HISTORY OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION

HIST 100–002 (fall 2017)
3 credit hours

Big Ideas, Momentous Events, and Important People of Western Civilization

Instructor: Professor Chris Elzey
Location: Exploratory Hall L004
Day: MWF
Time: 10:30-11:20 a.m.
Office: Robinson B 369B
Email: celzey@gmu.edu (please use your MasonLive account when emailing)
Office Hours: MW 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (also by appointment)
Teaching Assistants:

- Donya Akhawan Jam (dakhawan@masonlive.gmu.edu)
- Kristofer Stinson (kstinso@masonlive.gmu.edu)
- Both are available by appointment; please email

Prerequisites for the Course

None

Class Contacts

1. Name and phone number/email:

2. Name and phone number/email:

The Course

The History of Western Civilization explores the great events, issues, history makers, and social and cultural movements of the western world from antiquity to the present. Much of our time will be spent examining the people, ideas and events that changed the course of western history.

Why take Western Civilization? One reason is that it allows you to better understand the world in which you live. Much of what has been identified as the "modern" experience – democracy, enlightened thinking, egalitarianism – owes itself in large part to western civilization. Another reason is that it provides an intellectual foundation to appreciate the various artistic, cultural, philosophical, and literary movements that have informed the world around you.

Course Objectives

Understanding how and why the western world developed the way it did is one of the primary aims of the course. You will learn about western history's important events and significant historical figures, and the ways the West has impacted the rest of the world. You will also learn the basics of the historian's craft: synthesizing and interpreting historical information from primary and secondary

sources. An important part of that is being able to express your thoughts in clear and grammatically correct prose. Finally, you will have a better appreciation of how thousands of years of western history have influenced today's world.

In addition, HIST 100 fulfills the Mason Core requirement. According to the university's website on "Learning Outcomes" for "Exploration Courses" in the Mason Core, after completing the course you will be able to:

- "Demonstrate familiarity with the major chronology of Western civilization"
- "Demonstrate the ability to narrate and explain long-term changes and continuities in Western civilization"
- "Develop multiple literacies by analyzing primary sources of various kinds (texts, images, music) and using these sources as evidence to support interpretations of historical events"

For more information on the Mason Core requirements, see: http://masoncore.gmu.edu/general-education-at-mason-2__trashed/western-civilizationworld-history/

Required Texts

Achebe, Chinua. *Things Fall Apart*

Hunt, Lynn, Thomas R. Martin, Barbara H. Rosenwein, and Bonnie G. Smith. *The Making of the West: Peoples and Cultures,* 5th Edition (Value Edition)

Lualdi, Katharine. *Sources of The Making of the West: Peoples and Cultures*, Vol. 1 and 2

Perrottet, Tony. *The Naked Olympics*

Spiegelman, Art. *Maus I: My Father Bleeds History* and *Maus II: And Here My Trouble Began*

*In addition, primary and secondary source documents will occasionally be posted on Blackboard

Course Requirements and Assignments

We will be reading parts of the textbook, *The West: A Narrative History*. Your reading assignments for that book are listed in the course schedule. **YOU ARE TO COME TO CLASS HAVING COMPLETED THAT DAY'S READING ASSIGNMENT. ALL PAGE REFERENCES IN THE COURSE SCHEDULE REFER TO THE TEXTBOOK.** You are expected to read all of *The Naked Olympics*, *Things Fall Apart*, and *Maus I* and *Maus II*. We will also read or look at several primary and secondary source documents – some are pictures – and devote a small amount of class time to these.

You will take three exams. Each consists of multiple-choice questions (which may or may not include questions about geography), identifications and short answer questions. About two weeks before each exam, I will post a list of identification terms and short answer questions. From that list, I will select a handful of identifications and short answer questions for the exam. The exams will cover all material from class and the readings. Each exam is worth one fifth of your grade.

