

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:** *Civilization: A New History of the West*, by Roger Osbourne  
*The Cold War: A Very Short Introduction*, by Robert J. McMahon

**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 will demonstrate familiarity with the major chronology of Western Civilization or World history.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to narrate and explain long-term changes and continuities in Western Civilization or World history.
- Students will identify, evaluate and appropriately cite online and print resources.
- 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.
- 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.

**HANDOUTS:** All class material is available online on the class web site, located at <http://www.unlikelyprofessor.com/history/>. Study guide #s do not always correspond to chapter #s.

**GRADING SCALE:** F=0 to 57; D=58-69; C=70-79; B=80-89; A=90-100  
Exams = 50%; Essays = 50%

**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. Any student missing more than four (4) classes total (excused or not) will have their final grade lowered by one letter; any student missing more than six (6) classes will receive a grade of F or I (Incomplete) at my discretion.

**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.

**ESSAYS:** You will write 2 short (3-5 pages) essays for this course.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** ***I do not accept late assignments.***

**OFFICE HOURS:** Thursdays after class by appointment in Robinson B 375 C (inside the History/Art History suite). If you do not make an appointment, I may not be in the office. If your question, problem, or concern cannot wait until a class day, feel free contact me via e-mail or telephone. You are also welcome to meet me at my place of business in Alexandria by appointment.

**You can reach me by e-mail at [tflemin2@gmu.edu](mailto:tflemin2@gmu.edu)**

**While 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 703.519.1102; 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.

**Campus mailbox:** You may leave messages (not assignments) in the History/Art History Office.

**E-MAIL ACCESS:** You are required to regularly check your e-mail account for class information.

**WITHDRAWAL:** 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 this 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 before you leave.

**TECHNOLOGY STATEMENT:** You will silence or deactivate all pagers, cell phones, PDA's, 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.***

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT:** GMU expects all students to follow academic and ethical guidelines set down in the Student Handbook. I will treat harshly and immediately any instances of cheating on examinations or plagiarism in written work.

**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 established GMU procedures to gain accommodations.

**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.

### Tentative Schedule

Month	Date	Day	Lecture	Read	Other
<b>Aug</b>	30	Thurs	Pre-Greek Civilizations	Civilization, Ch 1	
<b>Sep</b>	6	Thurs	Greece	Civilization, Ch 2-3	
	13	Thurs	Rome	Civilization, Ch 2-3	
	20	Thurs	Monotheism	Civilization, Ch 4	
	27	Thurs	Medieval Europe I	Civilization, Ch 5-6	
<b>Oct</b>	4	Thurs	Medieval Europe II	Civilization, Ch 6-7	<b>Essay 1</b>
	11	Thurs	<b>Exam 1</b>		
	18	Thurs	Reformation	Civilization, Ch 9	
	25	Thurs	New World Order	Civilization, Ch 10-11	
<b>Nov</b>	1	Thurs	French Revolution & Napoleon	Civilization, Ch 13	
	8	Thurs	Nationalism & Industrialism	Civilization, Ch 14	
	15	Thurs	Epic Wars	Civilization, Ch 16-17	
	22	Thurs	<b>NO CLASS</b>		
	29	Thurs	Film & Discussion	"Downfall"	<b>Essay 2</b>
<b>Dec</b>	6	Thurs	Soviet Union		
	13	Thurs	<b>Exam 2</b>		

Essay 1 – Biography

Essay 2 – Cold War Event

## Brief Guide: Writing Essays for History Class

Because 65% of your grade in this class involves independent work and writing, there are some general guidelines you should follow when you write your biography essay.

1. **STAY ON TOPIC.** You must endeavor to stick to the question – or questions – at hand. Read the assignment carefully. Note important ‘question words’ such as ‘why’ and ‘how’ – these will be critical indicators to guide you to a thorough answer.
2. **PAGE FORMATTING.** While it may seem like a minor issue to you, it helps me greatly to have everybody’s papers with the same formatting. Set your word processor to 1” margins, 12-point type, and a common font such as Times New Roman, Arial, Garamond, or Verdana. Never use a script, hollow, or other weird font. One staple in the upper left corner will suffice. A cover page is required.
3. **GRAMMAR ALWAYS COUNTS.** Making yourself understood as clearly as possible requires proper grammar. Sentences that are difficult to read due to poor grammar are often difficult to understand as well. If you’ve never needed to focus on grammar and writing, now is an excellent time to become familiar with the Writing Center in the Godwin building. Spelling is also a key aspect, as is being sure you’ve used the correct word; for example, ‘two’ instead of ‘too’.
4. **ASK QUESTIONS WELL BEFORE THE DUE DATE.** If you have any doubts about the assignment or the direction you’re going with your answer, ask for help. I am accessible via e-mail and telephone, so there’s no reason you should be stuck wondering about your assignment. Keep in mind that there is basically no excuse “good enough” to warrant turning your assignment in late.
5. **WEBSITES CAN LIE TO YOU – so don’t use them.** You’re in college now, so stay away from encyclopedias as well. Use real academic resources from a real college library. Note that some academic resources are available online, but they will *rarely* be in the format of “Joe’s Web Page on Alexander the Great”.

### Here are some basic grammar guidelines for this class:

- DO use the spell check function of your word processing software. While this won’t tell you if you’ve used the wrong word, it will catch most (if not all) spelling errors in your paper.
- DO learn to write actively. Passive voice makes an argument sound completely noncommittal and sucks all the life and activity out of your writing.
- DO support your position. It’s not just enough that you’ve said it – you need to have facts to back up your theory or statement. Find sources that agree with you and use their words to support yours.
- DO learn what a homonym is and how to ensure you’ve really written the word you intended to use.
- DO NOT write the same way you talk. People generally use different vocabulary sets for these two activities, and while they are not mutually exclusive, you shouldn’t write an essay with the same language you speak to your friends. Do not write in “AIM speak” or e-mail shorthand.
- DO NOT use contractions. The only time you should use an apostrophe in a formal, academic paper is to show possession. Doing otherwise can lead to confusion on the part of the reader.
- DO NOT ask rhetorical questions, even if you plan on answering them in the next sentence. Do you know what I mean?
- DO NOT make parenthetical statements. Either an idea is important enough to write into the material or it is not (ask for examples of this if you must).
- DO NOT write in the first person. You are writing about historical events and unless you were actually in attendance, there is no need to invoke yourself or anyone else with I, me, my, mine, you, we, us, our, etc.

Professor Fleming // HIST 100 // Lecture 01 – Pre-Greek Civilizations  
Study Guide

**Key People**

Ashurbanipal  
Cambyses  
Cyrus  
Darius  
Hammurabi

**Key Groups**

Akkadians  
Amorites  
Assyrians  
Chaldeans  
Hyksos  
Persians  
Phoenicians  
Sea People  
Sumerians

**Key Terms**

Assimilation  
Brass, Bronze, Iron, Tin  
Cuneiform  
"eye for an eye"  
Hieroglyphics  
Nome / Nomarch  
Pharaoh  
Polytheism  
Royal Road  
Satrapy / Satrap  
Vizier

**Key Events/Periods**

Agricultural Revolution  
Bronze Age

**Map Items**

Catal Huyuk  
Egypt - Upper / Lower  
Euphrates River  
Fertile Crescent  
Memphis  
Mesopotamia  
Nile River / Nile River Delta  
Tigris River