

WCV 101
Fall 2003

Western Civilization to 1600

(www.uncg.edu/~jwjones/russia)

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Office Hours: M 9-9:50; W 2-2:50; F 1-1:50; and by appointment

Introduction

Courses in “Western Civilization” have provoked a great deal of interest and controversy on campuses across the country in the last few decades, as students and others of non-Western origin have rightly demanded more representation of their heritage in University courses. This course presents an overview of Western civilization in a global context. We will examine events and changes in Western heritage from the point of view of those undergoing them, and we will compare the Western experience with other cultures.

An underlying theme is the importance of history in shaping the way people see the world today, including students in this class. Everyone has an “historical consciousness,” an understanding of the way the world became what it is today, and the purpose of this course is to introduce students to alternative ways of interpreting history by weighing the merits of differing points of view.

The course is divided into three sections: the Ancient World; the Middle Ages; and the Early Modern Period. We will approach the subject material from several perspectives, including political, social, economic, and cultural, with a number of themes in mind: civilization and barbarism; war and peace; freedom and slavery; religion and ideology; family/gender; and class.

Goals & Objectives

By the end of the course students will understand, firstly, that history is not the memorization of dates and facts, but rather the interpretation of the past; and, secondly, that we tend to see the world through a number of basic assumptions that are not always accurate. Students will take from the class the skills to critically appraise varying historical arguments and to clearly express their own interpretations.

Readings:

- *The Ties That Bound: Peasant Families in Medieval England*, Barbara A. Hanawalt
- *Giovanni and Lusanna*, Gene Buckner
- Reserve article and online material designated below
- Optional Texts: *Western Civilization: A Social and Cultural History* by Margaret King or *Civilization in the West* by Mark Kishlansky

Course Web Page: www.uncg.edu/~jwjones/westernciv The page has summaries of the notes, readings, links to Internet Resources, and other features relevant to the course.

Assignments:

Participation	30%
2 Midterm Exams	20% each
Final Exam	30%

Participation: Your 30 % class participation grade consists of worksheets, random and announced in-class quizzes, and Reaction Pieces (1-2 pages double-spaced). These are intended to be your *reaction to or opinion of* the readings designated below, *not a summary of the reading material*. Students who miss an in-class quiz can *only* make it up with a legitimate reason. Inform me beforehand if you know you have to miss a quiz and we will schedule a make-up.

Exams: There are two midterms (worth 20% each) and a final (worth 30%). The three exams cover *only* the part of the course for which they are designated (1st: Ancient World; 2nd: Middle Ages; 3rd: Early Modern), so they are not cumulative. However, the final exam includes a comprehensive Take Home Essay (worth 10% of the overall grade) that draws on broader issues and themes dealt with over the entire semester.

Grading: Grades will be compiled on a point system. For example, if you make a 90 on the 1st midterm (18/20) + an 80 on the 2nd midterm (16/20) + 84 on the final exam (25/30) + 90 on participation (27/30) your final grade = **86** or **B**. Keep up with your grades on the chart at the end of the syllabus to know your grade going into the Final Exam.

Class Schedule

Monday, August 18. Introduction: What is “Western Civilization?”

- Reading for next class: “A Sense of History: Some Components” & “Why Study History Through Primary Sources”

Wednesday, August 20. Introduction (cont’d): The Origins of Human Civilizations

- Reading for next class: “Hammurabi’s Law Code”

Part I: The Ancient World

Friday, August 22. Discussion of Hammurabi’s Law Code

Monday, August 25. Early Societies & the Origins of Monotheism

- Reading for next class: Excerpts from “The Old Testament”

Wednesday, August 27. Hebrew Culture & Early History

Friday, August 29. Hebrew Culture (cont’d) & the Origins of War

- Reading for next class: online article “The Roots of War”; **Worksheet 1** due in class

Wednesday, September 3. Early Human Warfare: A Discussion of “Blood Rites”

Friday, September 5. Early Greek History & Politics

- Reading for next class: “The Polity of the Athenians”

Monday, September 8. The Greek City States: Sparta & Athens

- Reading for next class: “Women in Greek Society”

Wednesday, September 10. The Classical Era in Greece

- Reading for next class: “Lysistrata”; ****Reaction Piece (1-2 pages) due in class**

Friday, September 12. Women & Sexuality in Greece: Discussion of “Lysistrata”

- Reading for next class: Selections on Alexander the Great

Monday, September 15. Hellenism: Phillip of Macedon & Alexander the Great

- Reading for next class: “Runaway Slaves in Alexandria: Reward Offered!”

