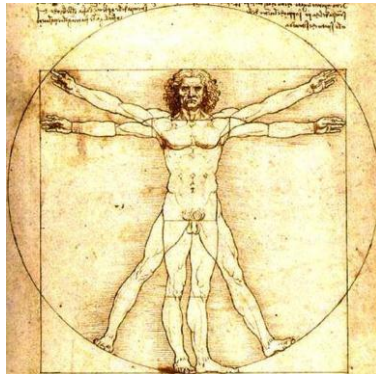


GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
Department of History & Art History

A Survey of Western Civilization
Spring 2016

Course	Building/Hall	Room	Days	Time
HIST 100-006	Robinson A	111	Monday	4.30-7.10 p.m.



INSTRUCTOR:
OFFICE:
OFFICE HOURS:

TELEPHONE:
E-MAIL:

Dr Kevin Matthews
Robinson B 226 A
2.30-4.00 p.m. Mondays & Thursdays, or by
appointment
703.993.1250 (History Department main number)
cmatthe2@gmu.edu

REQUIRED TEXT & MATERIALS:

1. Frankforter, A. Daniel and William M. Spellman. *The West: A Narrative History*, 3rd edition (ISBN-13: 978-0-205-18095-0)
2. Three Scantron cards Form No. 882-E. Keep these but make sure you have one with on exam days.
3. You should expect to receive additional, brief reading assignments (excerpts, poems, etc.), via Blackboard. By this same method, students will also receive material - maps, cartoons, and other illustrations - to enhance the student's understanding (and, it is hoped, enjoyment) of the topics covered in this course.

COURSE SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES - Making the modern world:

This course is designed to provide an overview of the history of what is commonly called “the West” from its origins in ancient Greece to the present. More to the point, it shows how events over this expanse of time have shaped the world we live in today. Given the broad sweep of this course, it is impossible to cover every era and topic in detail. Instead, it will highlight various developments - political, economic, and social - that, together, have created a unique civilization. At the same time, this course will show how other civilizations - those of Africa, Asia, and the Americas - have influenced the West's own development even as these encounters have had often tragic results.

TEACHING TECHNIQUES & EXAMINATIONS:

Varied, although the emphasis will be on lectures, classroom discussions, and readings. Typically, I use what is called a “semi-Socratic” method of teaching. If you are prepared, your individual contribution to these discussions will lead to a more lively and interesting experience for everyone concerned. On a more prosaic level, your participation in class will benefit your final grade. Students who excel in this respect will benefit if their grades are borderline between a plus or minus; for example, a C might become a C+, or a B+ might become an A-.

All of the examinations will be composed of a mix of multiple-choice, short-answer, and essay questions. A study guide will be supplied prior to each of the three tests. The first exam will cover material assigned commencing with the first day of class up through the session prior to the exam itself. The second exam will only cover material between the first and second exams. Similarly, the final exam will only cover material after the second exam. In other words, these exams are **not cumulative**.

You are **personally responsible** for knowing the time and date of all exams and other assignments. You are expected to take the exam on the date set by the course instructor; students are not allowed to take exams at a time of their choosing. If you fail to show up for an exam without a **documented excuse** (usually medical in nature), you will **not** be **allowed** to take a make-up exam. You will, instead, be given a zero grade without appeal. This applies, in particular, to the final exam; the dates for exams are given in the syllabus calendar. (**Note**: the dates for the first and second exams are tentative.)

Make-up exams and quizzes will be administered at a time and date that are mutually convenient to the instructor and student. It is up to each student to resolve the matter of make-up work with the instructor - not the other way around. Also, students who are permitted to take exams at the **testing center** must obtain the paperwork needed to do so **prior to each examination**.

GRADING SCALE:

First examination	25 percent
Second (mid-term) examination	30 percent
Final examination	35 percent
Classroom participation/attendance/quizzes:	10 percent
Total:	<hr/> 100 percent

90-100 A - signifies **remarkable, outstanding** work showing complete mastery of the subject
 A+ 97 - 100
 A 93 - 96.9
 A- 90 - 92.9

80-89 B - signifies work that is **above the average** expectations for this course.
 B+ 87 - 89.9
 B 82 - 86.9
 B- 80 - 81.9

70-79 C - signifies work that meets **average** university standards.
 C+ 77 - 79.9
 C 72 - 76.9
 C- 70 - 71.9

60-69 D - signifies work that is far **below average** but which is passable.

59-below F - signifies failure.

I do not grade on a curve. Nor is it possible to offer extra credit work - for any reason. Students should instead devote their energies to the assignments laid out in this syllabus. If a student merits an "A", that is the grade that he or she will receive. At the same time, I do not distribute grades based on some sort of percentage basis, meaning that only a certain number of students can earn an "A", a certain number a "B", and so forth. If every student deserves an "A", that is the grade that each student will be given. Having said that, I again point out that "A" work as defined above is genuinely outstanding and shows complete mastery of the subject. While I hope that every student will strive to meet this standard, **it will not be easy to obtain such a grade.**

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION:

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Resources (ODR) at 703.993.2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. You should see me about this matter immediately so that ODR can plan for the specific accommodation to assist you.

ATTENDANCE:

Since lectures and discussions are the foundation of this course, **attendance of class sessions is mandatory**. Each student is responsible for all material and all announcements presented at each lecture. Students should also be aware that they will be tested on material covered in class but which will not necessarily be found in the assigned readings - and vice versa.. If a student **must** miss a class, (s)he should arrange to obtain class notes from a fellow student. Lecture notes **will not - under any circumstances - be provided** by the instructor.

