

“If you don’t know history, you don’t know anything. You’re a leaf that doesn’t know its place on a tree.”
Michael Crichton

Western Civilization 102-03
2:00-3:15 TTH
MHRA 1214

Instructor Cory Joe Stewart
MHRA 312
Email: cjstewa2@uncg.edu
Office Hours: TTH 12:00-1:30
Or By appointment

Course Description

This course is an Introduction to the development of World civilizations from 1500 to the present. The development of an increasingly interdependent political, intellectual, economic, and social world is examined.

Course Objective

Through this course students will gain a greater understanding of human history from 1500 in a global context. Students will see how the past 500 years have shaped and continue to influence the world we live in today. Students will learn how to analyze and process information from a variety of sources. The main goal for me as an instructor is to help students grow into more critical thinkers and develop a work ethic that will benefit them throughout their college careers.

Texts

Kevin Reilly, *Worlds of History: A Comparative Reader, Volume II*, 3rd addition. (New York: Bedford St. Martin’s, 2007).

Elie Wiesel, *Night* (New York: Bantam Books, 1982)

Kurt Vonnegut, *Slaughterhouse Five* (New York: Laurel Book Company, 1991)

All of these books are available at the University Bookstore or can be purchased through any book vendor.

Other Readings assignments will be handed out throughout the semester with plenty of due notice.

Grading and Assignments

Midterm 15%
Final Exam 10%
Book Essays 10%
Research Project 30%
Response Paper 20%
Class Participation 15%

First and foremost I do not give grades you earn them and I report them. I grade on the ten point scale with plus and minuses. Your grade will be determined by a number of aspects listed below. Late work will only be accepted depending on the circumstances and how professionally the issue is handled by the student. Priority will be given to students who contact the instructor prior to the due date.

Midterm and Final: These tests are to rate your overall understanding of the material covered in class. The format of the tests will be partly based on your input and the instructor's preference. These test cannot be made up. If you fail to make an exam time without prior notice of the circumstances you will receive an F for the test.

Book Essays: These essays will be on the two books read in class other than the text. This essay will allow me to evaluate your reading comprehension and writing. The due dates for these essays are listed on the syllabus.

Research Project: Details of this project will be handed out separately. This will essentially consist of your research on a project of your choosing.

Response Paper: We will discuss the details of this assignment in class. Basically I will ask you to compare elements of the *Night* and *Slaughterhouse Five* in a brief paper. The purpose for this assignment is for me to evaluate your critical thinking and writing skills.

Participation: This grade is a mixture of your performance in class discussions, reading quizzes, and attendance. Attendance is an important part of this class and should be taken very seriously. No student who has missed more than three days of class can make more than a B+ on their class participation. Any student who misses six or more days will receive an F for class participation regardless of their performance when in class.

Other ways your class participation is evaluated

#1. Be respectful to all others in the class. This class is an open forum where all beliefs and opinions are welcome to be shared. This is important for any of us to take part in. Hearing and sharing of view points is a major part of higher education.

#2. **TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONES AND ANY OTHER ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT!!!** Cell phones and laptops are not allowed in class. Any student using a cell phone to text message will be counted absent for the day. Turn off your cell phones prior to entering the classroom, this includes vibrate mode. If a cell phone does go off please turn it off as quickly and politely as possible. If it becomes a common occurrence it will affect the student's participation grade.

3#. Cheating will not be tolerated at any level. This includes plagiarism and copying other people's test.

Plagiarism Policy: The University defines plagiarism as "intentionally or knowingly representing the words of another, as one's own in any academic exercise."¹ (See the University's [Academic Integrity Policies](http://studentconduct.uncg.edu/policy/academicintegrity/violation/plagiarism/) for further information.) All sources (books, articles, documents, internet sites, etc.) used in any paper or assignment must be properly cited or will be considered plagiarism and appropriate action will be taken.

¹ <http://studentconduct.uncg.edu/policy/academicintegrity/violation/plagiarism/>

Schedule

This Schedule is subject to change depend on the length of time needed to spend on certain topics

Week 1

January 15: **First Day of Class**

January 17: Why 1500?

Week 2: The Atlantic

January 22: *WHO, 42-64*

January 24: *WHO, 65-87*

Week 3: State and Religion

January 29: *WHO, 88-111*

January 31: *WHO, 111-121*

Week 4: Social History

February 5: *WHO, 122-138*

February 7: *WHO, 138-158*

Week 5: Science and Technology

February 12: *WHO, 159-184*

February 14: *WHO, 184-192*

Week 6: Age of Revolutions

February 19: *WHO, 193-216*

February 21: *WHO, 217-226*

Week 7: Industrial Revolution Chapter 7

February 26: *WHO, 227-244*

February 28: *WHO, 245-272*

Week 8: The Land Grab

March 4: *WHO, 273-307*

March 6: **MIDTERM**

Week 9: **Spring Break**

Week 10: The Bloody beginning to the Twentieth Century

March 18: *WHO, 308-345*

March 20: *WHO, 346-360*

Week 11: The World at War

March 25: *WHO, 360-382*

March 27: *WHO, 383-419*

Week 12: Genocide

April 1: The Last Days

April 3: The Last Days, Elie Wiesel's *Night* Discussion and Papers Due

Week 13: The World after the War

April 8: The Nuclear Age

April 10: The Cold War

Week 14: Religion and our world

April 15: *WHO, 421-441*

April 17: *WHO, 442-468*

Week 15: Gender and History

April 22: *WHO, 469-505*

April 24: *Slaughterhouse Five* Discussion and papers due.

Week 16: Problems of the 21st century

April 29: *WHO, 506-526*

May 1: *WHO, 527-542, Response Papers Due*

Week 17

May 6: Last day of class, **Research Projects Due**

Final Exam: May 13, 3:30-6:30pm