WCV 101-05: Western Civilization Part I (online)

Fall 2009 Session

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Availability: I check email several times daily and I always send a response. If you have not heard from me within 24 hours then assume that I did not get the message or any information that was communicated and send it again.

Course Description

The main theme we will use to understand the origins of Western Civilization is POWER. Through strategic readings and assignments we will explore the development of *power relationships* between humans and legal systems, religious frameworks, gender relations, nation states, culture, and technology.

Western Civilization 101 covers the period from Ancient Greece and Rome (c. 750 B.C.E or Before the Christian or Common Era) up to Early Modern Europe, the Hundred Years War and the Protestant Reformation (c. 1500 C.E. or Christian or Common Era). Since we will be looking at over 2,000 years of history, we will touch on the *most significant* historical events and developments. The nature of a survey course dictates that we will be covering broad geographies and time frames.

The textbook will act as a secondary source, providing us with necessary background information, while the discussion board topics will focus on primary sources—documents, such as laws, religious texts, and literature, written at the time (or shortly after) the events they describe.

Required Textbook

Perry, Marvin, et al. *Western Civilization. Ideas, Politics, and Society*. (Vol. 1 to 1789), 9th edition. (Houghton Mifflin, 2009). ISBN 13: 978-0-547-14742-0 or ISBN 10: 0-547-14742-2.

Learning Outcomes

Students who spend at least 3 hours a day completing all reading and writing assignments, who actively engage in the material, and are *thinking* about and *reflecting* on what they are reading and writing will . . .

- have a firm grasp of key themes in Western Civilization
- improve their writing abilities
- be able to communicate ideas, thoughts, and interpretations more clearly and concisely
- become better independent thinkers, students, and historians

Grading Policies

Students who simply follow all the guidelines for assignments earn grades of C. A grade of C is equivalent to "Average." Those whose work and contributions to the class community are clearly more advanced than the majority's earn grades of B, "Above Average," whereas those who contribute less than the majority earn grades of D, "Below Average." Work that is truly exceptional earns a grade of A, "Excellent," whereas work that is substandard and unacceptable earns a grade of F, "Unsatisfactory."

Grade Breakdown for the Course

• Discussion Board	30%
• Quizzes	25%
• Midterm Essay Exam	20%
• Final Exam Essay Exam	25%
	Total: 100%

Rules & Procedures

Communication/Questions

Online classes require discipline and time management. Remember that without the normal interactions of a classroom setting, the only way I have to evaluate your participation in this class is through your performance on quizzes and thoughtful Discussion Board posts. Therefore, you should take your readings and responses seriously.

Check the "Announcements" section of Blackboard DAILY, and make certain your UNCG email account works. These are the two primary modes of communication I use, and I want to keep you informed of what's going on throughout the course.

If you have questions about the course, i.e. syllabus, grading policies, or content, please go to the Discussion Board and click on the topic called, "Questions for the Professor." More than likely you are not the only student with the same question, and I will not have to answer the same question multiple times if you post your question here. This means of communication is for PUBLIC discourse only. If you have a private concern regarding coursework, your grade, tutoring, etc. please address those to email.

If you have questions/complaints regarding how to use Blackboard or anything technological (web browser settings, downloading information, accessing web links, errors, etc.), please do **NOT** contact me. Instead, post your message under the "Technical Support" forum in Blackboard, or email onlinehelp@uncg.edu. UNCG's Tech Support staff are the appropriate people to help you with technology issues.

Late Work

No late work will be accepted, and there are no appeals. All the deadlines are listed on this syllabus. If you have special circumstances preventing you from turning in an assignment on time, then you must communicate that to me ASAP. Failure to turn in work on time will result in a grade of zero (0). It is unfair

and disrespectful to the rest of class if I make exceptions for a small minority who are incapable of staying on track. Students requesting exceptions will be referred to this policy.

Academic Integrity

On all graded assignments, students are expected to submit their own original work. Copying and pasting text without giving credit to the source is obviously plagiarism, but so is stealing someone else's idea or interpretation without giving that person credit. Even if you are paraphrasing from memory something you have read in the past, you need to be able to state the source from which you are paraphrasing this material. Please visit the following link: Academic Integrity Policy:
http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete/

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing may receive a grade of F for the assignment without the opportunity to make up the work. Violations will be reported to the University in accordance with the Academic Integrity Policy. Students also risk receiving a final grade of F for the course.

If you need to cite the textbook or a primary source in the Discussion Board or in an exam please use parenthetical documentation at the end of the direct quotation or paraphrase.

For example if citing from the textbook: (Perry, 175) in which Perry is the textbook author and you are citing something from page 175.

If citing from a primary source: (Aristotle's Will, 45) in which Aristotle's Will is the title of the primary source and page 45 is the page on which you found the cited information.

