

# Syllabus

WCV102-01 (Writing Intensive)  
Western Civilization II

Time: Tuesday 6:00 to 8:50pm Location: McIver 228

Instructor: Mark Moser (Office—McIver 223) email: mamoser@uncg.edu

Office Hours Spring 2005: Tuesday 3:00 to 4:00pm and Thursday 8:30 to 9:15am

## Required Text:

*The Western Heritage, Volume Two: Since 1648* Brief Fourth Edition by Donald Kagan, Steven Ozment, and Frank M. Turner (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2005).

## Additional Required Readings:

*Newton's Gift* by David Berlinski

*Oliver Twist* (Modern Library Edition) by Charles Dickens

*Silent Night: The Story of the World War I Christmas Truce* by Stanley Weintraub

## Overview/Objectives:

This survey course is designed to help students gain a better understanding of western civilization from the seventeenth century through the end of the "Cold War" in the early 1990s. Because this is a very broad course we will examine many topics which directly shaped western history during this period. Some of the major events we will cover include: the Scientific Revolution, the development and evolution of a "transatlantic economy," the American and French Revolutions, the creation of "modern" European nation-states during the mid-to-late-nineteenth century, World Wars I and II, and the "Cold War." Upon successful completion of this course students should be able to identify leading individuals, understand key events in their proper historical context, as well as interpret the significant political, socioeconomic, and cultural developments associated with western civilization since the end of the sixteenth century.

## Attendance Policy:

Typically I have found that a direct correlation exists between good attendance and good grades. I believe this is especially true in classes which meet only once per week. Students with *two* absences or less this semester will incur no academic penalty. Students with *three* absences may (depending on their individual circumstances) have their final grade reduced by up to one full letter grade. Any student who misses *four* classes will be dropped from the course immediately unless he/she can provide clear documentation to substantiate a legitimate medical/family emergency, etc. Only in the case of extremely extenuating circumstances will I allow anyone to remain in the class with more than three absences!

I also expect every student to be in class on time—every time the class meets. I will always take roll at the beginning of class and all informal writing assignments/quizzes will be given at the beginning of each class period. If you know now that your work schedule, etc. will make it routinely difficult for you to make it to class punctually then I suggest that you drop this class and find another because habitual tardiness will lower your final grade. Finally, I expect every student to attend the entire session of each class. Unless you become obviously ill during class, leaving early (such as during break, etc.) will count against you.

### Tests and Writing Assignments:

At the beginning of many—but not all—class sessions, I will ask you to write an informal paragraph or two in response to a question concerning a key aspect of that particular week’s reading from the text book. I will give you fifteen minutes to complete these writing exercises which will serve both as a quiz of sorts to be sure everyone is keeping up with the reading assignments and as a tool that hopefully will help everyone become more proficient in their writing and thinking skills. These informal writing exercises/quizzes will be graded using the following guidelines: “√ +” = a generally correct and thoughtful response containing relevant facts which addresses the main point of the question in a clear manner..... “√” = a response which would generally be considered correct but may be lacking one or more key facts and may not be written clearly enough to receive the highest grade..... “√ -“ = a response which does not correctly address the specifics of the question and/or may also contain numerous deficiencies in mechanics, grammar, etc..... “-“ will be recorded any time a student misses one of these assignments. I will drop the lowest of these scores prior to calculating your final grade.

In addition to the informal in-class writing assignments mentioned above you will also submit a 500-600 word response paper on each of the three additional assigned readings for the course. These papers must be double-spaced using size 11 or 12 font with one inch top, side, and bottom margins. I will discuss the specific requirements of these assignments during future classes.

Because this is a writing intensive course you will also be required to produce an 8 to 10 page research paper which you will have the opportunity to revise—based on my suggestions and your own proofreading—and resubmit as a final draft. In the coming weeks you will be provided with a handout which will explain in detail the requirements, formatting, minimum number and type of acceptable reference sources, etc. that will be required for this research paper. (Note: Any work submitted late—regardless of the reason—will be penalized.)