You are also responsible for writing one paper (4-5 pages, double-spaced, 12-point font, 1"-margins) on *The Naked Olympics*, *Things Fall Apart*, or *Maus I* and *II*. Let me repeat myself: **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR WRITING ONLY ONE PAPER.** I will post the questions on Blackboard – you will respond to one question only – roughly two weeks before each paper is due. **THE DUE DATES ARE:**

- **SEPTEMBER 20 (FOR *THE NAKED OLYMPICS*)**
- **NOVEMBER 17 (FOR *THINGS FALL APART*)**
- **DECEMBER 8 (FOR MAUS *I* AND *MAUS II*)**

You will be graded on content, use of historical evidence, and persuasiveness (which means you should pay particular attention to grammar, punctuation, etc.). **NO PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED VIA EMAIL**. The paper will count for one fifth of your grade.

Lastly, you will take several quizzes and complete a couple of out-of-class assignments. Quizzes might be announced and unannounced. **ONE OF THE FIRST QUIZZES WILL COVER THE SYLLABUS. IT WILL BE GIVEN ON THE SECOND DAY OF CLASS. FOUR OTHER QUIZZES ARE ALSO SCHEDULED: *THE NAKED OLYMPICS* (SEPTEMBER 15), *A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS* (OCTOBER 20), *THINGS FALL APART* (NOVEMBER 13), AND *MAUS I* AND *MAUS II* (DECEMBER 4).** All unannounced quizzes will cover the required reading in the textbook or primary/secondary source documents for that particular day. Please bring paper and a pen or pencil to every class. Attendance and class participation will also count for a quiz grade.

Assignments may consist of a short opinion piece on primary or secondary source documents. I will announce these assignments in class and on Blackboard. **PLEASE CHECK BLACKBOARD REGULARLY**.

There is one announced assignment. Toward the end of the semester, I would like you to watch **ONE** of three movies: *Life Is Beautiful, The Third Man,* or *The Great Dictator*. You are to write a one-page response on the following question: How does knowing the history of western civilization help you better understand the movie? **YOU ARE TO HAND IN THE ASSIGNMENT ON THE DAY OF EXAM #3 (DECEMBER 13).** The assignment will count as a quiz. A copy of each movie will be on reserve in Gateway Library in the Johnson Center.

At the end of the semester, I will drop the two lowest quiz scores and calculate the average. The score will count for the final fifth of your grade. **AS WITH THE PAPERS, NO WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED ELECTRONICALLY**.

Grades for each assignment will be posted on Grade Center on Blackboard.

***Note**: Blackboard may include an average for your cumulative score. Disregard it. Blackboard does not calculate the scores according to the weighted

values assigned for the course. I will keep a separate grade book and consult it when I determine your final grade.

Grade Breakdown

Exams (3)	60%
Paper	20%
Quizzes (average)	20%

Grading Scale

A	93-100	B+	88-89.99	C+	78-79.99	D	60-69.99
A-	90-92.99	B	83-87.99	C	73-77.99	F	0-59.99
		B-	80-82.99	C-	70-72.99		

Late Papers and Missed Exams and Quizzes

Make it easy on yourself – turn your paper in on time. Each day the paper is late (Saturdays and Sundays count as well), I will deduct 5 points from the final score. Only an emergency can remove the 5-point deduction, provided you show me a doctor's note or other documentation. In this case, if you miss an exam, a makeup will be given (most likely an essay exam). **THERE ARE NO MAKEUP QUIZZES**. But I will drop your two lowest quiz scores when determining your final quiz grade.

Attendance and Participation

You are expected to come to class, and your attendance will be recorded. Knowing that certain emergencies will arise over the course of the semester, you will be excused from missing two classes. No need to show me a note for these absences.

Three classes will be devoted to discussion – one for *The Naked Olympics*, one for *Things Fall Apart*, and the other for *Maus I* and *II*. I expect you to participate.

