

History of Western Civilization  
HIST 100.025 – Weds 1630-1910, Robinson B201  
Office hours by appointment

Instructor: T. Wesley Fleming  
Daytime Phone: [REDACTED]  
E-Mail: [REDACTED]

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

*Spartacus and the Slave Wars: A Brief History with Documents*, by Brent D. Shaw  
*The German Reformation and the Peasants' War: ABHwD*, by Michael G. Baylor  
*The First World War: ABHwD*, by Susan R. Grayzel  
*Lenin and the Making of the Soviet State: ABHwD*, by Jeffrey Brooks & Georgiy Chernyavskiy

A note on the books: These books are not needed immediately, so feel free to get them anywhere you like (they're not in the campus bookstore). They run from \$2 to \$10 used on various websites. See the schedule to know when you'll need them.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course will examine the economic, social, religious, and intellectual development of Western Civilizations from antiquity through the Cold War.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Students successfully completing this course should:

- Understand basic concepts and events in the history of Western Civilizations
- Understand how to place cultural media into historical perspective
- Recognize and discuss events and ideas in a specific historical and cultural context
- Reflect on current public policies and make meaningful connections between past and present
- Improve their ability to think critically and write as an historian (organized, clear and analytical)

**GRADING SCALE:** F, 0 to 57; D-, 58-62; D, 63-67; D+, 68-69; C-, 70-72; C, 73-77; C+, 78-79; B-, 80-82; B, 83-87; B+, 88-89; A-, 90-92; A, 93-100; A+, 101+  
All assignments and exams are equally weighted.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

**ATTENDANCE:** Attending class is very important to both your understanding of the material and preparation for assignments. I will take roll at every class meeting. I accept up to two (2) excused absences with no grade penalty provided you have adequate documentation.

**EXAMS:** You will have two exams. As the dates of the exams are clearly stated on the class schedule, **make-up exams are not available, nor may exams be taken early.** Prepare in advance. You will need a blue book for each exam.

**ASSIGNMENTS:** You will have four (4) written assignments, managed in Blackboard.

**IMPORTANT NOTES:** *I do not accept late assignments. I do not offer extra credit.*

**OFFICE HOURS & CONTACT:** Office hours by appointment. **You can reach me by e-mail at [REDACTED] e-mail is the absolute best way to reach me,** I can also be reached by telephone during *weekday* business hours (0730 to 1600) only at [REDACTED]; there is voice mail available if I do not answer; please speak clearly if you are leaving a number. Please restrict your phone calls to important issues, not routine ones, as this is my place of employment and they keep me very busy. You may leave messages in the History/Art History Office.

**ELECTRONIC ACCESS:** Mason uses only Mason email accounts to communicate with enrolled students. Students must activate their Mason email account, use it to communicate with their department and other administrative units, and check it regularly for important university information, including messages related to this class. I also expect you to access Blackboard every week during the semester for assignments, documentation and information/updates. Study guides and other important class materials are available on my website, [www.unlikelyprofessor.com/history](http://www.unlikelyprofessor.com/history).

**WITHDRAWAL:** See the academic calendar for pertinent dates. Withdrawals are the responsibility of the student, not the instructor. I do not sign withdrawal forms without discussion and you should be prepared to present appropriate documentation detailing your legitimate reason(s) for withdrawing after the drop date.

**CLASS ETIQUETTE:** Anyone arriving late should endeavor to disturb as few people (including me) as possible. Resist the urge to chat with your classmates during lectures or discussions. I don't have a problem with food or drink in class as long as you clean up your own trash.

**TECHNOLOGY STATEMENT:** You will silence or deactivate all pagers, cell phones, PDAs, watches and other such devices during class. I allow the use of laptop computers or tape/digital recorders in class for taking notes or recording the lectures but their failure (crash, dead battery, etc.) is not an acceptable excuse for neglecting to take notes or participate in discussions. All computers will operate silently at all times. If you cannot keep your devices silent, you will be encouraged to leave class until you understand how to operate them. ***There will be absolutely no text messaging or other use of cell phones during class time. Use of cell phones or any other electronic device during exams will result in an F for the course and a referral to the Office of Academic Integrity.***

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT:** All students at George Mason University are bound by the Honor Code, which prohibits cheating and plagiarism. I will treat harshly and immediately any instances of cheating on examinations or plagiarism in written work. Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will be referred to the Office of Academic Integrity for sanctions, which can result in expulsion from the university. Cheating here is defined as – but not limited to – giving or receiving *any* assistance on an examination or any inappropriate assistance on an assignment or essay. Plagiarism here is defined as – but not limited to – using the words, ideas or intellectual property of any other person without proper attribution.

**FIRE/EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES:** In case of emergency, please follow the emergency procedure as discussed on the first day of class and as posted in the classroom. Keep in mind that, depending on the nature of the emergency, the procedure may involve sheltering in place.

**DISABILITY STATEMENT:** Students with disabilities may be eligible for accommodations in their classes. If you are a student with a disability, you must go through the Office of Disability Services to gain accommodations.

**STUDENT ATHLETES:** I am required to submit updates on your progress to your coaches. I will cc you on any communications with your coaches. You are required to notify me of any sports-related absences and you must still turn in assignments on time. Exam makeups will only be issued after I receive confirmation of your absence from your coach or the athletic director.

**OFFICIAL NOTE:** George Mason University is a place for learning and growing. You should feel safe and comfortable anywhere on this campus. In order to meet this objective, you should: a) let your instructor, his supervisor, the Dean of Students, or President know if any unsafe, unwelcome, or uncomfortable situation arises that interferes with the learning process; b) inform the instructor within the first two weeks of classes if you have special needs or a disability that may affect your performance in this course.

