

SYLLABUS

History 1000 - History of Western Civilization I
Dr. Wolar
Fall, 2008
MWF / 9 a.m. - Room 145

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Perry, Chase, Jacob, Jacob, and Von Laue, Western Civilization: Ideas, Politics, and Society, Vol. I to 1789. Eighth Edition. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2007).

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:

Kate L. Turabian, Manual for Writers. Sixth Revised Edition. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996).

William Strunk Jr. and E.B. White, The Elements of Style. Fourth Edition. (Needham Heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon, 1999).

William Zinsser, On Writing Well. Sixth Edition. (New York: Harper, 1998).

Diana Hacker, A Pocket Style Manual. Third Edition. (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2000).

Jules R. Benjamin, A Student's Guide to History. Eighth Edition. (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2001).

Mary Lynn Rampolla, A Pocket Guide to Writing in History Third Edition. (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2001).

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: This course will explore the essential ideas, themes, and issues that have shaped the development of Western civilization from prehistoric times to the advent of modern European notions of absolutism and constitutionalism. The course will include ancient civilization, the emergence of European Christendom, feudalism, manorialism, urbanization, medieval kingdoms, Renaissance and Reformation thought, religious conflict, the scientific revolution, and expansion beyond Europe.

OBJECTIVE: To analyze the political, social, economic, and cultural issues pertinent to Western Civilization from the beginnings of civilization until 1715.

OUTCOMES: The student will be intellectually exposed to a variety of cultural values, institutions, and traditions. The student will demonstrate historical knowledge and critical thinking skills in preparation for transfer to a four-year college or university. Additionally, the student will acquire rudimentary library skills and apply effective writing skills in pursuance of the above-stated objectives.

SCHEDULE OF READING:

Week of August 25: Perry, “Geography of Europe”; and, chapter 1: “The Ancient Near East: The First Civilizations.”

Week of September 1: Perry, chapter 2: “The Hebrews: A New View of God and the Individual.”

Week of September 8: Perry, chapter 3: “The Greek City-State: Democratic Politics.”

Week of September 15: Perry, chapter 4: “Greek Thought: From Myth to Reason.”

Week of September 22: Perry, chapter 5: “The Hellenistic Age: Cultural Diffusion.”

Week of September 29: Perry, chapter 6: “The Roman Republic: City-State to World Empire.”

- October 3: Faculty Work Day – No Classes

Week of October 6: Perry, chapter 7: “The Roman Empire: A World-State.”

FACULTY IN-SERVICE WORK DAY – OCTOBER 3

Week of October 13: Perry, chapter 8: “Early Christianity: A World Religion.”

Week of October 20: Perry, chapter 9: “The Heirs of Rome: Byzantium, Islam, and Latin Christendom.”

Week of October 27: Perry, chapter 10: “The High Middle Ages: Vitality and Renewal.”

Week of November 3: Perry, chapter 11: “The Flowering of Medieval Culture: The Christian Synthesis.”

Week of November 10: Perry, chapter 12: “The Late Middle Ages: Crisis and Dissolution.”

Week of November 17: Perry, chapter 13: “The Renaissance: Transition to the Modern Age.”

Week of November 24: Perry, chapter 14: “The Reformation: The Shattering of Christian Unity;” and, chapter 15: “European Expansion: Economic and Social Transformation.”

FACULTY IN-SERVICE WORK DAY – NOVEMBER 26 – No Classes

THANKSGIVING BREAK – NOVEMBER 27-28 – No Classes

Week of December 1: Perry, chapter 16: “The Rise of Sovereignty: Transition to the Modern State;” and, chapter 17: “The Scientific Revolution: The Universe Seen as a Mechanism.”

Week of December 8: Perry, chapter 18: “The Age of Enlightenment: Reason and Reform.

Week of December 15: Final Examination Week.

EXAMINATION/CRITICAL REVIEW SCHEDULE:

Critical Book/Film Review - September 26

First Midterm Examination – October 6

Second Midterm Examination – October 13

Critical Book Review – December 1

* Final Examination Review Session – December 12 (Fri.) at 7 p.m. *

EVALUATION:

The midterm examinations are worth 25% of the course grade. The critical book reviews are worth 35% of the course grade. The final examination is worth 40% of the course grade.

--- Optional Evaluative Track: The student may choose to write a 3-5 page critical film review in lieu of the first critical book review. The film will be chosen from the brief list included herein. The required subsequent book review must be on the identical topic as the reviewed film. For example, if the student chose to review the film “Braveheart”, the student’s subsequent book review would need to be on the medieval period of European history. The critical film review is worth 15% of the course grade, while the subsequent critical book review is worth 20% of the course grade under this Optional Evaluative Track. The student must notify the instructor in writing, by September 15, of the student’s wish to pursue the Optional Evaluative Track.

