

# Syllabus

WCV101-03

Western Civilization I

Spring 2006

Day & Time: Tuesday & Thursday 12:30 to 1:45pm    Location: MCVR 028

Instructor: Mark Moser (Office—MCVR 223)

email: mamoser@uncg.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 4:00 to 5:00pm and by appointment

## Required Text:

*The Western Heritage, Volume One: to 1740*, brief 4<sup>th</sup> edition. (Donald Kagan, Steven Ozment, Frank M. Turner—Prentice Hall, 2004).

## Additional Required Readings:

*Alexander the Great: Legacy of a Conqueror* by Winthrop Lindsay Adams (Pearson Education, 2005).

*The Black Death: The Great Mortality of 1348-1350, A Brief History with Documents* by John Aberth (Bedford/St. Martin's, 2005).

## Objectives:

This survey course is designed to help students gain a better understanding of western civilization from antiquity through the end of the Thirty Years' War in 1648. Special emphasis will be placed on the development of western culture and how and why western civilization developed and spread in the manner it did. Because this is a very broad course we will examine many topics which directly shaped western history, including: art, global exploration, the development of written languages, the impact of military conflicts, philosophical thought, the impact of religion upon western society, scientific discoveries, territorial struggles, and numerous attempts of societies at extending their cultural and political hegemony. 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 which occurred prior to the modern era.

## Grading:

You will have four (4) multiple-choice/short essay tests during the semester—each covering approximately the same amount of material (3 chapters), two brief writing assignments, and a final exam. Tests will always begin promptly so make every effort to be on time! Test questions will come from information covered in your assigned text, *The Western Heritage*, handouts, additional required readings, and class lectures.

Your final exam, which I will discuss later in more detail, will be in essay format but will not be cumulative—it will only include material covered after Spring Break.

Average of Four Semester Tests	60%
Writing assignments (2)	20%
Final Exam	20%
Total	100%

Note: This course follows a 10 point grading scale.

### Attendance:

Punctuality and regular attendance are necessary in order for you to do your best in any college level class because you are still responsible for all material covered in class whether or not you are there. You will be allowed four (4) absences during the semester with no academic penalty. A fifth absence will result in the lowering of your final grade by one whole letter grade. I reserve the right to fail any student once they have missed six (6) classes. Any student who wishes to receive a grade of “W” must drop the class on or before the last day to drop without academic penalty. Habitual tardiness, either alone or in combination with absences, will also affect your final grade. I will notify any student whenever he/she has incurred a third absence, but please **DO NOT RELY SOLEY 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 may result in your being marked absent for that class session.

Students should contact me **ASAP** after missing a test/exam in order to request a makeup. All requests to take a missed test/exam will be considered on an individual basis. Under no circumstances will any student be allowed to make up more than two (2) tests during the semester! Makeup tests will be allowed solely at my discretion and must be taken prior to the next class the student attends. Remember, it is your responsibility to contact me and request to take a missed test. Absolutely **NO** makeup tests will be given more than one week after the scheduled test date. (Be aware that certain portions of makeup tests may prove to be more difficult than those originally scheduled.) Written assignments turned in late will be penalized one letter grade for each day late! Also please note that I do not make any distinction between “excused” and “unexcused” absences. In other words, an absence is an absence. You are either here.....or you aren’t.

### Procedures:

Because of the breadth and scope of this course—and the amount of material we must cover—I will be doing a fair amount of lecturing. However, we will occasionally do some group discussion activities while in class and frequently engage in what I hope will be active class discussion sessions that I often initiate by calling on people to respond to questions about the weekly reading material from the textbook. How can you effectively participate in such a class discussion? Simple. Have your reading done before coming to class!!! My lectures primarily organize themselves around key points from the assigned chapters, but may also include relevant information not included or emphasized in your text. It will be to your advantage to have

completed each week's reading in advance for the following reasons: 1) it will make the lectures easier to follow because you will be at least somewhat familiar with the subject matter and 2) from time to time throughout the semester, as indicated above, you may be asked to work together in small groups to discuss specific aspects of the assigned readings. It is your responsibility to keep up with the readings, attend class, and, whenever appropriate, to contribute to the class in a meaningful manner. Please bring your textbook with you to class each session!

### Course Outline:

#### Week One—(January 10 & 12)

Reading: Begin reading *Alexander the Great: Legacy of a Conqueror*  
 Course introduction / class discussion on the meaning of "civilization"  
 Lecture on early civilizations

#### Week Two—(January 17 & 19)

Reading: *The Western Heritage* Chapter 2 "The Rise of Greek Civilization" (continue reading *Alexander the Great*)

#### Week Three—(January 24 & 26)

Reading: *The Western Heritage* Chapter 3 "Classical and Hellenistic Greece" (class discussion of *Alexander the Great*)  
 \* 500-600 word essay on *Alexander the Great* (due at the beginning of class on Thursday, January 26).

#### Week Four—(January 31 & February 2)

Reading: *The Western Heritage* Chapter 4 "Rome: From Republic to Empire"  
 \*Test One—All material through Chapter 3 (Tuesday, January 31)

#### Week Five—(February 7 & 9)

Reading: *The Western Heritage* Chapter 4 "Rome: From Republic to Empire" (continued) and begin Chapter 5 "The Roman Empire"

#### Week Six—(February 14 & 16)

Reading: *The Western Heritage* Chapter 5 "The Roman Empire" (continued)

#### Week Seven—(February 21 & 23)

Reading: *The Western Heritage* Chapter 6 "The Early Middle Ages: The Birth of Europe (476-1000)"

#### Week Eight—(February 28 & March 2)

Reading: *The Western Heritage* Chapter 7 "The High Middle Ages: The Rise of European Empires and States (1000-1300)" (begin reading *The Black Death*)  
 \*Test Two—Chapters 4,5,6 (Tuesday, February 28)

SPRING BREAK (No Class Tuesday, March 7 or Thursday, March 9)

Week Nine—(March 14 & 16)

Reading: *The Western Heritage* Chapter 7 “The High Middle Ages...” (continued) and Chapter 8 “Medieval Society: Hierarchies, Towns, Universities, and Families (1000-1300)” (continue reading *The Black Death*)

Week Ten—(March 21 & 23)

Reading: *The Western Heritage* Chapter 9 “The Late Middle Ages: Social and Political Breakdown (1300-1527)” (class discussion of *The Black Death*)

\*Written responses to questions from *The Black Death* (due at the beginning of class on Tuesday, March 21).

Week Eleven—(March 28 & 30)

Reading: *The Western Heritage* Chapter 10 “Renaissance and Discovery”

\*Test Three—Chapters 7,8,9 (Tuesday, March 28)

Week Twelve—(April 4 & 6)

Reading: *The Western Heritage* Chapter 10 “Renaissance and Discovery” (continued)

Week Thirteen—(April 11 & 13)

Reading: *The Western Heritage* Chapter 11 “The Age of Reformation”

Week Fourteen—(April 18 & 20)

Reading: *The Western Heritage* Chapter 12 “The Age of Religious Wars”

Week Fifteen—(April 25 & 27)

\*Test Four—Chapters 10,11,12 (Tuesday, April 25)

\*Review for Final Exam (Thursday, April 27)

Final Exam—Saturday, May 6 (12:00-3:00pm)

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NOTE: From time to time I will post announcements and reminders on Blackboard. Please check your UNCG email accounts and Blackboard on a regular basis. I will respond to your emails as quickly as possible throughout the semester, but please be patient as there are many of you and only one of me!