

Syllabus

WCV 101-12 (Fall 2002)
Western Civilization I
MWF 8:00-8:50 McIver 140
Instructor: Mark Moser
Office: McIver 223 --- Hours: MWF 9:00-10:30
email: mamoser@uncg.edu

Text:

The Western Heritage: Vol. I, To 1715. Seventh Edition. Donald Kagan, Steven Ozment, Frank M. Turner (Prentice Hall, 2001).

Course Objectives:

This course is designed to help students gain a better understanding of key historical periods and events from antiquity through the first half of the seventeenth century. Special emphasis will be placed on the development of western culture and how and why civilization developed and spread in the manner it did. Because this is a broad survey course we will examine many topics which both directly and indirectly shaped our western heritage, including: politics, religion, art, language, territorial struggles, military conflict, scientific discoveries, philosophical and moral thought, and global exploration. Upon completion of this course, students should be able to identify key figures and analyze significant political, socioeconomic, and cultural developments that took place prior to the modern era.

Grading:

You will have six (6) multiple-choice tests throughout the semester, each covering approximately the same amount of material (normally 2 chapters). Questions may come from information covered in the text, lectures, and any relevant videos we may watch. Your final exam, which will consist of multiple-choice and short answer/identifications, will be cumulative in that it will only include material covered after fall break (chapters 8 through 14).

Each of the six (6) tests will be worth 50 points and the final exam will be worth 150 points. I will drop your lowest quiz grade, leaving a total of 400 possible points for the course. In addition, you will also have ten (10) pop quizzes that will be based directly on your assigned reading. Each of these pop quizzes will be worth a maximum of four (4) points, thereby potentially enabling you to earn an additional 40 points for the semester. Simply put, the pop quizzes are extra credit points which can significantly improve your final grade. To take advantage of this, however, you will need to keep up with your reading assignments!

Attendance:

Punctuality and regular attendance are necessary in order for students to do their best in any college level class. You will be allowed **five (5) absences*** during the semester with no academic penalty. However, each absence beyond five will result in the lowering of your final cumulative total by 2 points--habitual absenteeism will be dealt with by dropping student(s) from the class. Students will be allowed to take only one makeup test during the semester. If a student misses a second test then that will be the test score which is dropped. Regular attendance is also very important because **No makeup pop quizzes will be given !!!** If you miss a pop quiz--you miss a pop quiz. End of discussion.

* Note that I do not make any distinction between "exc used" and unexcused" absences. You are either here or you are not.

Procedures:

Lectures primarily organize themselves around the assigned chapters. It will be to your advantage to have completed each week's reading in advance. It is your responsibility to keep up with the readings, attend class and, whenever appropriate, to contribute to the class in a meaningful manner. All materials from the course--the text, films, lectures, discussions--are fair game for test/exam questions. Names and terms written on the board during lectures will be a helpful guide as you study. I also strongly encourage you to read over and attempt to answer the questions at the end of each chapter. This should help to reinforce the material you have read.

Course Outline:***Week One (August 19, 21, 23)***

No reading for this week / Topics: Pre-history, Mesopotamia, Egyptian civilization

Week Two (August 26, 28, 30)

Reading: Chapter 2 "The Rise of Greek Civilization"

Labor Day (No Class Monday, September 2)***Week Three (September 4, 6)***

Test #1 Wednesday, September 4

Reading: Chapter 3 "Classical and Hellenistic Greece"

Week Four (September 9, 11, 13)

Reading: Chapter 4 "Rome: From Republic to Empire"

Week Five (September 16, 18, 20)

Test #2 Monday, September 16

Reading: Chapter 5 "The Roman Empire"

Week Six (September 23, 25, 27)

Reading: Chapter 5 "The Roman Empire"

Week Seven (September 30, October 2, 4)

Reading: Chapter 6 "The Early Middle Ages, 476-1000"

Week Eight (October 7, 9, 11)

Test #3 Monday, October 7

Reading: Chapter 7 "The High Middle Ages, 1000-1300: The Ascendancy of the Church and the Rise of States"

Fall Break (No Class Monday, October 14)***Week Nine (October 16, 18)***

Reading: Chapter 8 "The High Middle Ages, 1000-1300: People, Towns, and Universities"

Week Ten (October 21, 23, 25)

Test #4 Monday, October 21

Reading: Chapter 9 "The Late Middle Ages, 1300-1527: Social and Political Breakdown"

Week Eleven (October 28, 30, November 1)

Reading: Chapter 10 "Renaissance and Discovery"

Week Twelve (November 4, 6, 8)***Test #5 Monday, November 4***

Reading: Chapter 11 "The Age of Reformation"

Week Thirteen (November 11, 13, 15)

Reading: Chapter 12 "The Age of Religious Wars"

Week Fourteen (November 18, 20, 22, 25*)***Test #6 Monday, November 18***

Reading: Chapter 13 "Paths to Constitutionalism and Absolutism"

Thanksgiving Holiday (No Class November 27 or 29)***Week Fifteen (December 2, 4, 6, 9*)***

Reading: Chapter 14 "New Directions of Thought and Culture in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries"

Final Exam* Friday, December 13 8:00 - 11:00 am (Bring Blue Books)**