--- Films:

“Braveheart” “300”
“Elizabeth” “Alexander”
“The Name of the Rose”
“Gladiator”
“Troy”

The midterm examinations will consist of a critical thinking exercise and/or identification of names/terms. The final essay examination will be written on examination "blue books" on sale at the campus bookstore.

The critical book reviews will consist of critical analyses of two scholarly monographs pertinent to the subject matter and chronology of this course. Appropriate books may be obtained from the suggested readings at the close of each chapter in the textbooks. Prior approval of your choice must be obtained from the instructor. If you cannot find a suitable book consult with the instructor for further advice.

The critical book reviews are to be formally organized per the requirements of the Chicago Manual of Style (summarized in Kate Turabian's Manual for Writers). Therefore, each paper is to be double-spaced, footnoted (endnotes are a suitable alternative), and reflect appropriate margin spacing. Each paper is to be 6-8 pages in length.

All critical book reviews must be turned in during the class period on the appropriate deadline date, unless alternatively advised by the instructor.

Make-up examinations are NOT given, except under extraordinary circumstances and with the prior consent of the instructor.

All critical film/book reviews are to be turned in during the class period of the appropriate deadline date, unless alternatively advised by the instructor. Email submissions are acceptable, as long as the email submissions are forwarded no later than 9:50 a.m., C.S.T., on the appropriate deadline date. Critical film/book reviews may be mailed through the USPS, but must be postmarked no later than the appropriate deadline date. Late critical film/book reviews will NOT be accepted – no exceptions.

For evaluative purposes, the student is accountable for ALL assigned readings and ALL class presentations. Therefore, to maximize your potential in the course you are strongly advised to regularly attend class.

All electronic recording devices are prohibited in class unless the instructor grants, upon good cause, prior approval for the use of such devices. Turn cell phones off during class.

For evaluative purposes, the following grade scale is used:

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = 50-59

The instructor views the above grades as reflective of the following academic standard of achievement:

An “A” grade is an honor grade indicating excellence, and is equivalent to a consistently superior performance in the course. The issuance of an “A” grade reflects the instructor’s professional judgment that the student has mastered the essential facts, issues, and themes of the college-level history course and the interconnections between such facts, issues, and themes in proper chronological sequence.

A “B” grade is an honor grade equivalent to a competent performance that is less than the substantive mastery expected for an “A” grade, yet clearly above the average performance expected within the confines of a “C” grade. The issuance of a “B” grade reflects the instructor’s professional judgment that the student has a good, but not superior, grasp of the relevant facts, issues, and themes, as well as the interconnections between such facts, issues, and themes in proper chronological sequence.

A “C” grade is equivalent to an average or satisfactory performance in the course and professionally reflects an adequate comprehension of the essential facts, issues, and themes, as well as the interconnections between such facts, issues, and themes. The issuance of a “C” grade indicates that the student has exhibited sufficient ability to warrant entering sequential courses in the discipline of history.

A “D” grade is equivalent to a passing, but less than satisfactory, performance in the course and reflects no more than a minimal comprehension of the essential facts, issues, and themes, and no more than a minimal comprehension of the interconnections between such facts, issues, and themes. The issuance of a “D” grade indicates that the student is not likely to be successful in a higher level history course and would not meet prerequisite requirements.

An “F” grade is a failed performance that reflects neither a minimal comprehension of the essential facts, issues, and themes of the course nor any viable comprehension of the interconnections between such facts, issues, and themes of a college-level history course.

WITHDRAW FROM CLASS PROCEDURE:

If the student fails to attend class, he/she must complete the withdrawal form with the Student Services office. A “W” will appear on the transcript. Students failing to formally withdraw from the course may receive an “F” as a letter grade on the permanent transcript.

PLAGIARISM:

Students are encouraged to review the MPCCA 2008-2009 Student Handbook, re: plagiarism. Plagiarism occurs when a student secures the ideas and/or writings of another

without attribution to the original author. Plagiarism jeopardizes the integrity of the scholarly experience and is not to be tolerated.

DISABILITIES:

Mid-Plains Community College is committed to providing a discrimination-free environment for its students with disabilities. Students with learning or physical disabilities are encouraged to request assistance from Sherry Mihel (535-3710) or Sherry French (535-3706) on the South Campus; Robin Rankin (535-3637) on the North Campus; or Brandon Lenhart (345-8128) on the McCook Campus.

OFFICE HOURS:

MWF: 10 a.m.

T/Th: 2:30 p.m.

Room 145A

308-535-3763

wolarg@mpcc.edu

<http://www.geocities.com/gwolar/>

If the above office hour is unsatisfactory, please arrange to meet with the instructor at an alternative time. Please leave your phone number or email address when attempting to communicate with the instructor. Alternatively, arrange to meet with me immediately prior to, or immediately subsequent to, the class session. If you are experiencing academic difficulty, do not hesitate to contact me as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

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