

SYLLABUS  
WCV101-07 Western Civilization I

Meeting Time/Location: MWF 10:00 to 10:50 MHRA 1215

Instructor: Mark Moser

Office: MHRA 2104

Office Hours: MW 12:30 to 2:00 --- M 5:00 to 5:30 --- F 9:00 to 9:30 --- (and by appointment)

Email: [mamoser@uncg.edu](mailto:mamoser@uncg.edu)

Required Texts:

Kagan, Ozment, and Turner, *The Western Heritage, Volume One: To 1740*. Brief Fifth Edition (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2007).

Kelly, John. *The Great Mortality: An Intimate History of the Black Death, the Most Devastating Plague of All Time*. (New York: Harper Collins, 2006).

Stone, I. F. *The Trial of Socrates*. (New York: Anchor Books, 1989).

(From time to time there will be additional readings in the form of handouts or materials placed on e-reserves)

Course Objectives:

Students will be expected to:

- Understand and retain the basic facts and framework of Western Civilization from its Mesopotamian origins through the end of the Thirty Years' War in 1648.
- Analyze and synthesize relevant information; i.e., interpret historical facts
- Develop a personal and historical sense of time relevant to Western Civilization
- Think critically and make informed judgments!

Procedures/Assignments:

This course will require you to do a significant amount of reading, however it is very manageable provided that you follow my recommendations and don't allow yourselves to fall behind. Discussion of your readings will, at times, take up a significant portion of certain class sessions, but because this is a survey course the majority of each class period will be devoted to lecture. It will be necessary for you to have completed your assigned readings prior to coming to class for two reasons. One, class discussions will be difficult to conduct if you haven't read, and two, the lectures will be more understandable if you have read the assigned material ahead of time. This course will not be difficult provided that you remain current with all your reading. However, students who fall behind typically find it extremely difficult to catch up.

Attendance:

Punctuality and regular attendance are necessary in order for you to do your best in any college class because you are still responsible for all material covered in class whether or not you are there. Each student will be allowed six (6) absences during the semester with no academic penalty. I make no distinction between excused and unexcused absences—you are either here or you are not.\* Each additional absence will result in 5 points being deducted from your final grade average. Habitual tardiness, either alone or in combination with absences, will also adversely affect your final grade. Occasionally I will notify a student whenever he/she has reached 6 absences, but please do not rely 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 the attendance sheet has been passed around, as failure to do so will result in your being marked absent for that class session.

This class meets three times per week and I expect you to come to class on time and to remain in class for the entire session unless you have a genuine emergency during class, (illness, etc.) or unless you speak to me prior to class and advise me that you need to leave early. I consider this to be common courtesy to both the class and myself.

All requests to take a missed exam will be considered on an individual basis. Under no circumstances will any student be allowed to makeup more than two exams! Any student who misses an exam **must contact me** prior to returning to class to inquire about the possibility of taking a makeup. (Makeup tests will have to be taken at a time when I am available) No makeup quizzes will be offered.\*

I reserve the right to drop any student at any point because of excessive absences. The last day to drop a class without academic penalty is Tuesday, March 17.

If you wish to bring a laptop to class I respectfully ask that you **only use it to take notes**. Please do not use them during class to check email, surf the web, play games, etc.

Grading:

Exams (2) ID's and Essay	40%
Response Papers (2)	30%
Final Exam (Essay)	20%
Quizzes on readings*	10%
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Course Total	100%

\* I will drop your 2 lowest quiz grades

All late papers will be penalized 10 points per day—a paper is late if not turned in during class. (This course follows a 10 point scale and I do assign +/- to final grades when warranted.)

Course Outline:

Week One—(January 21, 23) Course introduction on Wednesday, January 21—Discussion of the terms “civilization” and “western.” Friday, January 23, *The Western Heritage* Ch. 1 “The Birth of Civilization” (Overview)  
Begin reading *The Trial of Socrates*

Week Two—(January 26, 28, 30) *The Western Heritage* Ch. 2 “The Rise of Greek Civilization”  
Continue reading *The Trial of Socrates*

Week Three—(February 2, 4, 6) *The Western Heritage* Ch. 3 “Classical and Hellenistic Greece”  
\*RESPONSE PAPERS\* on *The Trial of Socrates* due in class on Friday, February 6

Week Four—(February 9, 11, 13) *The Western Heritage* Ch. 4 “Rome: From Republic to Empire”

Week Five—(February 16, 18, 20) *The Western Heritage* Ch. 5 “The Roman Empire”

Week Six—(February 23, 25, 27) *The Western Heritage* Ch. 5 “The Roman Empire” (continued)

Week Seven—(March 2, 4, 6) *The Western Heritage* Ch. 6 “Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages”  
\*EXAM ONE\* Monday, March 2 on *The Western Heritage* Chapters 1-5  
You will need a small format bluebook

SPRING BREAK --- No classes March 9, 11, 13

Week Eight—(March 16, 18, 20) *The Western Heritage* Ch. 7 “The High Middle Ages”  
Begin reading *The Great Mortality*

Week Nine—(March 23, 25, 27) *The Western Heritage* Ch. 7 “The High Middle Ages” (continued) and *The Western Heritage* Ch. 8 “Medieval Society: Hierarchies, Towns, Universities, and Families” Continue reading *The Great Mortality*

Week Ten—(March 30, April 1, 3) *The Western Heritage* Ch. 9 “The Late Middle Ages”  
\*RESPONSE PAPERS\* on *The Great Mortality* due in class on Friday, April 3

Week Eleven—(April 6, 8) *The Western Heritage* Ch. 10 “Renaissance and Discovery”  
\*EXAM TWO\* Monday, April 6 on *The Western Heritage* Chapters 6-9  
You will need a small format bluebook

Week Twelve—(April 13, 15, 17) *The Western Heritage* Ch. 10 “Renaissance and Discovery” (cont’d)

Week Thirteen—(April 20, 22, 24) *The Western Heritage* Ch. 11 “The Age of Reformation”

Week Fourteen—(April 27, 29, May 1) *The Western Heritage* Ch. 12 “The Age of Religious Wars”

Week Fifteen—(May 4, 5) Last day of class—review for final exam

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FINAL EXAM (Based only on material covered after Fall Break)

Monday, May 11 from 12:00pm to 3:00pm ----- You will need a small format bluebook.