This course does not require you to use information from outside sources. In Discussion Board and the exams you SHOULD NOT quote from outside sources, but rather confine your comments to the materials from the class.

Discussion Board

Discussion Board topics are designed to test your completion and understanding of the primary sources. Participating in these discussions is absolutely key to succeeding in this course. By practicing your writing abilities on a regular and rigorous basis, and sharing your writing with others, you will become better interpreters of the past. **Posts will be graded on quality, as well as quantity, of writing**.

All of the topics require reading primary sources (materials written during the time period in question). These readings are located under the "Course Documents" tab of Blackboard by clicking on "CD – Documents in Western Civilization." **You should reference these readings in your responses**.

Posts should be between 150 and 250 words. **Please type your posts in a word processor (such as Microsoft Word) before copying and pasting them to the appropriate discussion forum. This will help you avoid spelling errors, and it is always a good idea to have a backup file in case your work does not post correctly in Blackboard.**

Students can post their initial response by clicking on "Thread," copying and pasting their work into the message box, and then clicking "Submit." To reply to another person's post, students should select that student's post, and then click "Reply." You are encouraged but NOT required to respond to posts of others. It is a good way to check on your understanding of the material to read what others have written about the readings and compare it to your own point of view.

Feel free either to agree or disagree with someone else's argument, but be certain to provide convincing reasons explaining why you either agree or disagree. **Always be polite and civil on the Discussion Board!** Before you post anything, ask yourself if you would actually say these things to a person in a face-to-face environment. Do not allow the anonymity aspect of the Internet to strip you of your common sense and good manners. This same policy of courtesy should apply to all email communication to the instructor and to your classmates.

Quizzes

There are fourteen reading quizzes, each one based on one of the chapters from the textbook. Each quiz is made up of 25 multiple-choice questions. Students should only take a quiz after they have read the appropriate chapter thoroughly and taken notes on it. Each quiz will be available for the week during which the textbook chapter is assigned. The date listed on the syllabus is the date by which the quiz is due and on which the window closes. After the window has closed, the quiz will no longer be available, and any students who have not completed that quiz will receive a zero.

I**f you decide to complete a quiz on the due date and experience any kind of technical difficulties, you will NOT be allowed to make up these quizzes at a later date**. Students requesting exceptions will be referred to this policy. I strongly encourage you not to wait until the last moment to complete these quizzes. You should have plenty of time to complete them if you stay on task.

Exams

You will need to complete a midterm and a final exam. Both exams are completed online and contain one essay question. The question will be broad and thematic so that students should have no problems incorporating course material into their responses.

Student responses should be analytical rather than merely descriptive (i.e., students should explain why a particular historical topic is significant, rather than just saying what occurred), and they must be between 500 and 1,000 words. Essays must also have a thesis statement and supporting evidence. This evidence should **not** come from any sources other than those that I have assigned. More detailed instructions will be available at the time of the exam.

Technical Problem Policy

You CANNOT participate in this course without a working computer and reliable internet connection. Due to the nature of online classes, NO special concessions will be made for technological difficulties. Students are responsible for obtaining and maintaining reliable Internet access. Internet access is available at libraries, schools, hotels, and coffee shops worldwide. Therefore, no extensions will be granted due to lack of Internet access. If you have a technical problem, such as a crash or lockup, while

taking a quiz, email me requesting a quiz reset. I will reset your quiz within 24 hours. **NOTE: If you wait until the day a quiz is due, you assume responsibility that a technical problem may preclude you from completing the quiz on time. Those who ask for an extension will be referred to this policy**.

Course Calendar (Note: All Quizzes and Discussion Prompts are to be completed on UNCG Blackboard)

Week One: August 24th-August 30th: The Ancient Near East

Readings: Textbook Chapter 1 pages 5-29
Document 1.5 "Hammurabi's Law Code" pages 11-15

Activities: Discussion Board "Ice Breaker" due by Tuesday, August 25th at 10 p.m.
Discussion Board "What is History?/Why Study History?" due by Tuesday, August 25th at 10 p.m.
Chapter 1 Quiz due by Sunday, August 30th at 5 p.m.
Discussion Prompt 1 due by Sunday, August 30th at 11 p.m.

Week Two: August 31st- September 6th: The Hebrews

Readings: Textbook Chapter 2 pages 32-47
Document 1.6 "Laws of the Hebrews" pages 16-18

Activities: Chapter 2 Quiz due by Sunday, September 6th at 5 p.m.
Discussion Prompt 2 due by Sunday, September 6th at 11 p.m.

Week Three: September 7th- September 13th: Greek City-States and the Birth of Democracy

Readings: Textbook Chapter 3 pages 50-71
Document 2.1 "Laws Relating to Women" pages 21-23
Document 2.5 "Education and the Family in Sparta" pages 31-34

Activities: Chapter 3 Quiz due by Sunday, September 13th at 5 p.m.
Discussion Prompt 3 due by Sunday, September 13th at 11 p.m.

