

WCV 101-03
Fall 2002
McIver 225
MW 2-3:15

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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. Fifth edition, 1996, Vol.I. This is available in paperback at the campus and Addams bookstores. All reading assignments are from this text.
2. Attendance: You are expected to attend class regularly. More than 3 unexcused absences will adversely affect your final grade. After 4 unexcused absences, you will be dropped from the class. To be excused, you must contact me within 48 hours. Most acceptable excuse: you are too ill to come to class.
3. Group projects: you will sign up for one of these, to research and report on a topic. Instructions are given with the list of topics.
4. Tests and grades: There will be two one- hour tests, each worth 20%, group projects are 20%, and a cumulative final exam, which is 40% of your final grade. Study guides will be given to you for the tests and the exam. Note: I am always available for conferences. 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 are always welcome.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Aug.19 Introduction
Aug.21 Ch.1, first civilizations
Aug.26 Video: *Pyramid*
Aug.28 Ch.3, Greece: the city-states
Sept.2 NO CLASS
Sept.4 Ch.3, Greece: the Golden Age and its decline
Sept.9 Ch.4, Greek thought
Sept.11 Ch.4, Greek culture. Video: Greek art and architecture
Sept.16 Ch.5, Alexander the Great; the Hellenistic Age
Sept.18 Ch.6, Early Rome: rise of the Republic
Sept.23 Group project reports: (1) mummies, (2) Iliad, (3) Alexander the Great
Sept.25 Ch.6, Republic in crisis; Julius Caesar
Sept.30 Ch.7, The Roman Empire: the Peace of Rome
Oct.2 Ch.7, Decline and fall of the Empire; the coming of the barbarians
Oct.7 TEST

Oct.9 Video: Roman City

FALL BREAK

Oct.16 Group projects: (5) Greek drama, (6) Roman army, (7) gladiators

Oct.21 Chapters 2 and 8: Judaism, Christianity

Oct.23 Ch.9, Byzantium, Islam

Oct.28 Ch.9, Charlemagne; feudalism

Oct.30 Ch.10, the High Middle Ages; rise of states

Nov.4 Group projects: (2) Moses, (9) Charlemagne. Ch.10, Crusades, Innocent III

Nov.6 Group report: (8) Islam. Ch.11, Medieval thought

Nov.11 Group report: (10) Monastic life. Ch.12, Black Death; 100 Years War

Nov.13 Group report: (11) Chivalry. Ch.12, The medieval Church in crisis

Nov.18 Group report; (12) First Crusade. Ch.13, Renaissance Europe

Nov.20 TEST

Nov.25 Group report: (13) Abelard and Heloise. Ch.13, Reformation

THANKSGIVING

Dec.2 Group reports; (14) Joan of Arc, (15) Witchcraft. Ch.13, Reformation and Counter-reformation

Dec.4 Ch.15, European Expansion: the New World

Dec.9 Ch.15, European expansion

Exam: Monday, Dec.16 12 noon