

Western Civilization 101-09 (GHP, GPM, GL)
Spring 2010
Ancient Near East – the Protestant Reformation

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Introduction

Welcome to the study of Western Civilization! This semester we will be using primary sources (documents written in the period under discussion) to examine the religious, political, social, and cultural development of western society. In order to make sense of these documents, you will have to ask yourselves the following questions: Who wrote this document? What was his/her intended audience? What story does the document tell us? And finally, what was the purpose of this document? Providing the best answers we can to these questions will help us to use these documents to try to understand what motivated the people we study to act as they did. Among the motivations we will encounter will be such familiar themes as power, loyalty, faith, and profit. It's important to remember, though, that while many of the motivations will sound familiar they might mean different things to the people we encounter during our study than they do to us. One of the most important things you can learn from a course in pre-modern history is that you need to evaluate people and their beliefs and actions in the context of their own cultures rather than in terms of twenty-first-century American mores and practices.

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 terms and examples 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.

Grade Breakdown

First Midterm	25%
Second Midterm	25%
Final Exam	50%

Primary Sources (Required)

Mark Kishlansky, ed. *Sources of the West: From the Beginning to 1715 Volume I* 7th edition (Pearson Longman) ISBN 978-0205568390.

Anonymous. *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, (Penguin), ISBN 978-0140449198.

Sophocles. *Sophocles I: Three Tragedies*. (University of Chicago) ISBN 978-0226307923.

Anonymous. *The Song of Roland*. (Penguin) ISBN 978-0140445329.

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

Secondary Source (Required)

Kishlansky, Mark, Patrick Geary, and Patricia O'Brien. Eds. *Civilization in the West*, Volume I: to 1715, 7th edition (Pearson Longman 2008) ISBN 978-0205556854.

Exams

Midterms: The midterms will be in class and will consist of two parts: a short answer section and an essay question. Before the exams I will provide you with a short list of essay questions two of which will appear on the exam.

Final Exam: The final will consist of 4 essay questions to be written entirely at home: two short essays (1/2-1 page), 1 thought question (2 pages) and 1 longer essay (3-4 pages). You will type and print this exam and turn it in to me in my office (MHRA 2102) by noon on Monday, May 10.

For Your Information

Attendance: After you have missed two 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 – either midterm or the final – 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 exams 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. All readings should be completed before the class period for which they're assigned.

Note Taking

I will put an outline on the overhead screen at the beginning of each class period. You should record everything on the outline in your notes, but your notes should not be limited to the outline. It's extremely important that you record important points I make and examples I use (especially from the primary sources) even when they're not on the outline. The outlines will not be available on Blackboard because it's easier to remember something that you've written down or typed than it is to remember something that you've just read, so if you miss class you'll need to get the notes from one of your fellow students.

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 have put a link in the syllabus.

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 inclement weather, either call the UNCG Adverse Weather Line at (336) 334-4400 or check the university's website (www.uncg.edu). If the university is open, I will hold class.

Lectures and Readings

Wednesday, January 20: Introductions – What is *civilization*?

Monday, January 25: Mesopotamia and Egypt: The Beginnings of Western Civilization

Primary Source Readings: *Gilgamesh*, 1-54 (Tablets I-VI).

Secondary Source Readings: Kishlansky, Chapter 1, 11-25.

Wednesday, January 27: Mesopotamia: The *Epic of Gilgamesh*

Primary Source Readings: *Gilgamesh*, 54-99 (Tables VII-XI).

Monday, February 1: Creation Narratives of the Ancient Near East

Primary Source Readings: Kishlansky *Sources* Part 1: 5-19.

Wednesday, February 3: Hammurabi and Exodus

Primary Source Readings: <http://www.fordham.edu/HALSALL/ancient/hamcode.html>; Exodus 19-23, <http://www.devotions.net/bible/00old.htm>.
Secondary Source Readings: Kishlansky, Chapter 1, 26-29.

Monday, February 8: Archaic Greece & Homer's *Iliad*

Primary Source Readings:
<http://classics.mit.edu/Homer/iliad.html>, Books 1 and 24.
Secondary Source Readings: Kishlansky, Chapter 2, 36-62.

Wednesday, February 10: The Classical Age of Greece: Drama

Primary Source Readings: Sophocles *Antigone*, in *Sophocles I* 161-212.
Secondary Source Readings: Kishlansky, Chapter 3, 66-83.

