group meeting preceding each exam.

### Required text

Frankforter and Spellman, *The West. Culture and Ideals*, vol. 1.

### Class Schedule and Assignments

(W = *The West*; DG = Discussion Group; TS = Text Summary; FS = Foundations Summary)

1/20 DG

1/22 Introduction: Studying and Understanding History W xli-xlvi, 1-50

#### *I. Intellectual Foundations*

1/25 The Greek Polis W 62-81

1/27 DG

1/29 Athens and the Development of Democracy W 81-101; *TS due*

2/1 Dealing with Democracy: Rhetoric and Education

2/3 DG

2/5 Dealing with Democracy: Drama and Historiography W 111-115, 105-107;  
Sophocles, *Antigone*; in West CD or online at

<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Aegean/4979/antigone.html>

Consider: Does Sophocles have a point of view? What is the lesson he seems to be emphasizing?

2/8 Dealing with Democracy: Socrates and Philosophy W 101-105, 107-110;

*Apology of Socrates* =

<http://eawc.evansville.edu/anthology/apology.htm>;

Consider: In what sense has Socrates been trying to wake up his fellow citizens?

*TS (of pp. 101-116) due*

2/10 DG

2/12 Plato: The Cosmic Perspective

[http://www.historyguide.org/ancient/allegory\\_bb.html](http://www.historyguide.org/ancient/allegory_bb.html)

Consider: Based on what Plato writes in this selection, where does he think true reality lies? How can we perceive it?

2/15 Stoicism: Rational Man in a Rational Universe

W 118-129

2/17 DG

*FS due*

2/19 EXAM #1

## II. Religious Foundations

2/22 Roman History Overview

W 129-147; *TS due*

2/24 DG

2/26 The Imperial Solution

W 148-172

3/1 Jewish Apocalypticism and Jesus

W 51-58, 182-189;

*Book of Daniel:*

<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/r/rsv/rsv-idx?type=DIV1&byte=3332140>

*Gospel of Mark:* <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/r/rsv/rsv-idx?type=DIV1&byte=4697892> (If you have a copy of the Bible, just read that)

3/3 DG

3/5 Early Churches

W 184-186; *Didache*

<http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/didache-roberts.html>;

Consider: On the basis of these teachings, what would you say are the essential Christian beliefs and practices in the late 1<sup>st</sup>/early 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries?

3/15 The Imperial Church

W 186-189

3/17 DG

*FS due*

3/19 EXAM #2

## III. Political Foundations

3/22 Birth of Europe

W 189-224; *TS due*

3/24 DG

3/26 Feudalism

W 224-235, 242-249;

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook1i.html#Feudalism> Read initial

paragraphs and selections under

“Oaths and Contracts”

Consider: According to these contracts, what does a vassal typically *have* to do for his lord? What does a lord do for the vassal?

3/29 Kingdoms and Countries W 283-291  
3/31 DG  
4/2 The Papal Church W 249-260;  
*Election Decree, Dictatus Papae =*  
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/papal-elect1059.html>  
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/g7-dictpap.html>;  
Consider: What are the ideas or beliefs that are used here for asserting  
papal supremacy?  
*TS due*

4/5 Political Institutions W 294-321  
4/7 DG *FS due*  
4/9 EXAM #3

#### IV. Economic Foundations

4/12 Early Modern Overview  
4/14 DG  
4/16 Commercial Revolution/Rise of Middle Class W 260-264, 324-329

4/19 Business Practices  
4/21 DG  
4/23 Middle Class and the Renaissance W 329-341;  
*Pico's Oration of the Dignity of Man*  
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/med/oration.html> Consider: How does Pico  
assert that human beings are free and responsible for themselves?  
*TS (pp. 329-341) due*

4/26 Globalization W 346-353  
4/28 DG *FS due*  
4/30 New Churches W 305-311, 354-361;  
<http://www.iclnet.org/pub/resources/text/wittenberg/luther/luther-faith.txt>  
Luther's 95 Theses:  
<http://www.iclnet.org/pub/resources/text/wittenberg/luther/web/ninetyfive.html>  
(study guide for the 95 Theses that is very helpful:  
<http://www-personal.ksu.edu/~lyman/english233/sg-95ths.htm> )  
Luther's Address to the Christian Nobility of the German Nation:  
<http://www.thenagain.info/Classes/Sources/Luther.html>

5/3 New Churches W 361-372  
5/4 The West and the Modern Age W 372-387

5/7 EXAM #4 12-3