Extra Credit

There is no extra credit. But if you show improvement on your exams, you can earn improvement credit. Here's how it works: If you score higher on your third exam than you do on the first, I will divide the difference by three and add it to the score of your first exam. For example, if you score 80 on the first exam, 84 on the second, and 95 on the third, I would add 5 points (95-80=15; 15 divided by 3=5) to the result of your first exam and calculate your final grade using that score. **IMPROVEMENT CREDIT APPLIES ONLY TO THE DIFFERENCE IN SCORES BETWEEN YOUR FIRST AND THIRD EXAM.**

Electronic Devices

Cell phones, Smartphones, and other electronic devices that make any kind of noise are not permitted. I will allow PCs and tablets, but only for note taking. Do not abuse this privilege. It is distracting to those around you. **IF YOU ARE SEEN USING YOUR PC OR TABLET FOR SOMETHING OTHER THAN**

NOTE TAKING, YOU WILL FORFEIT YOUR RIGHT TO USE THE DEVICE IN CLASS.

Academic Integrity

You are expected to do your own work. Students who violate the Honor Code will be dealt with severely. Information on the Honor Code and what constitutes a violation can be found at the website for the Office of Academic Integrity (http://oai.gmu.edu).

Students with Disabilities

Accommodations for students with disabilities are available. See the webpage of the Office of Disability Services (ODS) (http://ods.gmu.edu) or call 993-2474 for more information. You can also visit the ODS office. It is located in SUB I, rm. 4205.

Diversity

This course is in compliance with GMU's Diversity Statement: "George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty and staff. Through its curriculum, programs, policies, procedures, services and resources, Mason strives to maintain a quality environment for work, study and personal growth." For the full statement, see http://ctfe.gmu.edu/professional-development/mason-diversity-statement.

Important Drop/Add Dates

- September 5 is the final day to drop the course and incur no financial penalty
- September 5 is the final day you can add the course
- September 29 is the last day you can drop the course (not using a selective withdrawal), but with a financial penalty
- October 27 is the last day for selective withdrawal

Course Schedule

Week 1: Creating Law and Order (and I Don't Mean the TV Series)

August 28: Introduction; The Rule of Law and Writing in Mesopotamia and Egypt

August 30: Mesopotamia and Egypt (cont.)

Read: pp. 1-21 **(PAGES BY THEMSELVES REFER TO HUNT ET AL. UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED) (QUIZ)**

September 1: Moses and Monotheism

Read: pp. 22-31, 39-43

Week 2: Democracy by the Polis (Not the One with Sting as Lead Singer)

*Primary Documents **(BLACKBOARD)**

September 4: No class (Labor Day)

September 6: Homer: Let Me Tell You a Story

Read: pp. 34-39, 43-55; *Sources*, vol. 1, 1-13; *The Naked Olympics*, chapters 1-5

September 8: Sparta and Athens

Read: pp. 55-60, 61-63; *The Naked Olympics*, chapters 6-8

Week 3: Build Me an Empire: Ancient Greece and Alexander the Great

September 11: Sparta vs. Athens (cont.)

Read: pp. 66-81, 91-95; *Sources*, vol. 1, 37-39; *The Naked Olympics*, chapters 9-11

September 13: Let Me Ask You Something: The Socratic Method

Read: pp. 81-91, 99-107; *The Naked Olympics*, chapters 12-15

September 15: *Naked Olympics*, Discussion **(QUIZ)**

Read: *Sources*, vol. 1, 60-62; *The Naked Olympics*, chapters 16-18

Week 4: Expansionism; or, Welcome to the Empire: Ancient Rome

September 18: LA Dolce Vita?: Life in Rome

Read: pp. 126-138; *Sources*, vol. 1, 107-109

September 20: Life in Rome (cont.)

Read: pp. 139-145

TURN IN PAPER ON *THE NAKED OLYMPICS*

September 22: The Long and Winding Via Appia: Pax Romana to Empire's End

Read: pp. 145-151, 155-171, 179-183

Week 5: Unification: The Frankish World of Charlemagne and Beyond

*Primary Documents **(BLACKBOARD)**

September 25: Qui Était Charlemagne?

