

Fall Semester, 2003

226 McIver Bldg.
MWF: 9:00-9:50 AM

WESTERN CIVILIZATION 101-09

Karl A. Schleunes, Professor (204 McIver Bldg.)
E-mail: kaschleu@uncg.edu
Phone: x4-3514

Office Hours
MWF: 10:00-11:00
TR: 9:00-10:00

Required Texts:

Donald Kagan, Steven Ozment, Frank M. Turner, *The Western Heritage, Brief Edition*, Vol. I: *To 1715*: Third Edition

Kagan/Ozment/Turner, *The Western Heritage, Brief 3/E* (Compact Disc accompanying the volume above)

Course Description:

We are the heirs of a set of traditions called “Western Civilization.” and the world we live in is shaped by that inheritance. We need to understand this tradition if we want to understand who we are, why we think the way we do, why we believe the things we believe, and why we think we know the things we think we know. The answers these questions will be the major themes in this course.

We will begin by examining the origins of Western Civilization in the Ancient Near East and in the Mediterranean worlds of the early Hebrews, Greeks, and Romans. Our focus will be on how these peoples answered the “big questions of being”: 1.) What does it mean to be human? 2.) Where do we come from? 3.) What meaning, or purpose, does our life have? 4.) How do we fit into society? How do we relate to each other as men/women, as governors/governed? 6.) What are the gods, or God, like?)

These are the very same “big questions of being” that we face today. We will discover that often, without knowing it, we “borrow” answers to these questions from the ancient peoples we are studying.

With the above questions in mind, we will trace the development of the ancient Near East and Mediterranean worlds from their origins some four thousand years ago through to the beginnings of Christian Europe in the first centuries of the Common Era, (CE or BC), the Middle Ages, Renaissance of the 15th Century and the Reformation of the 16th century.

Course Requirements and Instructions:

1. Attendance Policy: Regular class attendance is absolutely essential for success in this course. After the third unexcused absence, the final grade will be lowered by one letter. Upon the seventh unexcused absence, the student will be dropped from the course. Arriving late for class or leaving early will, without prior notice, counts as an unexcused absence.

Quizzes and Exams:

There will be several quizzes, a mid-term examination, and a final examination. These examinations will be part essay and part multiple-choice.

Grading Scale:

The quizzes (20 %); Mid-Term Exam (35 %); Final Exam (45%);

WCV 101-09 COURSE SYLLABUS

Aug. 18 Course Introduction

I. The Birth of Civilization

Aug. 20 Why Civilization?

“ 22 Myth/Religion

“ 25 Ancient Hebrews

“ 27 A People is Born (Film)

Reading Assignments

Text: Chapter 1

CD: “Laws of the Hebrews;”

“Hammurabi’s Code;” “New
Theories about Human Dev.”

II. The Rise of Greek Civilization

Aug. 29 Greek Origins

Sep. 3 The *Polis* (Sparta/Athens)

“ 5 The Persian War

Text: Chapter 2

CD: Homer, from the “Iliad”

III. Classical and Hellenistic Greece

Sep. 8 Golden Age of Athens

“ 10 Plato & Aristotle

“ 12 Peloponnesian War

Text: Chapter 3

CD: “The Apology”; “Pericles Funeral

(QUIZ)

Oration”

IV. Rome: from Republic to Empire

Sep. 15 Rome to Julius Caesar

“ 17 August Caesar

Text: Chapter 4

CD: “Augustus’ Moral Legislation”

V. The Roman Empire

Sep. 19 Era of Rome’s Greatness

“ 22 Rome in Crisis

“ 24 Constantine/Christianity

“ 26 St. Augustine

Text: Chapter 5

CD: “Traditional Roman Religious

Religious Practices”; “Gospel

According to John”; Paul’s “Letter To the
Romans”

VI. The Early Middle Ages (476-1000)

Sep. 29 Birth of Europe

Oct. 1 Charlemagne

“ 3 Birth of Islam

“ 6 Feudalism

“ 8 Review Session

Text: Chapter 6

CD: “The Believer”; “Sayings...”;

“Contracts between Lords & Vassals”

”Baghdad: City of Wonders...”

“ 10 MID-TERM EXAMINATION

FALL BREAK

VII. The High Middle Ages: The Rise of Empires and States

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| Oct. 15 HRE/ Crusades | Text: Chapter 7, pp.125-134 |
| “ 17 Pope Innocent III | CD: “Behâ-ed Din, Richard I Massacres
Prisoners after taking Acre”;
“Penitentials” |

VIII. Medieval Society: Hierarchies, Towns, Universities and Families (1000-1300)

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| Oct. 20 Medieval Estates | Text: Chapter 8 |
| “ 22 Scholasticism | CD: “The Sports of the City”; “College
Life”; St. Anselm’s “Ontological
Proof of God’s Existence”; “Guild
Regulations for the Shearers of Arras” |
| “ 24 Thomas Aquinas | |
| “ 27 Pope Leo X | |

IX. The Late Middle Ages: Social and Political Breakdown (1300-1527)

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| Oct. 29 Black Death | Text: Chapter 9, pp. 166-177 |
| “ 31 Church Schism (QUIZ) | CD: “Propositions of Wycliffe...” “Heretics:
Saints and Witches”; “How They
Died: Coroner’s Reports...” |

X. Renaissance and Discovery

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| Nov. 3 Humanism | Text: Chapter 10 |
| “ 5 Pico/Machiavelli | CD: Batholomew de Casas, “Amer-
Indians and the ‘Garden of Eden’”
Machiavelli, “Discourses” |
| “ 7 Erasmus | |

XI. The Age of Reformation

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| Nov. 10 Luther | Text: Chapter 11 |
| “ 12 Calvin | CD: Luther, “Ninety-Five Theses...”
Henry VIII, “Supremacy Act, 1534...” |
| “ 14 England’s Reformation | |
| “ 17 Loyola & the Jesuits | |
| “ 19 Discussion | “A Right with Roots in the Bible” |

XII. The Age of Religious Wars

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| Nov. 21 HRE vs. France | Text: Chapter 12 |
| “ 24 Spain/Phillip II | CD: The Peace of Westphalia, 1648 |
| Dec. 1 Is Tolerance Possible? | |
| “ 3 1648: Peace of Westphalia | |
| “ 5 Discussion | |
| “ 8 REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAMINATION | |

Final Exam scheduled for: **Wednesday, December 10 (12 Noon- 3:00 PM)**