Week Four: September 14th- September 20th: Greek Philosophy and The Arts

Readings: Textbook Chapter 4 pages 74-98
Document 3.3 "Aristotle's Will" page 45
Document 3.6 "On the Murder of Eratosthenes: A Husband's Defense" pages 59-61

Activities: Chapter 4 Quiz due by Sunday, September 20th at 5 p.m.
Discussion Prompt 4 due by Sunday, September 20th at 11 p.m.

Week Five: September 21st- September 27th: Hellenistic Culture

Readings: Textbook Chapter 5 pages 102-116
Document 4.5 "Polybius' Why Romans and Not Greeks Govern the World" pages 72-74

Activities: Chapter 5 Quiz due by Sunday, September 27th at 5 p.m.
Discussion Prompt 5 due by Sunday, September 27th at 11 p.m.

Week Six: September 28th- October 4th: The Roman Republic
Readings: Textbook Chapter 6 pages 118-138
Document 4.6 "Marcus Tullius Cicero's The Laws" page 75

Activities: Chapter 6 Quiz due by Sunday, October 4th at 5 p.m.
Discussion Prompt 6 due by Sunday, October 4th at 11 p.m.
MIDTERM EXAM QUESTION BECOMES AVAILABLE THIS WEEK ON BLACKBOARD

Week Seven: October 5th- October 11th: Imperial Rome
Readings: Textbook Chapter 7 pages 141-168
Document 5.1 "Augustus' Moral Legislation: Family Values" pages 77-79

Activities: **MIDTERM EXAM ESSAY DUE BY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9TH AT 5 P.M.**
Chapter 7 Quiz due by Sunday, October 11th at 5 p.m.
Discussion Prompt 7 due by Sunday, October 11th at 11 p.m.

Week Eight: October 12th- October 18th: Early Christianity
Readings: Textbook Chapter 8 pages 171-194
Document 5.3 "Traditional Roman Religious Practices" pages 82-84
Document 5.7 "What Has Jerusalem to do with Athens?" page 92

Activities: Chapter 8 Quiz due by Sunday, October 18th at 5 p.m.
Discussion Prompt 8 due by Sunday, October 18th at 11 p.m.

Week Nine: October 19th- October 25th: Heirs of Rome-Byzantium, Islam, Early Europe
Readings: Textbook Chapter 9 pages 199-225
Document 6.3 "The Koran" pages 95-100

Activities: Chapter 9 Quiz due by Sunday, October 25th at 5 p.m.
Discussion Prompt 9 due by Sunday, October 25th at 11 p.m.

Week Ten: October 26th- November 1st: The High Middle Ages: The Papacy, Jews & Christians, Nation-States
Readings: Textbook Chapter 10 pages 227-252
Document Website for the "Magna Carta"
http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/mcarta.html

Activities: Chapter 10 Quiz due by Sunday, November 1st at 5 p.m.
Discussion Prompt 10 due by Sunday, November 1st at 11 p.m.

Week Eleven: November 2nd- November 8th: The High Middle Ages: Culture, Education, the Arts
Readings: Textbook Chapter 11 pages 254-271
Document 8.3 "College Life" pages 137-138

Activities: Chapter 11 Quiz due by Sunday, November 8th at 5 p.m.

Discussion Prompt 11 due by Sunday, November 8th at 11 p.m.

Week Twelve: November 9th- November 15th: The Late Middle Ages and Emergence of Modern Europe

Readings: Textbook Chapter 12 pages 274-288
Document Website for "Boccaccio's Decameron"
http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/boccacio2.html
Document 9.1 "The Flagellants" page 147

Activities: Chapter 12 Quiz due by Sunday, November 15th at 5 p.m.
Discussion Prompt 12 due by Sunday, November 15th at 11 p.m.

Week Thirteen: November 16th- November 22nd: The Italian and Northern Renaissances

Readings: Textbook Chapter 13 pages 293-314
Document 10.2 "Machiavelli: From the Discourses" pages 164-165

Activities: Chapter 13 Quiz due by Sunday, November 22nd at 5 p.m.
Discussion Prompt 13 due by Sunday, November 22nd at 11 p.m.

Week of November 23rd- November 29th: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY- NO CLASSWORK THIS WEEK

Week Fourteen: November 30th- December 6th: The Protestant Reformation

Readings: Textbook Chapter 14 pages 316-338
Document 11.2 "Luther's Ninety-Five Theses" pages 181-182

Activities: Chapter 14 Quiz due by Sunday, December 6th at 5 p.m.
Discussion Prompt 14 due by Sunday, December 6th at 11 p.m.
FINAL EXAM QUESTION BECOMES AVAILABLE THIS WEEK ON BLACKBOARD

FINAL EXAM ESSAY DUE ON FRIDAY DECEMBER 11TH BY 5 P.M.