

HIST 100: **HISTORY of WESTERN CIVILIZATION**

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TAs: Claire Love and Stephanie Seal

OFFICE Hours: 10.30-11.30am and 4.30-5.30pm. Outside the Starbucks in the basement of the JC..

The Honor Code at George Mason University: *To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the University Community have set forth this:* Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, and/or lie in matters related to academic work.

OBJECTIVES

- The study of History to gain a deeper understanding of the present. To gain an historical perspective.
- To equip the student with tools necessary to read critically and to recognize valid analysis.
- To understand how change occurred and occurs in the evolution of Western Civilization.
- To learn and apply the rules of valid analysis and by extension think independently with clarity and precision.

MATERIALS & COURSEWORK

Lecture The information in the lectures is parallel to the standard historical narrative in **ANY** Western Civilization textbook. If you want a textbook it is not difficult to find one, for example there are copies of various standard textbooks in Fenwick Library. I suggest the authors Jackson Spielvogel or Linda Hunt. Make sure that the publication date is after 1995-2000.

Articles Articles are incorporated into the lecture and are assigned in Take Home Exercises (TkHmX). All of the articles are drawn from JSTOR database. Our work with the articles is geared to the cultivation of critical reading skills and developing your ability to recognize valid analysis.

Course-work

Take-Home Exercises (TkHmX) - A cluster of articles will be made available every other week: 3 September
17 September
1 October
15 October
29 October
12 November
3 December

The completed exercises will be due the following Tuesday: 8 September, 22 September, 6 October, etc.

A hardcopy of the completed work must be submitted by you (or a friend who is for example nice enough when you have a cold to turn it in for you) and by the end of your scheduled class session. No submissions will be accepted outside of the parameters defined in the preceding sentence.

The exercises are geared to practice the various skills necessary for accurate critical reading and handling analytical forms. Your goal is to acquire 100 total points from TkHmXs.

The total point value of each TkHmX will range between 20 and 30.

The total points available in the flow of TkHmXs will be between 120+ and less than 150.

Any points earned above the target 100 fold into your overall grade as extra credit.

Rules for submission:

Completed hardcopy (handwritten or printer) of TkHmXs must be turned in on the scheduled submission day in class.

In other words, under no circumstances will submissions be accepted outside of the class session on those Tuesdays.

I do not accept work by email, through Blackboard, or in my mailbox in the Department.

No exceptions will be made.

If you must miss class, you can have someone submit the hardcopy for you.

Quizzes - The quizzes are worth 50 points each. Content will be drawn from lecture and the articles assigned in the TkHmXs.

The quizzes are cumulative, closed note, and copies of the articles are NOT allowed during testing.

TESTING SCHEDULE: quiz 1 24 September

quiz 2 22 October

quiz 3 19 November

quiz 4 final exam session scheduled by the university

GRADING RUBRIC

- **All answers must be written in sentence form.** Incomplete sentences, bullet-point and/or slashed constructions = 0.
- Hypothetical constructs, solecisms in logic, hyperbolic assertions = point reduction for each instance

In compositions, the following are added to the list: use of non-scholarly sources = 0

no page number in citation = 0

In other words, citation and the specific page number are required.

GRADING The total possible points for the semester is 300.

Your final grade is based upon your total points earned on the 4 quizzes (200) and TkHmXs (100 points).

You are responsible for knowing your own point totals during the course.

ABSENCES

Absence from class.

The student is responsible for acquiring missed notes from a class-mate. I do not provide lecture notes.

Absences on a scheduled test day.

To schedule a “make-up” session, some form of official documentation must be submitted to confirm the validity of the absence.

The documentation reestablishes your option on the quiz.

An email announcing an absence does not qualify as valid documentation nor does a note from a parent.

The student is responsible for initiating the discussion with the instructor to arrange for a make-up session.

RULES FOR COMPOSITION: generally and specifically

At the university level - Only scholarly sources are to be used. On-line or hardcopy reference materials (such as encyclopedias, biographical dictionaries, web-site quick references, textbooks, enthusiast sites, course materials from other universities, exam-prep summaries, etc.) are **not** acceptable as sources for research compositions. Juvenile literature is also unacceptable.

In TkHmXs with composition: To meet this intellectual standard, lecture material and the articles in lecture & TkHmXs are the only sources for composition/s.

At the university level - the citation of sources is expected. It is the case that the greater proportion of what you write down is pulled from the work of other writers, i.e. the authors of the books and articles used to get ideas, evidence and information.

You are borrowing something from somebody, it is polite to give credit where credit is due. To not acknowledge the source is to plagiarize. (See below at *)

In TkHmXs with composition: To meet this intellectual standard, the citation minimum in reference to the articles is author's name and the specific page number.

Generally speaking, in your academic and professional career **to avoid plagiarism:**

Direct quotation is a verbatim transcription (a copy) of two or more words the author wrote. A direct quote **always** requires quotation marks and citation (check with your instructor about their preferred citation form). To alter one word of a quote transforms the quotation into a paraphrase (a lame paraphrase but a paraphrase nonetheless). Paraphrased material always requires citation. To paraphrase something is to restate the ideas expressed in a set of sentences written by the author of a source. In other words, to paraphrase is to quote indirectly. Therefore paraphrased material always requires citation, however does not require quotation marks.

* **PLAGIARISM:** To plagiarize is to copy and attempt to present as one's own the ideas, phrasing, and/or order of the work of someone other than one's self. It is in the act of not presenting citation that you make the “attempt to present ” the words as yours.

FALSE CITATION is to present a citation to a source that is in fact not the actual source of the content in the essay. False citation is a particularly egregious form of plagiarism.

Attention: If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, contact the office of Disability Resources at 703.993.2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. With the proper documentation arrangements will be made to accommodate your needs.

The instructor reserves the right to exercise her professional judgment to change any and all terms defined herein.