**PERSONAL NOTE:** I realize that for many of you, this is your first or second semester of college and perhaps your first or second semester away from home. If you're having trouble adjusting to life at GMU, I encourage you to take advantage of counseling, career and tutoring services offered by the university. You can discuss how to access these services with me or your advisor at any time.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT GMU POLICIES,** start here: <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/>

## Tentative Schedule

Date	Lecture	Reading/Written Assignment
2 Sep	Pre-Greek Civilizations	
9 Sep	Greece	
16 Sep	Rome	<i>Spartacus &amp; the Slave Wars</i>
23 Sep	Monotheism	
30 Sep	Medieval Europe, Part 1	
7 Oct	Medieval Europe, Part 2	<i>The German Reformation &amp; the Peasants' War</i>
14 Oct	<b>Exam 1</b>	
21 Oct	Reformation	
28 Oct	Enlightenment	
4 Nov	French Revolution & Napoleon	
11 Nov	Nationalism & Industrialization	<i>The First World War</i>
18 Nov	Epic Wars	
25 Nov	<i>No class – Thanksgiving</i>	
2 Dec	Film & Discussion	
9 Dec	Soviet Union	<i>Lenin &amp; the Making of the Soviet State</i>
16 Dec	<b>Exam 2</b>	

Classes missed due to inclement weather or other reasons beyond the professor's control will be skipped for purposes of the exams; however, you will still be responsible for homework assignments due on that date. Classes missed due to reasons beyond *your* control (or even within them) are your responsibility. While I endeavor to be on time for class, I may occasionally be late – I expect you to wait 30 minutes before abandoning the classroom.

In addition to the exams, you will have four written assignments based on the readings. I will post (on Blackboard) several questions and you must answer them. You will receive a grade of 100, 75, 50, 25 or 0 for each assignment.

Exams are based on the lectures. Writing assignments are based on the readings. Exams will draw *only* from the lectures. Written assignments *will* make extensive use of the reading material.

## **The 12 Commandments of Essay Writing**

1. I am Professor Wes, thy history teacher, and I expect you to write at a college freshman level, adhering to formal standards of English grammar and spelling.
2. Thou shalt word-process thy paper in a 12-point font, double space it, and use one-inch margins all around. Thou shalt not include extra spaces between paragraphs, for thou art writing an academic paper, not a business letter.
3. Thou shalt not use slang, contraction, abbreviations, colloquialisms, technical terms or the conventions of social media or texting.
4. Thou shalt not write in first person (I, me, my, I think, in my opinion), nor shalt you self-reference (In this essay, I will...)
5. Thou shalt write in past tense, because everybody you are writing about is dead.
6. Thou shalt write actively, crushing into dust thine enemy, the passive verb.
7. Thou shalt not include a cover/title page, nor use anything other than a single staple in the upper left corner to cleave your pages one unto the other.
8. Thou shalt include a bibliography page shouldst thou use any source other than your textbook; thou shalt also use internal citations in the MLA6 format (author last name, page number) no matter your source.
9. Thou shalt adhere to common standards of essay writing – tellst me what thou wilt tellst me, tell me, then tellst me what thou toldst me. (aka Introduction, Body, Conclusion.)
10. Thou shalt never write “In conclusion...” If thou needst write this to make it clear you have started thine conclusion, thou shouldst endeavor to rewrite your paper to improve its flow.
11. Thou shalt never cite, nor even use, Wikipedia as a resource for your essays, because thou art a college student now. This prohibition applies to “regular” encyclopedias as well.
12. Shouldst thou be caught plagiarizing, thou shalt be smitten with an F for the course. Professor Wes’ fury is mighty, and He mayest attempt to have you expelled beyond thine smiting.

## **The Mason Core**

George Mason University’s Mason Core is designed to complement work in a student’s chosen area of study. These classes serve as a means of discovery for students, providing a foundation for learning, connecting to potential new areas of interest and building tools for success in whatever field a student pursues. Learning outcomes are guided by the qualities every student should develop as they move toward graduating with a George Mason degree. Through a combination of courses, the Mason Core program helps students to become Critical and Creative Scholars, students who have a love of and capacity for learning.

Their understanding of fundamental principles in a variety of disciplines, and their mastery of quantitative and communication tools, enables them to think creatively and productively. They are inquisitive, open-minded, capable, informed, and able to integrate diverse bodies of knowledge and perspectives. Self-Reflective Learners are students who develop the capacity to think well. They can identify and articulate individual beliefs, strengths and weaknesses, critically reflect on these beliefs and integrate this understanding into their daily living. Ethical, Inquiry-Based Citizens are students who are tolerant and understanding. They can conceptualize and communicate about problems of local, national and global significance, using research and evaluative perspectives to contribute to the common good. Thinkers and Problem-Solvers are students who discover and understand natural, physical, and social phenomena; who can articulate their application to real world challenges; and who approach problem-solving from various vantage points. They can demonstrate capability for inquiry, reason, and imagination and see connections in historical, literary and artistic fields.

Western Civilization/World History courses must meet at least three of the five learning outcomes:

1. Students will demonstrate familiarity with the major chronology of Western Civilization or World history.
2. Students will demonstrate the ability to narrate and explain long-term changes and continuities in Western Civilization or World history.
3. Students will identify, evaluate and appropriately cite online and print resources.
4. Students will develop multiple historical literacies by analyzing primary sources of various kinds (texts, images, music) and using these sources as evidence to support interpretation of historical events.
5. Students will communicate effectively—orally, in writing, and/or using digital media—their understanding of patterns, processes, and themes in the history of western civilization or the world.

These items will be addressed on your exams.