

SYLLABUS  
WCV101-07 Western Civilization I

Meeting Time/Location: MWF 10:00 to 10:50 SOEB 118

Instructor: Mark Moser

Office: MHRA 2104

Office Hours: MW 11:00 to 1:00 --- F 11:00 to 12:00 --- (and by appointment)

Email: [mamoser@uncg.edu](mailto:mamoser@uncg.edu)

Required Texts:

Kagan, Ozment, and Turner, *The Western Heritage, Volume One: To 1740*. Tenth Edition (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2009). ISBN 9780205705153

Ross King, *Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling* (New York: Penguin Books, 2003). ISBN 9780142003695

I.F. Stone, *The Trial of Socrates* (New York: Anchor Books, 1989). ISBN 9780385260329

(From time to time there may be additional readings in the form of handouts or materials placed on e-reserves)

Course Objectives:

Students will be expected to:

- Understand and retain the basic facts and framework of Western Civilization from its Mesopotamian origins through the end of the Thirty Years' War in 1648.
- Analyze and synthesize relevant information; i.e., interpret historical facts
- Develop a personal and historical sense of time relevant to Western Civilization
- Think critically and make informed judgments!

Procedures/Assignments:

This course will require you to do a significant amount of reading, however it is very manageable provided that you follow my recommendations and don't allow yourselves to fall behind. Discussion of your readings will, at times, take up a significant portion of certain class sessions, but because this is a survey course the majority of each class period will be devoted to lecture. It will be necessary for you to have completed your assigned readings prior to coming to class for two reasons. One, class discussions will be difficult to conduct if you haven't read, and two, the lectures will be more understandable if you have read the assigned material ahead of time. This course will not be difficult provided that you remain current with all your reading. However, students who fall behind typically find it extremely difficult to catch up.

Attendance:

Punctuality and regular attendance are necessary in order for you to do your best in any college class because you are still responsible for all material covered in class whether or not you are there. Each student will be allowed five (5) absences during the semester with no academic penalty. I make no distinction between excused and unexcused absences—you are either here or you are not.\* Each additional absence will result in 5 points being deducted from your final grade average. Habitual tardiness, either alone or in combination with absences, will also adversely affect your final grade. Occasionally I will notify a student whenever he/she has reached 5 absences, but please do not rely on me to keep you informed. It is your responsibility to keep up with your absences. It is also your responsibility to see me after class if you come in after attendance has been taken, as failure to do so will result in your being marked absent for that class session. (*A minimum of 2 requested absences for religious observances not counted as part of the above*)

This class meets three times per week and I expect you to come to class on time and to remain in class for the entire session unless you have a genuine emergency during class, (illness, etc.) or unless you speak to me prior to class and advise me that you need to leave early. I consider this to be common courtesy to both the class and myself.

All requests to take a missed exam will be considered on an individual basis. Under no circumstances will any student be allowed to makeup more than two exams! Any student who misses an exam **must contact me** prior to returning to class to inquire about the possibility of taking a makeup. (Makeup tests will have to be taken at a time when I am available) No makeup quizzes will be offered.\*

I reserve the right to drop any student at any point because of excessive absences. The last day to drop a class without academic penalty is Friday, March 2.

The use of laptops in my class is a privilege—not a right. If you wish to bring a laptop to class I respectfully ask that you **only use it to take notes**. Please do not use them during class to check email, surf the web, play games, or orchestrate your social life on **Facebook**.® Students caught using their laptops for anything other than taking notes will not be allowed to bring them to class in the future.

Grading:

Exams (2) MC/Essay	30%
Book Tests (2)	30%
Final Exam (Essay)	20%
Quizzes on readings*	20%
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Course Total	100%

\* I will drop your 3 lowest quiz grades  
(This course follows a 10 point scale and I do assign +/- to final grades when warranted.)

Course Outline:

Week One—(January 9, 11, 13) Course introduction on Wednesday, January 9—Discussion of the terms “civilization” and “western.” Wednesday, January 11 and Friday, January 13, *The Western Heritage* Ch. 1 “The Birth of Civilization” Begin reading *Trial of Socrates*

Week Two—(January 18, 20) *The Western Heritage* Ch. 2 “The Rise of Greek Civilization” Continue reading *Trial of Socrates*  
\*No class Monday, January 16—MLK, Jr. Holiday

Week Three—(January 23, 25, 27) *The Western Heritage* Ch. 3 “Classical and Hellenistic Greece” \*TEST\* on *Trial of Socrates* Friday, January 27

Week Four—(January 30, February 1, 3) *The Western Heritage* Ch. 4 “Rome: From Republic to Empire”

Week Five—(February 6, 8, 10) *The Western Heritage* Ch. 5 “The Roman Empire”

Week Six—(February 13, 15, 17) *The Western Heritage* Ch. 5 “The Roman Empire” (continued)

Week Seven—(February 20, 22, 24) *The Western Heritage* Ch. 6 “Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages” \*EXAM ONE\* Monday, February 20 on *The Western Heritage* Chapters 1-5

Week Eight—(February 27, 29, March 2) *The Western Heritage* Ch. 7 “The High Middle Ages”  
Begin reading *Michelangelo and the Pope’s Ceiling*

**SPRING BREAK** --- No classes March 5, 7, 9

Week Nine—(March 12, 14, 16) *The Western Heritage* Ch. 8 “Medieval Society: Hierarchies, Towns, Universities, and Families” Continue reading *Michelangelo and the Pope’s Ceiling*

Week Ten—(March 19, 21, 23) *The Western Heritage* Ch. 9 “The Late Middle Ages”  
Continue reading *Michelangelo and the Pope’s Ceiling*

Week Eleven—(March 26, 28, 30) *The Western Heritage* Ch. 10 “Renaissance and Discovery”  
\*EXAM TWO\* Monday, March 26 on *The Western Heritage* Chapters 6-9  
Continue reading *Michelangelo and the Pope’s Ceiling*

Week Twelve—(April 2, 4) *The Western Heritage* Ch. 10 “Renaissance and Discovery” (cont’d) \*TEST\* on *Michelangelo and the Pope’s Ceiling* Wednesday, April 4  
\*No class Friday, April 6—Spring Holiday

Week Thirteen—(April 9, 11, 13) *The Western Heritage* Ch. 11 “The Age of Reformation”

Week Fourteen—(April 16, 18, 20) *The Western Heritage* Ch. 12 “The Age of Religious Wars”

Week Fifteen—(April 23, 24\*) *The Western Heritage* Ch. 12 “The Age of Religious Wars”  
(cont’d) \*University follows Friday schedule, last day of class—review for final exam

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**FINAL EXAM** (Based only on material covered after Spring Break)

Monday, April 30 from 12:00pm to 3:00pm ----- You will need a small format bluebook.

Academic Integrity:

*On all exams and papers you will be expected to abide by the UNCG Academic Integrity Policy, which may be reviewed at <http://studentconduct.uncg.edu/policy/academicintegrity>. Please review this important document with an attention to detail, and feel free to ask questions if there is any part of the policy which you do not understand.*

*\*If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible.*