

## HISTORY of WESTERN CIVILIZATION

Professor: Dr. Susan Schulze

HIST 100

Tuesdays & Thursdays

Science and Technology I rm 212

Email: [ssschulze@gmu.edu](mailto:ssschulze@gmu.edu)

Keep an eye on your GMU account as I will announce my delays and cancellations through email.

Email will also be the vehicle for class 'handouts', etc.

**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 10.30-11.30AM and 4.30-5.30PM. Jazzman's in the basement of the JC.

**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.

### OBJECTIVES

- To study History as a tool for understanding the present.
- To understand how change occurred in the evolution of Western Civilization.
- To learn and apply the rules of proper analysis and to develop the tools and skills necessary for critical reading.
- To develop rational thinking and intellectual flexibility.

### MATERIALS & TOOLS

**Lecture:** The information in the lectures follows the accepted chronology of Western Civilization. Therefore, the information in the lectures is parallel to the information in **any** Western Civilization textbook.

**Articles:** The articles are intended to cultivate critical reading skills These are downloaded on Mason Library e-reserves. The articles correlate to the lectures and will be used in the quizzes.

**Testing:** Final evaluation consists of 2 in-class essays and 4 quizzes.

**Quizzes:** The quizzes are intended to test critical reading skills and memorization. The articles assigned for the quizzes will be announced in class and, as stated above, are downloaded onto Mason Library e-reserves. Quizzes are closed note, copies of the assigned articles are not allowed during the testing.

**In-class essays:** The essays target the development of analytical reasoning and composition. History is the product of the actions of individual people. Each essay is to focus upon isolating and analyzing the role of an individual in the evolution of Western Civilization during a specified time period.

### **TESTING SESSION SCHEDULE**

In-class Essay #1: 9 February

Quiz #1: 1 March

In-class Essay #2: 5 April

Quiz #2: 17 April

Quiz #3: 7 May

University scheduled Final Exam date and time: Wildcard Essay and makeup testing

**Discussion Groups:** The TAs are available for assistance in learning the analytical and critical reading skills targeted this semester. Students are asked to coordinate among themselves to set up in small groups of 2-5 *then* discuss dates and times with the TAs. Articles set for testing will not be discussed in the group.

**Final Grade Scoring:** Quiz = 20 points. Essay = 100 points.

The final grade is calculated from the combination of essay and quiz scores.

Student initiative to set-up & participate in "discussion group" is taken into consideration in the final grade.

### ABSENCES

Testing session absences must be confirmed with the instructor and validated with legitimate and official documentation.

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

The student is responsible for keeping track of missed assignments during the semester.

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

The student is responsible for acquiring missed notes. The TAs and I do not provide lecture notes.

### **IN-CLASS ESSAY TESTING SESSION RULES:**

A **single 5x8 index** card is required, during the testing session and is to be turned in with the completed essay.

No class-notes or books are allowed. The card is for source citation, a bare outline, quotations, and evidence. Neither the essay, nor a near verbatim 'outline' of the essay, is to be written on the card. The card is a compositional aid and not to be abused as a means to circumvent the intellectual challenge set before you.

A **minimum of 2 scholarly sources** must be used in the composition. Lecture material does not 'count' as one of the sources.

On-line or hardcopy encyclopedias, textbooks, enthusiast sites, course materials from other universities, and exam-prep summaries are not acceptable as sources. Additionally, ProQuest and EBSCO are not acceptable databases. Newspaper and magazine articles may be used in addition to, but not as one of, the three scholarly sources.

**ALL SOURCES MUST BE CITED IN THE BODY OF THE ESSAY.** Citations **MUST** include the **SPECIFIC PAGE NUMBER(s)** which correlate to the information used in the essay.

**PLAGIARISM:** To plagiarize is to copy and attempt to present as one's own the ideas, phrasing, and order of the work of another. Plagiarism will result in an F on the essay and forfeiture of the rewrite option. Persistent plagiarism will result in automatic failure in this course. All cases of plagiarism will be reported to the Honor Committee and dealt with according to university policy.

### **IN-CLASS ESSAY GRADING RUBRIC:**

**Citation minimum on card:** Books – author, book title, and page number(s).

Articles – author, article title, journal name with volume number and date, and page number(s).

#### **Grading Rubric:**

Plagiarism results in an automatic 0 & forfeiture of rewrite option

There must be a stated thesis.

Essay content: proof of thesis, clarity of reasoning, evidence presented, and factual accuracy.

There must be a conclusion drawn from and not in contradiction to the content of the essay.

Hypothetical argument, solecism, and/or hyperbole = ½ letter grade reduction for each instance

Use of non-scholarly sources (e.g. encyclopedia, textbook, etc.) = 0 grade

Single source = 0 grade

No citation, or "token" citation, within essay = 0 grade

No page numbers in citation = 0 grade

False page numbers = 0 grade and forfeiture of rewrite option

No 5x8 card = 0 grade

Topic does not conform to the time periods indicated for the testing session = 0 grade

In-class compositions of paltry length risk exclusion from the rewrite option.

### **PARAMETERS FOR RE-WRITING ESSAYS:**

Essays may be re-written to improve the grade however, the following rules apply:

To be accepted for grading, a rewritten essay must be turned in within 3 weeks of the graded return date.

The topic may not be changed.

Submission of rewritten essays **MUST** include the original in-class graded essay with critical notes and 5x8 card.

Re-written essays without the original graded essay, notes, and card will not be accepted.

I do not accept rewritten essays in my departmental box nor via email.

Rewriting an essay may or may not result in an improved grade. Barring plagiarism and/or lack of attention to the rules of the rubric, the essay grade will not go down.

As a basic guideline: To simply copy the essay onto a computer and print it out, to move bits around and/or only correct spelling and grammar **DOES NOT** constitute a substantively rewritten essay. To limit a rewritten essay to the preceding risks forfeiture of one's continuing option to rewrite.

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