

WCV 101-01
Spring, 2011

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Hours: MWF 10-11
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This course will survey both chronologically and topically the growth of Western Civilization from its beginnings in the Mediterranean world of the Near East, Greece and Rome, through the Middle Ages, to its fruition in Early Modern Europe. Our study will include religion, the arts, politics, economic trends, social arrangements—human activity in all its variety. Our civilization in the twenty-first century has its roots in the past. Knowing these roots is one way of understanding the present world.

1. Required text: Marvin Perry *et al.*, Western Civilization, Ideas, Politics & Society Vol.I. You may buy the latest edition at the campus bookstore, or go online to find a less expensive earlier edition. All reading assignments are from this text.
2. Attendance: You are expected to attend class regularly and to be on time. You may have 4 unexcused absences. If you exceed that amount, you will be dropped from the class. To be excused, you must e-mail me within 48 hours after your absence. Most acceptable excuse: you are too ill to come to class.
3. Research projects/student presentation. This is a chance for you to become an expert on a topic relevant to this class by researching it, and then to teach the class about it in a short oral presentation. More instructions will be given below, and on the list of topics.
4. Tests and grades: There will be two one- hour tests, each worth 25%, student projects are 25%, and a final exam, which is 25% of your final grade. Study guides will be given to you for the tests and the exam. Note: I am always available for conferences. If my office hours don't suit your schedule, just ask: we will set up a mutually convenient time.
5. This class follows a lecture format. It is very important to read your assignment before coming to class, and to take notes during class. Your questions and comments are always welcome.
6. Lecture outlines and other handouts during the class will also be posted on Blackboard.

CLASS SCHEDULE

1/11: Introduction
1/13-1/18: Chapter 1: The Ancient Near East
1/20-1/27: Chapter 3: The Greek City-State
2/8-2/10: Chapter 4: Greek Thought
2/3: Student presentations on topics from chapters 1,2,3,4 and 5
2/15: Chapter 5: The Hellenistic Age
2/17-2/22: Chapter 6: The Roman Republic.
2/24-3/1: Chapter 7: The Roman Empire
3/3: TEST

Week of 3/7: NO CLASSES. Spring break.
3/15: Chapters 2 & 8: The Hebrews and Christianity
3/17: Student presentations: on topics from chapters 6,7,2,8,and 9.
3/22-3/24: Chapter 9: The Heirs of Rome
3/29-3/31: Chapter 10: The High Middle Ages
4/5: TEST
4/7: Chapter 11: The Flowering of Medieval Culture
4/12: Student presentations: Chapters 10, 11,12, and 13.
4/14-4/19: Chapter 12: The Late Middle Ages
4/21: Chapter 13: The Renaissance
Exam: 5/3 at 12 noon.

Student projects are a chance for you to research a topic so you will be the expert on it. Then you will teach the class about it in a short (5-7 minutes) oral presentation. If you have a friend in the class, two people may present together. Otherwise, only one person should present on each topic. In presenting, you should speak informally: just tell us what you have learned. Don't read a report, and please, don't make a power point list or use videos. (You may illustrate your talk, if you wish, with pictures. If you don't want to speak in front of the class, you may write a 3 page paper on one of the topics. It is due on the same day your topic is presented orally. In both cases, oral presentation or paper, you should use 3 sources. Internet sites or books are both acceptable. If presenting orally, e-mail me your sources. Or, include the sources with your paper, which you may also e-mail to me.