

# WESTERN CIVILIZATION FROM 1600

## Instructor

Mr. Scott Thomason  
223-F McIver Bldg  
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## Course

WCV 102-03  
226 McIver Bldg  
TR 7:30-8:45 PM  
Spring 2003  
<http://www.uncg.edu/~wstthomas/wcv102.html>

REQUIRED TEXT: Marvin Perry, Western Civilization: A Brief History, Vol. II (4<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2001)  
Robert Darnton, The Great Cat Massacre  
Denis Winter, Death's Men: Soldiers of the Great War

## COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

This course is designed to shape students' understanding of key historical periods and events from the end of the Renaissance to the present day. This is a broad survey course which explains how and why western culture developed as it did over the last four hundred years. To accomplish this we must examine a myriad of topics that have created our western heritage, such as politics, social movements, religion, art, literature, language, national conflict, war, scientific discoveries, and philosophical and moral thought. At the end of the semester students will possess an understanding of key the political, socioeconomic, and cultural developments of modern western history which they will be able to integrate into their other studies and pursuits.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND INFORMATION:

### 1. **Grade Composition:**

- 2 Exams = 30% each (60% total)
- 2 Book Reviews = 20% each (40% total)

*Exams* will consist of two or three essays. Blue books are required. *Book Reviews* will be 2-3 pages and are detailed on the second page of the syllabus.

2. **Attendance Policy:** Class attendance is an important part of your education and this course. This course revolves around lectures, class discussion, and the intellectual discoveries made during class. Do not think of history as the boring memorization and recitation of names and dates. Think of historical figures and events as characters and moments in a complex tale in which you have a direct investment. If you are not in class, you miss this experience.

Each student is permitted *four* unexcused absences. Upon the *fifth* unexcused absence, I have the option of dropping the student from the course. Athletic or social events, extracurricular functions, late nights, must-see TV, obnoxious roommates, non-tragic travel plans, alien abductions, or other like events are *NOT* considered excused absences. I do, however, make exceptions for verifiable illness, family tragedy, and major catastrophe. Regardless of cause, you are responsible for all information missed during your absence.

If you decide this course is not for you, it is your responsibility to properly drop the class through the Registrar's Office. Students who simply stop coming to class will inevitably receive an "F" at the end of the term due to the number of "zeroes" accumulated for assignments not completed.

3. **The Expectation of Good Writing:** Good writing skills are essential to effective communication. The development of good writing skills is an integral part of a university education. As such, I require you to write in a manner appropriate for a university student even when composing essays in class for exams. You will not receive full credit for essays or book reviews containing multiple grammatical and spelling errors and/or poor prose. "Instant Messenger" speak (b/c, w/, ne, ur,) is fine in casual emails but is unacceptable language for any formal composition. I am always willing to help you with your writing, and you may also seek assistance at the University Writing Center (101 McIver, 334-3125).

**4. Policy on Punctuality and Cell Phones/Pagers:** Class begins at 7:30. Please arrive on time – walking in late disturbs class. Please turn off your cell phone and/or pager before coming to class. Students whose phones/pagers ring during class will be asked to leave. I reserve the right to drop those students from the course who have chronic problems with punctuality and/or cell phone/pager etiquette.

**5. Communication About Class:** The easiest way to contact me is via email. My McIver office does not have a phone with voice mail; the number I provided is for another office with which I share a phone line.

This class has a web page available at <http://www.uncg.edu/~wstthomas/wcv102.html>. Most of the information contained on the page is the same as this syllabus. However, at times I will post special announcements on the web page, particularly if there is bad weather or another similar event that may dictate the cancellation of class. Please check the course web page in such situations in addition to checking the regular UNCG web page for campus-wide announcements.

I also ask that each student provide me with an email address so that I may send you any necessary announcements.

### BOOK REVIEWS

Each student will write book reviews of Robert Darnton's The Great Cat Massacre and Denis Winter's Death's Men. Each paper will be 2-3 pages. Papers will be graded on the quality of thought and the clarity of the writing (see #3 above). A good book review is not a summary of the text; rather, it is an explanation and analysis of the author's argument and purpose. What does the author contend? Why? What does this book do? What do you draw from the work? "A" quality papers will answer these questions and many more while raising issues of their own in a creative, clear, and concise manner.

All papers must have thesis statements and conclusions. You must draw examples from the text, but block are not permitted. Citations may be done in either MLA or Turabian styles (handouts on both are available at the Jackson Library Information Desk).

Book reviews of Darnton and Winter are due **February 20** and **April 29** respectively. Late papers will not be accepted – your advance knowledge of these assignments provides you with adequate time to work. If you cannot be in class the day a paper is due you must deliver it to my box in the History Department (219 McIver) or as an attachment via email.

### COURSE SCHEDULE

<i>Jan 14, 16</i>	<b>Introduction / Renaissance and Reformation</b> Perry, Ch. 8 (xx-xxxii, 212-242)
<i>Jan 21, 23</i>	<b>Constitutional Forms in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century / The Rise of the Modern State</b> Perry, Ch. 9 (244-276)
<i>Jan 28, 30</i>	<b>The Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment</b> Perry, Ch. 10 (278-309)
<i>Feb 4, 6</i>	<b>The French Revolution</b> Perry, Ch. 11 (316-334)
<i>Feb 11, 13</i>	<b>Napoleon: Era of Settlement, Reform, and Revolution</b> Perry Ch. 11 (335-345)

- Feb 18, 20*      **The Industrial Revolution**  
Perry, Ch. 12 (349-365)  
*Great Cat Massacre* Book Review due Feb 20
- Feb 25, 27*      **Thought and Culture in the Early Nineteenth Century**  
Perry, Ch. 13 (368-385)
- Mar 4, 6*        **Exam #1**  
Mar 4
- Mar 11, 13*     **No Class: Spring Break!**
- Mar 18, 20*     **Revolution and Counterrevolution: 1800-1848**  
Perry, Ch. 14 (388-401)
- Mar 25, 27*     **The Era of National Unification**  
Perry, Ch. 14 (402-412)
- Apr 1, 3*        **The Mid-Nineteenth Century and the Age of Imperialism**  
Perry, Ch. 15 (414-432) and Ch. 16 (435-472)
- Apr 8, 10*      **The Great War and the Disintegration of the Old Order**  
Perry, Ch. 18 (502-539)
- Apr 15, 17*     **The Inter-War Years: Reform, Depression, and Totalitarianism**  
Perry, Ch. 19 (541-588)
- Apr 22, 24*     **The Second World War**  
Perry, Ch. 20 (595-615)
- Apr 29, May 1*   **The Post-War World**  
Perry, Ch. 21 (620-667)  
*Death's Men* Book Review due April 29
- May 13*        **Exam #2**  
7-10 PM