A **great amount of reading is required** for this course and it is important that students stay ahead of the readings to be prepared for classroom discussions. **Failure to attend class on a regular basis** makes it extremely difficult to keep abreast of the course; the result is a lower final or even a failing grade for the course. **Specifically**, the final course grades for students who fail to attend class on a **regular basis** (as determined by the instructor) will **drop an entire letter grade** - without exception. This is beyond the 10 percent part of your grade covered by “classroom participation/attendance and quizzes”. Valid excuses for missed lectures (again, usually medical in nature) must be in **writing**.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Classroom decorum - Students are expected to **show up for class on time** and, once in class, to **remain for the entire session**, except in case of emergency. Arriving late or leaving in the middle of a lecture is disruptive and disrespectful to your fellow students. Those who violate this rule can expect to receive a lower course grade.

Use of tape-recorders & lap-top computers - These are permitted during lectures unless they are disruptive to other students in which case you must discontinue their use. Also, your use of lap-tops or other such devices will be banned if you use them during lectures to play video games, etc. **Nor should students use class time to engage in social media**. Continued violation of this rule after you have been warned about the matter will result in a failing grade for this course - **without appeal**..

Cell phones are to be **turned off** at the beginning of each class. Repeated failure to do so will adversely affect your course grade. Any attempt to use unauthorized devices during an examination will constitute grounds for failing the course. You are welcome to bring drinks to class. However, **eating** in class is **forbidden**. Put another way, **I don't lecture in your kitchen; don't eat in my classroom**.

Cheating and plagiarism - **Either offense will constitute grounds for failing the course.** The university has a code governing academic ethics. Any student who is caught cheating on a quiz or exam or who plagiarizes will have his or her case sent to the Dean's office for adjudication.

The Internet - The instructor's E-mail addresses is at the top of this syllabus & I will check messages on a regular basis. However, I prefer face-to-face communication. **Do not abuse** the internet. If a student repeatedly sends unnecessary messages, I will simply decline to respond.

If history is not a topic you like and/or if English is a second language, I strongly recommend that you form study groups. Students who fall into either of both of these categories have told me that forming small groups of seven or eight students helped them immensely in this course.

IMPORTANT DATES & READING ASSIGNMENTS:

Week 1 18 - 22 January **George Mason University spring term begins**

18th - Martin Luther King Day holiday - **HIST 100/006 does not meet this week**

Week 2 25 - 29 January **The Greco-Roman World**

The life which his unexamined is not worth living..
- Socrates

25th - **First meeting of HIST 100/006**

Readings: Frankforter & Spellman, chp. 3-5 (skip p. 100 to top of p. 113); Micheal Wood excerpts on Troy & John Keegan on Gallipoli (see Blackboard for copies)

Week 31 - 5 February **Rome's decline/Christianity's rise**

Blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church..
- Tertullian (A.D. 160-240), early Christian theologian

Readings: Frankforter & Spellman, chp. 6-9 (skip pp. 161-165; skim pp. 202-205; skip mid-p. 259-268)

Week 4 8 - 12 February **The Middle Ages & Renaissance**

Abandon hope, ye that enter.
- Dante

Readings: Frankforter & Spellman, chp. 10-12 (to p.362); (skip pp. 282-305, 311-328)

Week 5 15 - 19 February **Exploration & Reformation**

Here I stand; I can do no other.
- Martin Luther

15th - **Mid-term progress reporting period begins**

Readings: Frankforter & Spellman, chp. 12 (p. 362 to end of chapter & chp. 13)

Week 6 22 - 26 February **Age of Absolutism/Age of Science**

L'état c'est moi (I am the state).
- Attributed to Louis XIV

22nd - **First examination** (tentative)

Readings: Frankforter & Spellman, chp. 14-15

Week 7 29 February - 4 March **Revolutions**

[Asked to assess the impact of the French Revolution:] *It's too soon to tell.*
- Chinese Premier Chou En-lai to Henry Kissinger

Readings: Frankforter & Spellman, chp. 16-17; US Declaration of Independence & Constitution (copies on Blackboard)

Week 8 7 - 11 March **Spring break**

Week 9 14 - 18 March **The Industrial Revolution**

Hegel remarks somewhere that all facts and personages of great importance in world history occur, as it were, twice. He forgot to add: the first time as tragedy, the second time as farce.

- Karl Marx

Readings: Frankforter & Spellman, chp. 18-19

Week 10 21 - 25 March **Nationalism**

I offer neither pay, nor quarters, nor food; I offer only hunger, thirst, forced marches, battles and death. Let him who loves his country with his heart, and not merely with his lips, follow me.

- Giuseppe Garibaldi

Readings: Frankforter & Spellman, chp. 20; O'Leary, "American All" (see Blackboard for copy)

Week 11 28 March - 1 April **Imperialism & its legacy**

Whatever happens, we have got / The Maxim gun, and they have not.

- Hiliare Belloc

Readings: Frankforter & Spellman, chp. 21

Week 12 4 - 8 April **The Great War**

If any question why we died / Tell them, because our fathers lied.

- Rudyard Kipling, Epitaphs of the War, 1914-1918

4th - **Second examination** (tentative)

Readings: Frankforter & Spellman, chp. 22 to p. 664

Week 13 11 - 15 April **Age of extremes: Bolsheviks & fascists**

He is the new Genghis Khan. He will slaughter us all.

- Nikolai Bukharin on Josef Stalin

Readings: Frankforter & Spellman, chp. 22, p. 664 to end of chapter; Lyttelton, "What was Fascism?" (copy on Blackboard)

