

**Western Civilization 101**  
**Ancient Near East – the Protestant Reformation**

MWF 10:00-10:50  
McIver 28

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Welcome to the study of Western Civilization! This semester we will be studying the development of broad political, religious, and social structures that help to define modern western culture. Our study will include brief examinations of the Ancient Near East, Ancient Egypt, the society of the Hebrews, Greece, Rome, and Western Europe from the Early Middle Ages to the Reformation. In order to achieve our goals, we will be examining primary source documents (documents written at the time of or shortly after the events they describe). As you will learn, though, the study of history is more than the study of documents, handwritten or printed. Objects and buildings also offer us insights into other cultures. Thus this semester we will examine material remnants as well as documents that are representative of the societies we will be studying. It's easy to give more authority to the written word than to archaeological remains, but remember, a document can be as helpful or as misleading as a painting when you're trying to put together an explanation of any culture, including our own. For example, imagine that a tabloid newspaper were the only document you had with which to investigate modern American society. You might come to some very strange conclusions about it indeed.

Regulations

Attendance: If you miss more than six classes, you will automatically fail the course.

Honor code: Any violation of the honor code (such as plagiarism or cheating) will automatically result in a failure for the course and possible academic discipline, i.e. suspension or expulsion.

Assignment Completion: Failure to complete any part of the course – short writing assignments, midterm, paper, project, or final - will result in an “F” for the course.

Requirements

The essence of our class will be a discussion of the primary sources, both written documents and material structures and objects. In order to earn more than a “C” for the course, you must participate regularly in discussion. And remember, participation includes asking informed questions, not just giving answers.

In addition to attendance, each student must complete periodic short writing assignments, an in-class midterm, an independent project, and a final (either in-class or take-home, to be determined later). The final is **Wednesday, December 12, 12-3 p.m.**

Short Writing Assignments & Discussion	15%
Midterm	25%
Project	30%
Final	30%

Textbooks:

Perry, Marvin et.al. *Sources of the Western Tradition. Volume I: From Ancient Times to the Enlightenment*. 4<sup>th</sup> edition. ISBN 0-395-89201-5

Spielvogel, Jackson J. *Western Civilization. Volume I To 1715*. 4<sup>th</sup> edition. ISBN 0-534-56836-X

Class Topics and Readings

**Monday, August 20:** Introductions

**Wednesday, August 22:** Ancient Near East I – Readings: Perry – Chapter 1, p. 2-7; Spielvogel – Chapter 1, p. 6-16

**Friday, August 24:** Ancient Near East II – Readings: Perry – Chapter 1, p. 9-12, 19-20, 24-25; Spielvogel – Chapter 2, p. 40-46

**Monday, August 27:** Egypt I – Readings: Perry – Chapter 1, p. 13-15; Spielvogel – Chapter 16-28

**Wednesday, August 29:** Egypt II – Readings: Perry – Chapter 1, p. 15-18

**Friday, August 31:** Hebrews I – Readings: Perry – Chapter 2, p. 28-32; Spielvogel – Chapter 2, p. 32-40

**Monday, September 3:** Labor Day – no class

**Wednesday, September 5:** Hebrews II – Readings: Perry, Chapter 2, 33-34

**Friday, September 7:** Archaic Greece: Poetry and Politics – Readings: Perry – Chapter 3, p. 44-48; Spielvogel, Chapter 3, p. 55-70

**Monday, September 10:** Classical Greece: Politics – Readings: Perry – Chapter 3, p. 65-67, p. 74-78; Spielvogel – Chapter 3, p. 70-77

**Wednesday, September 12:** Classical Greece: Philosophy – Readings: Perry – Chapter 3, p. 79-94; Spielvogel – Chapter 3, p. 78-88

**Friday, September 14:** Hellenistic Greece – Readings: Plutarch on Alexander the Great; Spielvogel, Chapter 4, p. 91-112

**Monday, September 17:** The Roman Republic – Readings: Perry – Chapter 4, p. 102-108, Lucretia's story in Livy; Spielvogel, Chapter 5, p. 114-135

**Wednesday, September 19:** The Late Republic – Readings: Perry – Chapter 4, p. 109-111, p. 121-123, p. 126-128

**Friday, September 21:** The Roman Empire: Augustus – Readings: Perry – Chapter 5, p. 130-135; Spielvogel – Chapter 6, p. 147-167