### Grading:

In-class writing assignments/quizzes	10%
(3) 500-600 word response papers	30%
Midterm exam	10%
8-10 page research paper	30%
Final exam	20%
Total	100%

Course Outline:

Week One—January 11

“Getting acquainted”...Tonight’s course introduction will include an explanation of the requirements/expectations of the course as outlined in the syllabus, etc. This will be followed by a brief lecture intended to familiarize students with some of the historical background associated with western civilization in the early modern era and to provide us with a beginning point for what we will study this semester. (Students should probably begin reading *Newton’s Gift*)

Week Two—January 18

*The Western Heritage* Chapter 14 “New Directions in Thought and Culture in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries” (Continue reading *Newton’s Gift*) Discussion of research papers and selection of topics.

Week Three—January 25

*The Western Heritage* Chapter 15 “Successful and Unsuccessful Paths to Power (1686-1740)” \*500-600 word response paper on *Newton’s Gift* due at the beginning of class followed by a brief discussion of the book. (Deadline for selection of research topic)

Week Four—February 1

*The Western Heritage* Chapter 17 “The Transatlantic Economy: Trade Wars and Colonial Rebellion” \*1 to 2 page formal paper proposal due at the beginning of class.

Week Five—February 8

*The Western Heritage* Chapter 18 “The Age of Enlightenment: Eighteenth Century Thought”

Week Six—February 15

*The Western Heritage* Chapter 16 “Society and Economy under the Old Regime in the Eighteenth Century”

Week Seven—February 22

*The Western Heritage* Chapter 19 “The French Revolution” (Begin reading *Oliver Twist*) \*Formal outline and preliminary bibliography due at the beginning of class.

Week Eight—March 1

*The Western Heritage* Chapter 20 “The Age of Napoleon and the Triumph of Romanticism” Midterm take-home exam due at the beginning of class (Continue reading *Oliver Twist*)

SPRING BREAK—No class Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> (Continue reading *Oliver Twist*)

Week Nine—March 15

*The Western Heritage* Chapter 21 “The Conservative Order and the Challenge of Reform (1815-1832)” (Continue reading *Oliver Twist*) \* In-class writing workshop

Week Ten—March 22

*The Western Heritage* Chapter 22 “Economic Advance and Social Unrest (1830-1850)” \*500-600 word response paper on *Oliver Twist* due at the beginning of class followed by a brief discussion of the book.

Week Eleven—March 29

*The Western Heritage* Chapter 23 “The Age of Nation-States” and *The Western Heritage* Chapter 25 “The Birth of Modern European Thought” (Begin reading *Silent Night*) \*Completed rough draft of research papers due at the beginning of class.

Week Twelve—April 5

*The Western Heritage* Chapter 24 “The Building of European Supremacy: Society and Politics to World War I” and *The Western Heritage* Chapter 26 “Imperialism, Alliances, and War” (Documentary: “No Man’s Land”)

Week Thirteen—April 12

*The Western Heritage* Chapter 27 “Political Experiments of the 1920s” and *The Western Heritage* Chapter 28 “Europe and the Great Depression of the 1930s” \*500-600 word response paper on *Silent Night* due at the beginning of class followed by a brief discussion of the book.

Week Fourteen—April 19

*The Western Heritage* Chapter 29 “World War II”

Week Fifteen—April 26

*The Western Heritage* Chapter 30 “The Cold War and the Emergence of the New Europe” (ABC News’ *Nightline* televised coverage of “The Fall of the Berlin Wall,” November 1989) \*Revised research papers may be turned in at this time.

\*Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> 5:00pm deadline for submitting revised research papers!!!

Final Exam (Take-home)—due Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm!

Important dates to remember:

Tuesday, January 25	Response paper on <i>Newton's Gift</i> due at the beginning of class
Tuesday, January 25	Deadline for selection of research topic
Tuesday, February 1	1 to 2 page formal paper proposal due at the beginning of class
Tuesday, February 22	Formal outline of research paper due at the beginning of class
Tuesday, March 1	Midterm take-home exam due at the beginning of class
Tuesday, March 22	Response paper on <i>Oliver Twist</i> due at the beginning of class
Tuesday, March 29	<u>Completed</u> rough drafts due at the beginning of class
Tuesday, April 12	Response paper on <i>Silent Night</i> due at the beginning of class
Tuesday, May 3	Revised drafts due in my faculty mailbox by 6:00pm
Tuesday, May 10	Final take-home exam due in my faculty mailbox by 6:00pm