Wednesday, September 17. Hellenism (cont’d): Alexander the Great

Friday, September 19. Mythology & the Rise of Rome

- Reading for next class: online material on Roman Mythology

Monday, September 22. The Rise of Rome (cont’d)

- Reading for next class: Graffiti on the walls of Pompeii; “A Strike by the Women of Rome” & “Slavery in the Ancient World”; **Worksheet 2** due in class

Wednesday, September 24. Women & Slaves in Roman Society

Friday, September 26. The Late Republic & the Roman Empire

Monday, September 29. **1st Midterm Exam**

Part II: The Middle Ages

Wednesday, October 1. Jesus of Nazareth & the Rise of Christianity

- Reading for next class: “Perpetua’s Diary”

Friday, October 3. Persecution of the Early Christians

Monday, October 6. Paul of Tarsus & the Spread of Christianity

- Reading for next class: Excerpts from *Sermons against the Jews* by John Chrysostom

Wednesday, October 8. The Roots of Anti-Semitism

- Reading for next class: online documents on Anti-Semitism in Europe; ****Reaction Piece (1-2 pages) to these readings due in class**

Friday, October 10. Europe’s Internal “Other”: Jews & anti-Semitism

BEGIN READING: *The Ties That Bound: Peasant Families in Medieval England* by Barbara Hanawalt; ****Reaction Piece (1-2 pages) to this reading due Friday, October 31**

Wednesday, October 15. The Rise of Islam

- Reading for next class: excerpts from the Quran

Friday, October 17. Europe's External "Other": The Early History of Islam

Monday, October 20. Europe's External "Other": The Early History of Islam (cont'd)

- Reading for next class: "Islam According to Oprah" by Rod Dreher

Wednesday, October 22. Islam & the Christianity: The Clash of Civilizations?

Friday, October 24. The Fall of Rome & Early Medieval Europe

- Reading for next class: The Christianization of Russia; **Worksheet 3** due in class

Monday, October 27. The Christianization of Russia & the Crusades

- Reading for next class: Eyewitness Accounts of the Crusader's Capture of Jerusalem

Wednesday, October 29. The Crusades (cont'd) & Late Medieval Europe

Friday, October 31. Late Medieval Europe: Discussion of *The Ties That Bound*

- Reading for next class: The Famine of 1315

Monday, November 3. **2nd Midterm Exam**

Part III: The Early Modern Period

BEGIN READING *Giovanni and Lusanna* by Gene Brucker; ****Reaction Piece (1-2 pages)** due Friday, November 14

Wednesday, November 5. The "Black Death"

- Reading for next class: online documents on the Plague & Reviews of David Herlihy's *The Black Death and the Transformation of the West*

Friday, November 7. "The Black Death" (cont'd): Discussion of the Readings

Monday, November 10. The "Black Death" (cont'd) & Peasant Rebellions

Wednesday, November 12. The European Renaissance

Friday, November 14. Renaissance Society: Discussion of *Giovanni and Lusanna*

Monday, November 17. The Reformation

Wednesday, November 19. The Reformation & Religious Strife

Friday, November 21. In-class viewing: Excerpts from "The Return of Martin Guerre"

- Reading for next class: The "*Malleus Maleficarium*" ("The Witches' Hammer") & Diabolical Seduction: A Witch on Trial; **Worksheet 4** due in class

Monday, November 24. The Spanish Inquisition & the Witch Craze

Monday, December 1. Heretics & Witches: The Witch Craze (cont'd)

Wednesday, December 3. The Witch Craze (cont'd)

Friday, December 5. The Agricultural Revolution & European Expansion

- Reading for next class: e-reserve article “The Truth about the First Thanksgiving” by James Loewen; **Reaction Piece (1-2 pages) to this readings due in class

Monday, December 8. Europe’s Conquest of America: Discussion of the Reading

Final Exam: Wednesday, December 10 Noon-3:00

GRADE RECORD

Participation Grade (WS = Worksheet; RP = Reaction Piece; Q= Quiz)

{NOTE: Worksheets are worth 2 points each; Reaction Pieces and quizzes are worth 3 points each; the assignment for Hammurabi’s Law Code will be counted as Extra Credit}

Add your scores on these assignments:

WS 1 _____	RP 1 _____	Q 1 _____
WS 2 _____	RP 2 _____	Q 2 _____
WS 3 _____	RP 3 _____	Q 3 _____
WS 4 _____	RP 4 _____	Q 4 _____
	RP 5 _____	

Part. Grade

_____ + _____ + _____ = _____ =

+

1st Midterm (20 pts.)
(grade) _____ x .20 =

+

2nd Midterm (20 pts.)
(grade) _____ x .20 =

+

Extra Credit Points _____

= _____*

*This is your numerical grade for the course going into the Final Exam, which covers the remaining 40% of the grade, including a Take Home Essay Question worth 10% of the overall course grade. To convert the number to a letter grade, divide it by 60, which is the total number of points possible prior to the Final Exam.