

History 100/21: History of Western Civilization

Instructor: Sasha Hoffman

Time: Mondays 7:20 - 10:00 pm

Location: Robinson B 201

Email: aboni@masonlive.gmu.edu

Office: Robinson B 226A

Office Hours: Mon 6-7pm and by
appointment

Course Description:

This course is a comprehensive survey of the development of the western world from ancient times to the present day. We shall devote special attention to the ideas that continue to shape the world in which we live and our understanding of who we are. We will also concentrate our attention on how historians think, analyze, and write about the past—in other words, on what historians do and how they do it. This class therefore emphasizes the development of analytical and critical thinking skills which will be developed through in class group work, and the reading and writing assignments which you will do.

Required course materials:

Available at the GMU Bookstore and on Reserve at the JC Gateway Library:

McKay, John P, et all. *A History of Western Society*. Value Edition. 11th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2014.

Available at amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com in print or ebook:

Holman, Sheri. *The Dress Lodger*. New York: Grove/Atlantic, Inc., 2000.

Additional readings will be provided by the instructor on Blackboard when not available online.

Course Structure:

This will be primarily a lecture course. But, when time permits (and I hope it will permit most weeks) there will be in class discussion and some group work and activities. It is crucial that you attend EVERY WEEK and have prepared in advance all the readings and work for that class.

Grade components:

Attendance and Participation: 15%

Weekly Primary Source Readings: 15%

Mini-Research Papers: 20%

Quizzes: 20%

Final Exam: 30%

Grade scale: Grades will be given according to the following grade scale:

A+ : 98-100

A : 93-97

A- : 90-92

B+ : 87-89

B : 83-86

B- : 80-82

C+ : 77-79

C : 73-76

C- : 70-72

D : 60-69

F : 0-59

For some I will not be using letter grades for completed assignments. For conversion to letter grades, please use the following scale:

"Check Plus"

excellent ("A")

"Check Plus/Check"

intermediate ("A/B")

"Check"

satisfactory ("B")

"Check/Check Minus"

intermediate ("B/C")

"Check Minus"

unsatisfactory ("C")

Course Policies (please read them all):

Attendance & Participation: Attendance is mandatory. You are expected to attend and participate in class every week. If you do miss class for any reason and do not want to be penalized, you must bring the appropriate documentation for an excused absence (doctor's note, etc). Absences from more than seven (7) classes will result in a failing grade for the class, not just the class participation part of the grade. The student has the responsibility to contact the instructor in advance if an assignment or exam must be missed. The instructor reserves the right to determine the validity of such claims and the procedure for making up assignments. Students will be counted as absent if they come to class after the roll has been taken unless they see me after class. Please come to class prepared and on time.

Writing Assignments: All written assignments are to be in 12 pt Times New Roman font, double-spaced with one-inch margins, using proper Chicago style citations. Papers are graded based upon both style and content. Written assignments are to be turned in at the beginning of the class for which they are due. I **DO NOT ACCEPT** emailed assignments, except in cases of dire emergency - computer glitches are not dire emergencies.

Late/Missed Assignments/Quizzes: If you miss a class due a University sanctioned reason, and will be able to provide documentation for such, please contact me IMMEDIATELY in order to arrange a makeup opportunity. If permission is given to turn in an assignment late, depending on the situation, there will be a late penalty of one letter grade for every day late (A to A-, etc), and late papers will not be accepted after the following Friday at midnight from which the assignment was due.

Laptops and Electronic Devices: Please remember to turn off anything that beeps before the start of class. Laptops and tablets with bluetooth keyboards are permitted in class for the purpose of note taking ONLY. I will know if you are using your laptops for Facebook, chatting, surfing the web, or emails, and will ask you to cease using your laptop if I feel it is precluding you from paying attention in class. Therefore I suggest you always have a backup method of note taking with you when you come to class.

Email: The fastest and surest way to contact me is by email (aboni@masonlive.gmu.edu). You must provide your full name or class information in the subject line. Also, I ask that you consider e-mail as a formal communication; it should be written with attention paid to grammar and spelling. Please allow me 24 hours to reply, so bear that in mind if you are writing to schedule a meeting, or asking for help or clarification for an assignment. In addition, if I need to communicate with you I will be using your GMU email address. Please make sure that your account is open and that your mailbox has room for messages.

Food, Drink, Tobacco: In my class, drink is permitted, but food and tobacco products of all kinds are prohibited.

ADA: Students requiring special accommodations, (clients of the ODS, student-athletes, etc.) need to speak with me as soon as possible at the start of the semester and provide all relevant documentation.

Plagiarism and Cheating: In my courses all students are responsible for adhering to a certain standard of behavior when it comes to honesty and plagiarism. In addition to my own high ex-

expectations when it comes to academic honesty, the University also expects students to demonstrate a high code of personal honor when it comes to academic work. Please read the *George Mason University Honor Code*. If you have any questions about what is expected of you in this regard, do not hesitate to contact me. Penalties for academic dishonesty are severe, including, but not limited to: failing the assignment, failing the course, suspension or even expulsion from the University. If I have reason to believe you have cheated or plagiarized another person's work (either fellow student or otherwise), I will discuss this matter with you. If I am not satisfied that no cheating or plagiarism has occurred, your case will be referred to the Honor Committee.

