

Fall Semester, 2001

313 Graham Bldg.
TTh: 9:30-10:30 AM

COURSE OUTLINE / WCV 101-04

Professor Karl A. Schleunes Office Hours:
204 McIver Bldg. TTh: 8:30-9:30 AM
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Mr. Scott Thomason
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Office Hours: TTh 10:45-11:45 AM
223 McIver Bldg.

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.
John L. Beatty & Oliver A. Johnson, eds., Heritage of Western Civilization, Vol. I, (1995), 8th ed.

Course Description:

We are all heirs of a tradition called “Western Civilization.” We are all 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 story line for the course.

This course is designed 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 very same questions today, and 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 three unexcused absences**. Upon the fourth unexcused absence, the final grade will be lowered by one letter. Upon the fifth 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 the last day of each unit will given over to class discussion and student questions.

DATE

LECTURE TOPIC

READING ASSIGNMENT

Aug. 21 Course Introduction

PART I – THE ANCIENT WORLD; FOUNDATION OF THE WEST

Aug. 23 Emergence of Civilization Perry, Chapter 1
“ 28 Myth and Religion in the Ancient near East B&J pp. 3-6; 16-20

Aug. 30 The Creation Story Perry, Ch. 2
Sept. 4 Abraham, God, and History B&J, pp. 21- 28; 30-32
“ 6 The Prophets and Hebrew Messianism (**QUIZ**) (Genesis, Exodus, Isaiah)

Sept. 11 Origins of Greece – Greek Myths Perry, Ch. 3
“ 13 The Greek *Polis* -- Sparta and Athens B&J, pp. 41-43; 123-146
“ 18 Plato and Aristotle (Plato: “Allegory of the Cave”)
“ 20 Alexander the Great and Hellenization (Aristotle: “The Politics”)

Sept. 25 Roman Origins to Julius Caesar Perry, Ch. 4
“ 27 Augustus Caesar and the Empire B&J, pp. 169-72; 198-211
(Seutonius: “Lives of the Ceasars”)

Oct. 2 REVIEW
Oct. 4 **Mid-Term Exam**

Oct. 11 Jesus the Jew and Early Christianity Perry, Ch. 5
“ 16 The Conversion of Rome (Constantine) B&J, pp. 229; 234-242
“ 18 St. Augustine and The City of God (“Acts” and “Epistle to the Romans”)
“ 23 Christian Monasticism

PART II -- THE MIDDLE AGES: THE CHRISTIAN CENTURIES

Oct. 25 The Franks and Germanic Tribes Perry, Ch. 6
“ 30 Charlemagne and the Rebirth of Empire B&J, pp. 245-248; 250-257; 259-262
Nov. 1 Rise of Papal Power (“Enchiridion”; The History of the
“ 6 Crusades (Islam and the Jews) Franks”)

Nov. 8 The Medieval Synthesis/ Pope Innocent III Perry, Ch. 7
“ 13 Thomas Aquinas and Scholasticism B&J, p. 313-322 (Thomas Aquinas,
“ 15 Decline of the Medieval World (**QUIZ**) *Summa contra Gentiles* and
Summa Theologica)

Nov. 20 The Renaissance and the Individual Perry, Ch. 8
“ 27 Luther and Calvin B&J, pp. 353-356; 357-360; 368-381;
“ 29 The Catholic Reformation 412-423;435-443 (Pico, Machiavelli,
Dec. 4 The Wars of Religion Luther, Council of Trent)

Dec. 6 REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM **Dec. 13 FINAL EXAM -- 8:00-11:00 AM**

