

Dr. Harry A. Butowsky
Fall 2012

History 100 George Mason University

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Course Title: History 100: History of Western Civilization

Course description:

This course is a comprehensive survey of the development of the western world from ancient times to the present day. One aim of the course is to define “the West” and “civilization” in terms of political and economic systems, social structure, and culture. A second aim is to give students an appreciation for the historical development of the west and its relevance to the modern world. The broad sweep of this course requires students to focus on themes and connections that lead from the distant past to today. These themes include the rise of government and political ideologies, the development of economic enterprise, changes in religious or philosophical ideas, the growth of social structures, and the creation of cultural expression, all of which illustrate the western world’s particular characteristics.

Required course materials:

--Lynn Hunt. The Making of the West: Peoples and Cultures (Bedford & St. Martin’s, 2010)
ISBN: 13: 978-0-312-55458-3

Please note that this book can be purchased through Amazon.Com for a reduced price
http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=The+Making+of+the+West%2C+Combined+Volume

--On-line readings from the textbook’s dedicated site:
http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/hunt4e/#t_747800

Grade components:

Attendance and participation: 10%

Midterm exam 40 %

Final exam: 50%

Grade scale:

A- to A: 90-100%

B- to B+: 80-89%

C- to C+: 70-79%

D: 60-69%

F: below 60%

General information:

Please arrive on time to avoid disruption. Please remember to turn off anything that beeps before the start of class. You must ask for permission and provide documentation from the Office of Disability Services to use laptops or any recording devices. The only students who may use laptops etc are those who have a documented need to do so.

The fastest and surest way to contact me is by e-mail (Harryb3570@gmail.com). (Make sure to enter the address correctly!) You must provide your full name or class information (something which clearly identifies the message) 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.

E-mail should deal specifically with questions about the course, not to let me know you will be missing class. You alone are responsible for getting any information you may have missed from someone else in class.

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.

Week one

Chapter 1: Early Western Civilization, 4000-1000 B.C.E.

Week two

Chapter 2: Near East Empires and the Reemergence of
Civilization in Greece, 1000-500 B.C.E.

Chapter 3: The Greek Golden Age, c. 500-c. 400 B.C.E.

Week three

Chapter 4: From the Classical to the Hellenistic World, 400-30 B.C.E.

Chapter 5: The Rise of Rome and Its Republic, 753-44 B.C.E.

Week four

Chapter 6: The Creation of the Roman Empire, 44 B.C.E.-284 C.E.

Chapter 7: The Transformation of the Roman Empire, 284-600 C.E.

Week five

Chapter 8: The Heirs of Rome: Islam, Byzantium, and Europe, 600-750

Chapter 9: From Centralization to Fragmentation, 750-1050

Week six

Chapter 10: Commercial Quickening and Religious Reform, 1050-1150

Chapter 11: The Flowering of the Middle Ages, 1150-1215

Week seven

Chapter 12: The Medieval Synthesis-and Its Cracks, 1215-1340

Chapter 13: Crisis and Renaissance, 1340-1492

Midterm

Week eight

Chapter 14: Global Encounters and the Shock of the Reformation, 1492-1560

Chapter 15: Wars of Religion and the Clash of Worldviews, 1560-1648

Week nine

Chapter 16: Absolutism, Constitutionalism and the Search for Order, 1640-1700

Chapter 17: The Atlantic System and Its Consequences, 1700-1750

Week ten

Chapter 18: The Promise of Enlightenment, 1750-1789

Chapter 19: The Cataclysm of Revolution, 1789-1799

Week eleven

Chapter 20: Napoleon and the Revolutionary Legacy, 1800-1830

Chapter 21: Industrialization and Social Ferment, 1830-1850

Week twelve

Chapter 22: Politics and Culture of the Nation-State, 1850-1870

Chapter 23: Empire, Industry, and Everyday Life, 1870-1890

Week thirteen

Chapter 24: Modernity and the Road to War, 1890-1914

Chapter 25: World War I and Its Aftermath, 1914-1929

Week fourteen

Chapter 26: The Great Depression and World War II, 1929-1945

Chapter 27: The Cold War and the Remaking of Europe, 1945-1960s

Chapter 28: Postindustrial Society and the End of the Cold War Order, 1960s-1989

Chapter 29: A New Globalism, 1989 to the Present

Final Exam

Lectures at the beginning of each class will provide background information and put the reading in context. It is important to complete all readings before you come to class. General discussion will follow for the remainder of the time.

Special note: Regular attendance is required of all students in this class. Missing more than 3 classes will result in a drop in grade.