

Fall Semester, 2002

229 McIver Building
9:30-10:45 AM TTh

COURSE OUTLINE / WCV 101-04

Professor Karl A. Schleunes
204 McIver Bldg.
E-mail: kaschleu@uncg.edu
Phone: 336-334-3514

Office Hours:
TTh: 10:45-11:30 AM

Required Texts: NB! Bring these books to class every time we meet!

Marvin Perry, Western Civilization: A Brief History Vol. I: To 1789 (2001) 4th ed.
Perry, et.al., Sources of the Western Tradition, Vol. 1, From Ancient Times to the Enlightenment (1999), 4th ed.

Course Description:

We are all heirs of a tradition called “Western Civilization.” We need to understand this tradition to understand who and what we are, why we think the way we do, why we believe the things we believe, why we think we “know” the things we claim to know. These are the big questions of “being” we as human beings face and they will provide the main lines of inquiry for the course.

The purpose of this course is to help us understand the Western tradition. We begin by examining its origins in the worlds of the Ancient Near East and Mediterranean among the early Hebrews, Greeks, and Romans. Our focus will be on how these people answered the big questions of “being”: 1) what does it mean to be human? 2) What is/are the god(s)? 3) Where do we come from? 4) What is the purpose of life? 5) How do I fit into society? 6) How do we relate to one another as men/women and as governors and governed. We face these same questions today. For us the peoples of Europe did the original “borrowing” during the early centuries of the so-called “Christian Era.”

With the above questions in mind, we will trace the development of the ancient Near East and Mediterranean worlds from their origins some three or four thousand years ago to the beginnings of Christian Europe nearly two thousand years ago. From there we will trace some fifteen hundred years of developments in Europe, taking us through the Middle Ages, the Renaissance and the Reformation.

Course Requirements and Instructions:

1. **Attendance Policy:** Each student is **allowed three unexcused absences**. Upon the **fourth** unexcused absence, the final grade will be lowered by one letter. Upon the **sixth** unexcused absence the student will be dropped from the course. Please do not enter class late or leave early!
2. **Quizzes and Exams:** There will be **six quizzes** during the semester, a **mid-term exam** and a **final exam**. (You may drop the lowest grade on one the quizzes. There can be no make-up on the quizzes)
3. **Grading Scale:** Quizzes = 25%; Mid-Term Exam = 25%; Final Exam = 50%
4. **Class Discussion:** A portion of each class session will given over to class discussion and student questions. Participation can improve your grade by one full letter.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LECTURE TOPIC</u>	<u>READING ASSIGNMENT</u>
-------------	----------------------	---------------------------

PART I – THE ANCIENT WORLD; FOUNDATIONS OF THE WEST

Aug. 20 Course Introduction

Ancient Near East

“ 22	Emergence of Civilization	Perry Text : Ch. 1
“ 27	Myth and Religion: Ancient Near East (Quiz)	Perry Reader: Ch. 1 (2,3,8)

Ancient Hebrew

“ 29	Hebrew Creation Story	Perry Text: Ch. 2
Sept. 3	The Hebrew Prophets and Messianism (Quiz)	Perry Reader: Ch 2 (1,2,3,4,5) Ch. 3 (14)

Ancient Greeks

“ 5	Origins of Greece	Perry Text: Ch. 3
“ 10	The Greek <i>Polis</i> / Sparta and Athens	Perry Reader: Ch 3 (2,3,4,7,8,10)
“ 12	Plato and Aristotle	
“ 17	Alexander the Great and Hellenism (Quiz)	

Ancient Rome

“ 19	Roman Origins to Julius Caesar	Perry Text: Chs. 4
“ 24	August Caesar and the Roman Empire (Quiz)	Perry Reader: Ch. 4 (4,5,9) Ch 5 (1,4,7,8)

Early Christianity

“ 26	Jesus, the Jews and Early Christianity	Perry Text: Ch. 5
Oct. 1	Constantine and the Conversion of Rome	Perry Reader: Ch 6 (4,5,7)
“ 3	St. Augustine and <i>The City of God</i>	

Oct. 8 Review for Mid-Term Exam
Oct. 10 Mid-Term Exam
 Oct. 15 Fall Break

Oct. 17 Christian Monasticism

Perry Text: Ch. 6
Perry Reader: Ch. 6 (6)

PART II – THE MIDDLE AGES; THE CHRISTIAN CENTURIES

Oct. 22 German Barbaric Tribes (Franks)
“ 24 Charlemagne and Revival of Empire
“ 29 Christian Crusader vs. Islam (**Quiz**)

Perry Text: Ch. 6
Perry Reader: Ch 7 (1,3,6,7)
Ch. 8 (3)

Oct. 31 The High Middle Ages
Nov. 5 Thomas Aquinas and Scholasticism
“ 7 Decline of the Middle Ages (**Quiz**)

Perry Text: Ch. 7
Perry Reader: Ch. 8 (2,5,7,9,11,13)

PART III – THE RISE OF MODERNITY: RENAISSANCE & REFORMATION

“ 12 Renaissance Humanism
“ 14 Pico, Machiavelli, Erasmus
“ 21 Thanksgiving
“ 26 Calls for Religious Reform
“ 28 Luther and Calvin
Dec. 3 Catholic Reformation/Wars of Religion

Perry Text: Ch. 8
Perry Reader: Ch 9 (2,3)
Ch. 10 (2,3,4,5,6,7)

Dec. 5 Review for Final Exam

FINAL EXAM: THURSDAY, DEC. 12 -- 8:00-11:AM