

History 100

History of Western Civilization

Prof. John Orens
Mr. John Barth (3:00)
Ms. Maureen Santelli (10:30)
Mr. Prentice Sargeant (1:30)

Hours: R 12:00-1:00 (Prof. Orens/jorens@gmu.edu)
R 10:00-11:00 (Mr. Barth/jbarth3@gmu.edu)
T 9:20-10:20 (Ms. Santelli/@mconnor3@gmu.edu)
T 3:00-4:00 (Mr. Sargeant/psargean@masonlive.gmu.edu)

Office: Robinson B 226C

History 100 web site: chnm.gmu.edu/courses/westernciv/index.htm

Required Reading

Cole, Symes, Coffin, and Stacey, *Western Civilizations*, Brief 3rd edition
Primary Sources

Course Description

This course follows the development of western civilization from antiquity to the present. We shall devote special attention to the ideas that continue to shape the world in which we live and our understanding of who we are. Ours, then, is more than a journey into the past. It is a voyage of self-discovery.

Course Requirements

Covering, as it does, the whole of western civilization in a single semester, this is an unusual course. Its requirements, therefore, must be adhered to strictly. Please pay careful attention to them.

1. *Attendance, participation, laptops, and texting.* We expect you to attend every class and we shall take attendance. Although I do not assign a grade for participation, I shall take your faithful attendance and thoughtful engagement into account in determining your final grade. You may miss four classes without a penalty. If you have five absences for which you do not have a *documented* excuse, your grade for the semester will automatically be lowered by five points. Each additional unexcused absence will lower your average by one additional point. We also expect you to be attentive during class. *Texting, therefore, is strictly forbidden.* Similarly, *if you bring a laptop computer to class, you may **only** use it for taking notes. Laptops are restricted to seats at the front of the classroom. If you use your laptop for any purpose other than taking notes, or if you send or read text messages during class, five points will be deducted from your quiz average.*

2. *Quizzes.* Beginning the fourth week of class, there will be a multiple-choice quiz every other week, usually on Tuesdays. I have indicated those weeks on the class schedule with asterisks. We shall send you review questions to guide your preparation for the quizzes. These quizzes will account for 40% of your final grade.

3. *Midterm and Final Essays.* Your midterm and final essays will account for 60% of your final grade. These will both be take-home assignments.

4. *Videotape papers.* A few years ago, the history department produced thirteen videotaped lectures on the history of western civilization. The tapes are on reserve at the Johnson Center library and can also be watched online at <http://gmutv.gmu.edu/courses/index.cfm>. Please note that some of the lectures can only be seen with a Windows media player. I shall assign one of these lectures for an extra-credit paper before the midterm and another before the final. As you watch them, take notes so that you can answer these questions: What aspects of history did the lecturer emphasize? What visual images or other techniques did the lecturer use to enliven the lecture? What was most effective about the lecture as a teaching tool? What was least effective? At the midterm and then again on the last day of class, I shall give you the opportunity to hand in a paper discussing the lecture you have watched. If your paper is acceptable, up to five points will be added to your midterm or final essay grade.

Weekly Class Schedule (T = textbook chapters, P = primary sources):

Aug. 28	Introduction to History/Greek Civilization (T, 1-2)
Sept. 4	Classical and Hellenistic Greece, Roman Civilization, and Christianity (T, 2-6; P, Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, Sermon on the Mount)
Sept. 11	The Middle Ages (T, 7-10; P, Thomas Aquinas)
Sept. 18	The Renaissance (T, 11-12; P, Pico della Mirandola, Machiavelli)*
Sept. 25	The Reformation and Absolutism (T, 13-15; P, Luther, Bossuet)
Oct. 2	Limited Monarchy (T, 15; P, Locke)*
Oct. 11	The Age of Reason (T, 16-17; P, Descartes, Voltaire, Kant)
Oct. 16	The Age of Revolution (T, 18; P, Declaration of the Rights of Man, Burke), Midterm/First videotape paper*
Oct. 23	The Age of Industrialism and Nationalism (T, 19-21; P, Mill, Wordsworth, Marx)
Oct. 30	The Birth of Modern Culture (T, 22-23; P, Social Darwinism, Nietzsche, Freud)*
Nov. 6	War, Communism, and Fascism (T, 24-25; P, Lenin, Mussolini)
Nov. 13	Nazi Germany and the Second World War (T, 25-26; P, Hitler)*
Nov. 20	Post-War Europe (T, 27; P, Sartre)
Nov. 27	The Contemporary West (T, 28-29; P, John Paul II)*
Dec. 6	Final Essay/Second videotape paper

MISSED CLASSES, MISSED PAPERS, MISSED TESTS

If you miss a class *for any reason* and do not want to be penalized, you **must** bring us a *documented* reason for your absence. This is especially important if there was a paper due or a quiz given on the day you were absent. *I shall schedule a make-up quiz and allow you to hand in your paper late **only** if you have a documented excuse.*

Please print your papers before the day they are due. *Last-minute computer glitches are not an acceptable excuse for a missing paper.* I shall not accept papers submitted by e-mail except in cases of dire emergency, and even in those cases you must give me a hard copy within a few days in order to receive credit for your work.

E-MAIL

We shall be sending review questions and other important material to your GMU e-mail address. Please make sure that your account is open and that your mailbox has room for more messages. We encourage you to use e-mail to share your questions and concerns with us, but please do not ask for information already contained in this syllabus; e.g., the dates of quizzes. To insure that we receive your message, please send it from your GMU address. Your messages should be grammatical and properly spelled. Do not use instant messaging abbreviations. When you write, please let us know your name and which section you attend. Please allow us at least 24 hours to reply.

DISABILITIES

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations *must* be arranged through that office.

ADDING AND DROPPING CLASSES

The last day you may add a class or drop a class without penalty is September 5th. The last day you may drop a class is September 28th.

GENERAL EDUCATION: A NOTE FROM THE PROVOST

This course meets one of the core requirements of the University General Education program. The goal of this requirement is to ensure that students are introduced to the broad range of study that contribute to

a liberal education, enabling them to synthesize new knowledge, respond to fresh challenges, and meet the demands of a complex world. For more information on General Education, please see the University Catalog, and the General Education website, www.gmu.edu/departments/provost/gened/index.html.