**Monday, September 24:** Diocletian & Constantine – Readings: Eusebius on Constantine, Spielvogel – Chapter 6, p. 167-170

**Wednesday, September 26:** Women in the Ancient World

**Friday, September 28:** Religions in the Ancient World: Mystery Cults

**Monday, October 1:** Early Christianity I: the texts – Readings: Perry – Chapter 6, p. 167-173; Spielvogel, Chapter 6, p. 170-175

**Wednesday, October 3:** Early Christianity II: the spread – Readings: Perry – Chapter 5, p. 148-152

**Friday, October 5:** In-class midterm

**Monday, October 8:** Fall Break – no class

**Wednesday, October 10:** Church Fathers: Jerome – Readings: Jerome's letter to Eustochium; Spielvogel – Chapter 7, p. 178-183

**Friday, October 12:** Germanic Peoples: the Franks – Readings: from Gregory of Tours; Spielvogel – Chapter 7, p. 185-193

**Monday, October 15:** Early Medieval Monasticism – Readings: Perry – Chapter 6, p. 180-184, p. 188-189; Spielvogel – Chapter 7, p. 183-185 & 194-197

**Wednesday, October 17:** Byzantium: the Roman Legacy in the East – Readings: Spielvogel – Chapter 7, p. 197-203

**Friday, October 19:** The Appearance of Islam – Readings: Perry – Chapter 7, p. 193-196; Spielvogel, Chapter 7, p. 203-207

**Monday, October 22:** The Carolingian World – Readings: Perry – Chapter 7, p. 208-211; Spielvogel – Chapter 8, p. 209-220

**Wednesday, October 24:** Women in the Early Middle Ages

**Friday, October 26:** The Invasions of the Ninth Century – Readings: from the Annals of Xanten; Spielvogel – Chapter 8, p. 220-222

**Monday, October 29:** Lordship: Political and Economic Systems – Readings: Perry – Chapter 7, p. 213, p. 215-216; Spielvogel – Chapter 8, p. 222-227

**Wednesday, October 31:** Papal and Monastic Reforms of the 11<sup>th</sup> century – Readings: Perry – Chapter 8, p. 225-228; Spielvogel – Chapter 9, p. 245-248

**Friday, November 2:** Heresy

**Monday, November 5:** The Crusades – Readings: Perry – Chapter 8, p. 228-230; Spielvogel – Chapter 9, p. 257-263

**Wednesday, November 7:** The Development of the Medieval State: France & England – Readings: Perry – Chapter 8, p. 260-264; Spielvogel – Chapter 10, p. 282-289

**Friday, November 9:** Medieval Universities

**Monday, November 12:** Gothic Art and Courtly Love – Readings: from Suger and the Countess of Dia; Spielvogel – Chapter 10, p. 279-282

**Wednesday, November 14:** Women in the High Middle Ages: Marriage and Family: Readings: Spielvogel – Chapter 9, p. 241-245

**Friday, November 16:** High Medieval Economic Expansion

**Monday, November 19:** 14<sup>th</sup> century Crises – Readings: Perry – Chapter 8, p. 264-269; Spielvogel – Chapter 11, p. 296-324

**Wednesday, November 21 & Friday, November 23:** Thanksgiving Holiday – no class

**Monday, November 26:** The Italian Renaissance: the Arts – Readings: Perry – Chapter 9, p. 282-287, p. 296-299; Spielvogel – Chapter 12, p. 338-350

**Wednesday, November 28:** The Italian Renaissance: Politics – Readings: Perry – Chapter 9, 288-291; Spielvogel – Chapter 12, p. 334-338

**Friday, November 30:** The Protestant Reformation: Luther – Readings: excerpts from Luther's 95 Theses; Spielvogel – Chapter 13, p. 362-374

**Monday, December 3:** The Protestant Reformation: Calvin and Zwingli – Readings: Perry – Chapter 10, p. 322-326, rules forbidding fun in Geneva; Spielvogel – Chapter 13, p. 380-382, p. 382-384

**Wednesday, December 5:** The Protestant Reformation in England – Readings: Spielvogel – Chapter 13, p. 380-382

**Friday, December 7:** The Catholic Reformation – Readings: excerpts from the Council of Trent; Spielvogel – Chapter 13, p. 386-390

**Monday, December 10:** Review and Party