Course Assignments:

Weekly Primary Source Readings:

You will choose one of the sources from each week's packet (available on Blackboard) and answer all the associated questions in a 2-3 page response. Assignments are due at the beginning of class. More detailed instructions are available on Blackboard.

You must submit THREE (3) readings before Spring Break (starting with week two) and FIVE (5) readings after break (excluding the last class). If you'll notice this means you have the option of not submitting a reading for two of the weeks in each half. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have completed the required number of assignments for each half.

The goal of these assignments is to focus on reading comprehension of primary sources, and when applicable, their connection to the larger historical narrative discussed in class and the textbook.

Mini-Research Papers:

You will write TWO (2) mini-research assignments of 3-5 pages. Your research assignments must contain at least three secondary sources, NOT Wikipedia, and not including your textbook. We will discuss in class what acceptable sources are. Assignments are due at the beginning of class. More detailed instructions are available on Blackboard and will be discussed in class.

The first paper is due on March 2.

Take a virtual tour of the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, or the Louvre in Paris. Choose TWO pieces of art for further research, from different artists. Locate information on the artist, patron, subject, and original display venue. Then analyze the ways in which the art reflects the Renaissance values of humanism, individualism, and/or secularism.

The second assignment will be due on April 27.

After reading Sheri Holman's *The Dress Lodger* research the accuracy of her portrayals of TWO of the following: cholera epidemics, prostitution, public health, housing, medical knowledge, body snatching, class relations, and working-class leisure-time pursuits.

Quizzes:

There will be FOUR (4) multiple choice quizzes throughout the semester. Their dates and content coverage are as follows:

- February 9: Chapters 1-4
- February 23: Chapters 5-8
- March 16: Chapters 9-13
- March 30: Chapters 15-18

Final Exam:

You will have a final exam on the remaining content not covered in the quizzes (Chapters 19-29) during this course's scheduled exam period. The final exam will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and an essay question. A study guide will be handed out at the end of class on April 27, two weeks prior to the exam and made available on Blackboard at this time. **The exam is in our room: Robinson B 201 on Monday May 11, 2015 from 7:30-10:15 PM**

Schedule of Readings and Assignments:

All assignments (reading or written) are subject to change. The reading assignments are to be completed for the class date in question and should be prepared in advance.

January 26 - Introduction and the Ancient Near East

Textbook: Chapters 1 & 2

January 27: Last day to add classes and drop classes without tuition penalty

February 2 - The Greek World

Textbook: Chapters 3 & 4

Additional Reading: Sophocles, *Antigone*

February 9 - The Roman World

Textbook: Chapters 5 & 6

Additional Reading: Livy, *Rape of Lucretia*

Quiz #1 on Chapters 1-4

February 16 - Late Antiquity

Textbook: Chapters 7 & 8

Additional Reading: Conversion of Clovis, Two Accounts

<http://legacy.fordham.edu/halsall/source/496clovis.asp>

February 20: Final day to drop classes (with tuition penalty)

February 23 - The Middle Ages

Textbook: Chapters 9 - 11

Quiz #2 on Chapters 5-8

March 2 - Europe Rises

Textbook: Chapters 12 - 14

Additional Reading: Mirandola, *Oration on the Dignity of Man*

<http://vserver1.cscs.lsa.umich.edu/~crshalizi/Mirandola/>

Luther, *On Christian Liberty*

<http://www.iclnet.org/pub/resources/text/wittenberg/luther/web/cclib-2.html>

First Mini-Research Paper Due

March 9 - SPRING BREAK NO CLASS

March 16 - Absolutism & The Scientific Revolution

Textbook: Chapters 15 & 16

Additional Reading: Hobbes, *Leviathan*

Locke, *Second Treatise of Civil Government*

Quiz #3 on Chapters 9-13

March 20: End of midterm grading period for 100 and 200 level classes

March 23 - European Expansion

Textbook: Chapters 17 & 18

March 27: Last day for selective withdrawal

March 30 - Revolution, Phase One: Political in America and France

Textbook: Chapter 19

Quiz #4 on Chapters 15-18

April 6 - Revolution, Phase Two: Industrial and its Effects

Textbook: Chapters 20 & 21

Additional Reading: Ure, *The Philosophy of Manufacturers*

<http://legacy.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1835ure.asp>

Engels, *The Condition of the Working Class in England*

<http://legacy.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/1844engels.asp>

April 13 - The West Before WWI

Textbook: Chapters 22 - 24

Additional Reading: Morel, *The Black Man's Burden*

<http://www.hnet.uci.edu/mclark/HumCore2001/Core2000Archive/Moeller/1903blackburden.html>

Kipling, *The White Man's Burden*

<http://legacy.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/kipling.asp>

April 20 - WWI & WWII

Textbook: Chapters 25 - 27

April 27 - The Cold War & Beyond

Textbook: Chapters 28 - 29

Second Mini-Research Paper Due

May 4 - TBD**May 11 - FINAL EXAM**