

WESTERN CIVILIZATION TO 1688

Instructor

Mr. Scott Thomason
223-F McIver Bldg
Office Hours: TR 1:30-2:00 PM, 3:15-3:45 PM
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Course

WCV 101-01
226 Moore Bldg
TR 2:00-3:15 PM
Spring 2002

REQUIRED TEXT: Marvin Perry, Western Civilization: A Brief History Vol I: To 1789 (4th Edition, 2001)
Penguin Custom Editions, The Western World (specific for this course)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND INFORMATION:

1. **Grade Composition:**

- 3 Exams = 25% each (75% total)
- 5 Response Papers (1 page, typed) = 5% each (25% total)

Exams will consist of identifications and one essay. Blue books are required. *Response papers* will be a typed one-two page answer to a question asked about primary -source documents found in your custom reader.

2. **Class Discussion:** We will devote many class meetings to the discussion of primary source material assigned as readings and for the response papers. Participation in discussions will affect part of your response paper grade.

3. **Practice Good Writing :** Good writing skills are essential to effective communication. As such, I require you to write in a manner appropriate for a university student. Those who hand in papers with multiple grammatical and spelling errors and/or poor prose should not expect full credit on the assignment. I am always willing to help you with your writing, and you may also seek assistance at the Writing Center (101 McIver, 334-3125, M-R 9-8, F 9-3)

4. **Attendance Policy:** Each student is permitted *four* unexcused absences. Upon the fifth unexcused absence, I have the option of dropping the student from the course.

5. **Policy on Punctuality and Cell Phones/Pagers:** Class begins at 2:00. Please arrive on time – walking in late disturbs class. Please turn off your cell phone and/or pager before coming to class. Students whose phones/pagers ring during class will be asked to leave. I reserve the right to drop those students from the course who have chronic problems with punctuality and/or cell phone/pager etiquette.

PART I – THE ANCIENT WORLD: FOUNDATION OF THE WEST

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| Aug 22 | The First Civilizations/Ancient Hebrews Perry, Ch. 1 (2-9, 23-26) Perry, Ch. 2 (28-36) |
| Aug 27 | Response Paper #1: “The Job Problem” <i>The Book of Job</i> (handout) |
| Aug 29 | Ancient Greek Culture and Literature Perry, Ch. 3 (41-45, 67-70) Homer, <i>A Fateful Quarrel</i> (Penguin, 1-4) |

- Sept 3* **Ancient Greece in Historical Perspective**
Perry, Ch. 3 (45-56, 70-82)
Herodotus, *Thermopylae: Last Stand of the Spartans* (Penguin, 5-8)
- Sept 5* **Ancient Greek Philosophy**
Perry, Ch. 3 (56-67)
Plato, *The Failure of Democratic Statesmanship* (Penguin, 9-15)
Aristotle, *Who Is A Citizen?* (Penguin, 16-19)
- Sept 10* **Response Paper #2: Plato**
Plato, *The Simile of the Cave* (Penguin, 20-28)
- Sept 12* **Ancient Roman History and Literature: The Republic**
Perry, Ch. 4 (85-100)
Livy, *Romulus and Remus* (Penguin, 29-31)
Livy, *The Rape of Lucretia* (Penguin, 32-33)
Livy, *Cincinnatus Leaves His Plow* (Penguin, 34-38)
- Sept 17* **Ancient Roman History and Literature: The Empire**
Perry, Ch. 4 (100-120)
Tacitus, *Nero and the Burning of Rome* (Penguin, 39-42)
Cassius Dio, *Powers of the Roman Emperor* (Penguin, 43-46)
Seneca, *Treating Slaves As Equals* (Penguin, 47-50)
- Sept 19* **Review for Exam #1**
- Sept 24* **Exam #1**
- PART II – THE MIDDLE AGES: THE CHRISTIAN CENTURIES**
- Sept 26* **The Fall of Rome and the Rise of Christianity**
Perry, Ch. 5
Ammianus Marcellinus, *The People of Rome* (Penguin, 51-55)
Pliny the Younger, *Rome and the Christians* (Penguin, 56-58)
- Oct 1* **Response Paper #3: St. Augustine**
St. Augustine of Hippo, *The Two Cities* (Penguin, 59-72)
- Oct 3* **Charlemagne and Feudal Society**
Perry, Ch. 6 (142-169)
Gregory of Tours, *The Life of Clovis* (Penguin, 73-78)
- Oct 8* **Papal Power and the Crusades**
Perry, Ch. 6 (169-180)
Anonymous, *The First Contact of Crusaders and Turks* (Penguin, 79-83)
Roger of Wendover, *The Fourth Lateran Council and Crusade* (Penguin, 84-86)
- Oct 10* **Scholasticism and the High Middle Ages**
Perry, Ch. 7 (182-195)
- Oct 15* **Fall Break: No Class!**
- Oct 17* **Response Paper #4: The Medieval Synthesis**
Thomas Aquinas, *Faith and Reason* (Penguin, 87-95)

Oct 22 **Decline of the Middle Ages**
Perry, Ch. 7 (195-207)
Henry Knighton, *The Impact of The Black Death* (Penguin, 96-100)
Giovanni Boccaccio, *The Black Death* (Penguin, 101-109)

Oct 24 **Review for Exam #2**

Oct 29 **Exam #2**

PART THREE – THE RISE OF MODERNITY: RENAISSANCE TO ENLIGHTENMENT

Oct 31 **The Renaissance and the Individual**
Perry, Ch. 8 (210-226)
Giovanni Pico della Mirandola, *The Dignity of Man* (Penguin, 110-114)
Erasmus, *The Unity of Classical and Christian Learning* (Penguin, 115-119)

Nov 5 **Response Paper #5: Machiavelli**
Niccolo Machiavelli, *Whether It Is Better to Be Loved than Feared* (Penguin, 120-125)

Nov 7 **The Reformation**
Perry, Ch. 8 (226-236)
Martin Luther, *Against the Sale of Indulgences* (Penguin, 126-133)

Nov 12 **The Counter Reformation**
Perry, Ch. 8 (236-242)
Ignatius Loyola, *Thinking with the Church* (Penguin, 134-137)

Nov 14 **The Wars of Religion**
Christopher Marlowe, *The Massacre* (Penguin, 138-137)

Nov 19 **The Rise of the Modern State**
Perry, Ch. 9 (244-257, 261-276)

Nov 21 **Limited Monarchy in England**
Perry, Ch. 9 (257-261)
James I, *The Divine Right of Kings* (Penguin, 145-150)

Nov 26 **Syllabus Adjustment Day**

Nov 28 **Thanksgiving Holiday: No Class!**

Dec 3 **Review for Exam #3**

Dec 5 **Exam #3**