

WCV 101-09
11-12 MWF

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In this course we will consider developments from the time of the ancient Greeks through about 1600. The course is divided into three units entitled: the Classical World, the Medieval World, and the Early Modern European World. Students are expected to understand the major historical features of each of these periods and to understand also the characteristic world views and value -systems of these periods. We are going to focus on a few particular themes in an effort to understand some of the elements of the tradition that we call "western civilization". These are: the belief in the power of reason (in connection with the Classical World), the idea of a divinely ordered society (in connection with the Medieval World), and the value of the individual (in connection with the Early Modern European World).

Three books are required:

Perry et al, Western Civilization. Ideas, Politics and Society, 6th ed., vol. 1
Gochberg, Classics of Western Thought. Vol. I: The Ancient World
Thompson, Classics of Western Thought. Vol. II: Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Reformation

Students will use Perry for general historical and cultural background information. The primary source selections in the two Classics of Western Thought volumes will furnish first-hand information about basic beliefs and practices in the different periods under study. Students should bring Perry and the appropriate volume of Classics of Western Thought to class.

There will be exams at the end of each of the units (each counting 25% of the grade) Numerous short writing assignments will accompany the readings, and these together with occasional quizzes will determine the remainder of the grade.

Class Schedule and Readings

I. The Classical World

1/14	Introduction	
1/16	Early Greeks	P 51-57
1/18	Homer	CWT I, 1-38
1/23	The City-State	P 57-67
1/25	Athenian Democracy	P 67-69; CWT I, 176-183
1/28	The Tragic Dilemma	P 91-96; CWT I, 47-130

1/30	Democracy and Philosophy	P 75-82; CWT I 294-313
2/1	Plato and the Soul	P 82-90; CWT I 314-326
2/4	Alexander and the Hellenistic World	P 103-106
2/6	Hellenistic Cities	P 106-118; CWT I 450-469
2/8	Rome: Republic to Empire	P 121-137
2/11	Roman Views and Values	CWT I 384-416
2/13	Imperial Achievement	P 142-158
2/15	Views From Above and Below	CWT I 497-513
2/18	EXAM	
2/20	Later Roman World	P 156-164
2/22	Christianity	P 172-188; CWT I 593-616
2/25	Decline of Ancient World	P 164-168; CWT I 417-439, 628-642

II. *Medieval World*

2/27	Medieval Foundations	P 209-225
3/1	The Monastic Model	CWT II 1-13
3/1	Europe Takes Shape	P 229-241; CWT II 14-34
3/4	The Papal Monarchy	P 241-246; CWT II 85-91
3/6	Learning and Universities	P 259-277;
3/8	Scholasticism	CWT II 79-84
3/18	Dante and the Medieval World View	CWT II 99-127
3/20	14 th Century	P 280-295
3/22	EXAM	

III. *Early Modern World: Renaissance*

3/25	14 th -15 th -Century Italy	P 301-308
3/27	Petrarch and Individualism	P 320-321; CWT II 231-251
3/29	Humanism	P 308-310
4/1	Pico della Mirandola	CWT II 252-262
4/3	Rabelais	CWT II 329-339
4/5	Machiavelli and the Pursuit of Power	P 310-311; CWT II 278-293
4/8	Renaissance Art	P 311-315; CWT II 340-370
4/10	Northern Renaissance	P 315-320

IV. *Early Modern World: Reformation*

4/12	Late Medieval Religiosity	P 251-253, 324-328
4/15	Popes and Reformers 1417-1517	CWT II 263-277
4/17	Luther	P 328-334

4/19	Luther's Church	CWT II 518-534
4/22	Calvin and Geneva	P 334-339
4/24	Calvinism	CWT II 535-549
4/26	Other Reform Movements	P 339-342
4/29	Counterreformation	P 342-344
5/1	Ignatius of Loyola	CWT II 550-557
5/3	Reformation and "Modern" World	P 344-345
5/6	Summing up: Ancient, Medieval, and Modern in Western Civilization	

5/? EXAM