Monday, February 15: The Classical Age of Greece: Philosophy

Primary Source Readings: Kishlansky *Sources* Part 1: 48-64.

Wednesday, February 17: Rome: The Republic

Primary Source Readings: Kishlansky *Sources* Part 1: 72-76 and 88-91.
Secondary Source Readings: Kishlansky, Chapter 4, 100-125.

Monday, February 22: Rome: End of Republic, Beginning of Empire

Primary Source Readings: Kishlansky *Sources* Part 1: 76-84 and 92-95.
Secondary Source Readings: Kishlansky, Chapter 5, 128-147.

Wednesday, February 24: **First Midterm**

Monday, March 1: Early Christianity: Jesus & St. Paul

Primary Source Readings: Kishlansky *Sources* Part 1: 96-102.
Secondary Source Readings: Kishlansky, Chapter 5, 147-152.

Wednesday, March 3: Early Christianity: the Fourth and Fifth Centuries

Primary Source Readings: Kishlansky *Sources* Part II: 108-121.
Secondary Source Readings: Kishlansky, Chapter 171-177.

Monday, March 8: Spring Break. No class.

Wednesday, March 10: Spring Break. No class.

Monday, March 15: The 'Barbarian' Kingdoms

Primary Source Readings: Kishlansky *Sources* Part II: 121-129.
Secondary Source Readings: Kishlansky, Chapter 6, 177-183; Chapter 7, 218-227.

Wednesday, March 17: Charlemagne and the Carolingian Empire

Primary Source Readings: Kishlansky *Sources* Part II: 133-136.
Secondary Source Readings: Kishlansky, Chapter 7, 227-237.

Monday, March 22: The Feudal Contract

Primary Source Readings: Kishlansky *Sources* Part II: 160-164.
Secondary Source Readings: Kishlansky, Chapter 9, 250-255.

Wednesday, March 24: The *Song of Roland*

Primary Source Readings: *The Song of Roland*, 29-156.

Monday, March 29: The Investiture Controversy

Primary Source Readings: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/g7-reform2.html>

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/henry4-to-g7a.html>

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/g7-ban1.html>

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/g7-ban2.html>.

Secondary Source Readings: Kishlansky, Chapter 9, 274-277.

Wednesday, March 31: Statebuilding: The Papacy

Primary Source Readings: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/innIII-policies.html>,

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/lateran4.html>.

Monday, April 5: Statebuilding: England

Primary Source Readings:

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

Secondary Source Readings: Kishlansky, Chapter 9, 280-282.

Wednesday, April 7: **Second Midterm**

Monday, April 12: Crises of the 14th century: the four horsemen of the Apocalypse

Primary Source Readings: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/froissart1.html>,

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/froissart2.html>,

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/anon1381.html>,

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1431joantrial.html>.

Secondary Source Readings: Kishlansky, Chapter 10, 291-299.

Wednesday, April 14: the Decline (and Fall?) of the Papacy

Primary Source Readings: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/b8-clericos.html>,

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/b8-unam.html>,

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/14cpetrarch-pope.html>,

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/marsiglio1.html>.

Secondary Source Readings: Kishlansky, Chapter 10, 303-305.

Monday, April 19: Italian Renaissance Art & Literature: Petrarch & Leonardo

Primary Source Readings: Kishlansky *Sources* Part III: 217-231.

Secondary Source Readings: Kishlansky, Chapter 11, 316-332.

Wednesday, April 21: Machiavelli and *the Prince*

Primary Source Readings: Machiavelli, *The Prince*, 39-123.

Secondary Source Readings: Kishlansky, Chapter 11, 333-334.

Monday, April 26: The Protestant Reformation: Luther

Primary Source Readings: Kishlansky *Sources* Part III: 265-270.

Secondary Source Readings: Kishlansky, Chapter 13, 378-393.

Wednesday, April 28: The Protestant Reformation: Calvin

Primary Source Readings: Kishlansky *Sources* Part III: 271-278.

Secondary Source Readings: Kishlansky, Chapter 13, 393-395.

Monday, May 3: the Council of Trent & the Counter-Reformation

Primary Source Readings: Kishlansky *Sources* Part III: 279-282.

Secondary Source Readings: Kishlansky, Chapter 13, 400-407.

Monday, May 10: Final due in my office (MHRA 2102) by noon.