

Spring Semester, 2002

229 McIver Building  
Monday - 6:00-8:50 PM

### **COURSE OUTLINE / WCV 101-04**

Professor Karl A. Schleunes  
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Office Hours:  
MWF 9:00-10:45 AM  
M 5:00-6:00 PM

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

Marvin Perry, Western Civilization: A Brief History Vol. I: To 1789 (2001) 4<sup>th</sup> ed.  
John L. Beatty & Oliver A. Johnson, eds., Heritage of Western Civilization, Vol. I, (1995), 8<sup>th</sup> ed.

#### **Course Description:**

We are all heirs of a tradition called “Western Civilization” and our lives are shaped by that tradition. We need to understand this tradition in order to understand who we are, why we think the way we do, why we believe the things we believe, why we “know” the things we think we know. These themes 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? As human beings we face these very same questions today, and we often “borrow” answers from these ancient people without knowing it. The original “borrowing” was done for us by the peoples of Europe 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 one unexcused absence**. Upon the second unexcused absence, the final grade will be lowered by one letter. Upon the third unexcused absence the student will be dropped from the course. Please do not enter class late or leave early!
2. There will be **two quizzes** during the semester, a **mid-term exam** and a **final exam**. (No make-up on the quizzes)
3. At the end of each chapter in the textbook there are a series of “Review Questions.” Each student is required to hand in a **one-paragraph answer** to each of these questions at the conclusion of the unit that the chapter covers. Late papers will not be accepted.
4. **Grading Scale:** Quizzes = 15%; Mid-Term Exam = 25%; Chapter Paragraphs = 20%;  
Final Exam = 40%
5. **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.

## COURSE OUTLINE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LECTURE TOPIC</u>	<u>READING ASSIGNMENT</u>
PART I – THE ANCIENT WORLD; FOUNDATIONS OF THE WEST		
Jan. 14	Course Introduction Emergence of Civilization	
“ 21	MLK HOLIDAY	
“ 28	Myth and Religion in the Ancient Near East Abraham, God, and History	Perry, Chs. 1 & 2/ B&J, pp. 3-6; 16-20
Feb. 4	The Creation Story The Prophets and Hebrew Messianism <b>Quiz # 1</b>	B&J, pp. 21-38 (Genesis; Exodus, Kings, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Job)
“ 11	Origins of Greece – Myth and History The Greek <i>Polis</i> – Sparta and Athens	Perry, Ch. 3
“ 18	Plato and Aristotle Alexander the Great and Hellenization	B&J (Plato, “Allegory,” pp. 122-128; Aristotle, “The Politics” pp. 130-146)
“ 25	Roman Origins to Julius Caesar Augustus Caesar and the Empire Review	Perry, Ch. 4/ B&J, pp. 169-172; Marcus Aurelius, pp. 213-220
Mar. 4	MID-TERM EXAM	
“ 11	SPRING BREAK	
“ 19	Jesus the Jew and Early Christianity The Conversion of Rome (Constantinople)	Perry, Ch. 5; B&J, p. 229; 234-242 (“Acts” and “Epistles to the Romans”)
“ 26	Saint Augustine and <u>The City of God</u> Christian Monasticism	B&J, pp. 249-257 (“Enchiridion”)
PART II – THE MIDDLE AGES: THE CHRISTIAN CENTURIES		
Apr. 1	The Franks and Germanic Tribes Charlemagne and the Rebirth of Empire Crusades (Islam and the Jew)	Perry, Ch. 6; B&J, pp. 258-267 (Gregory of Tours)
“ 8	The Medieval Synthesis Thomas Aquinas and Scholasticism <b>Quiz # 2</b>	Perry, Ch. 7 B&J, pp.313-322 (Thomas Aquinas, <i>Summa Contra Gentiles</i> ; <i>Summa Theologica</i> )

- Apr. 15 Decline of the Middle Ages  
Renaissance and the Individual  
Pico, Machiavelli, Erasmus
- “ 22 Religion and Call for Reform/Erasmus  
Luther and Calvin
- “ 29 The Catholic and Counter-Reformation  
The Wars of Religion  
1648/ Thirty Years War and Peace of Westphalia
- May 6 Discussion and Review

Perry, Ch. 7 & 8; B&J, pp. 344-359 (The Decameron); pp. 357-360 (Pico); pp. 368-381 (Machiavelli)

Perry, Ch. 8; B&J, pp. 397-405 (Erasmus); pp. 412-423 (Luther); pp. 424-434 (Calvin)

Perry, Ch. 8; B&J, pp. 435-443 (Council Trent)

**MAY 13 FINAL EXAMINATION (7:00-10:00 PM)**