Read: pp. 172-178, 187-217, 220-227

September 27: **EXAM #1**

September 29: The Church in Turmoil: The Avignon Papacy

Read: pp. 232-240, 259-273, 288-296, 298-308, 358-360

Week 6: "…placed within the grasp of the Evil One": The Calamitous 1300s

October 2: Really? It Lasted That Long?: The Hundred Years' War
Read: pp. 345-348, 355-357, 362-364, 372-375, 379-385
October 4: A Plague on All Your Houses: The Black Death
Read: pp. 368-372, 386-393
October 6: Jeanne d'Arc, the Maid Who Became a Saint
Read: *Sources*, vol. 1, 254-259

Week 7: The Power of Conviction: Religiosity and Exploration
October 10 (Tuesday): Jeanne d'Arc (cont.); Ferdinand Magellan: Round the World in…Three Years"
Read: pp. 397-406
October 11: Ferdinand Magellan (cont.); The Three Reformers: Luther, Calvin and Henry VIII
Read: pp. 406-409; *Sources*, vol. 1, 283-287
October 13: The Three Reformers (cont.)
Read: pp. 409-411; *Sources*, vol. 1, 287-291

Week 8: I Protest: The Reformation
*Primary Documents **(BLACKBOARD)**
October 16: Film: *A Man for All Seasons*
Read: pp. 414-420
October 18: Film: *A Man for All Seasons* (cont.)
October 20: Finish *A Man for All Seasons* **(QUIZ)**
Read: pp. 421-422

Week 9: Protestants vs. Catholics: The Religious Wars
October 23: There Blew a Protestant Wind: the Defeat of the Spanish Armada
Read: pp. 426-433
October 25: To Defenestrate: the Start of the Thirty Years' War
Read: pp. 434-445
October 27: Louis XIV: Le Roi du Soleil
Read: pp. 457-475, 504-506

Week 10: "L'etat, C'est Moi": Absolutism Absolutely
October 30: **EXAM #2**
November 1: The Enlightenment: Reason Over Faith
Read: pp. 445-454, 480-486, 490-498, 514-518, 522-530, 536-538
November 3: The Start of the French Revolution
Read: pp. 538-545, 551-561

Week 11: "You Say You Want a Revolution": France and Napoleon

November 6: Terror!

Read: pp. 561-575; *Sources*, vol. 2, 112-118; *Things Fall Apart*, chapters 1-5

November 8: Napoleon and the World He Created

Read: pp. 579-595; *Things Fall Apart*, chapters 6-10

November 10: Here We Go Again: the Revolutions of 1848

Read: pp. 595-597, 600-605, 609-619, 625-634; *Sources*, vol. 2, 151-154, *Things Fall Apart*, chapters 11-16

Week 12 and 13: "Iron and Blood": Nationalism and Imperialism

November 13: *Things Fall Apart*—Discussion **(QUIZ)**

Read: *Things Fall Apart*, chapters 17-25; *Sources*, vol. 2, 218-221

November 15: "When the World Went Mad": WWI

Read: pp. 651-656, 675-686, 708-728, 732-738

November 17: WWI (cont.)

Read: pp. 742-760

TURN IN PAPER ON *THINGS FALL APART*

November 20: "Revolution in Manners and Morals": the U.S. in the 1920s

Read: pp. 760-773; start *Maus I* and *II*

November 22 and 24 (No class, Thanksgiving Break)

Week 14: "Arbeit Macht Frei": Adolf Hitler and the Holocaust

November 27: Schicklgruber or Hitler? A Psycho History

Read: pp. 776-787; continue *Maus I* and *II*

November 29: The Nazis' Rise to Power

Read: pp. 787-797; continue *Maus I* and *II*

December 1: The Nazis' Rise to Power (cont.)

Read: pp. 797-809; continue *Maus I* and *II*

Week 15: Us against Them: The Cold War

December 4: *Maus I* and *II*—Discussion **(QUIZ)**

Read: finish *Maus I* and *II*

December 6: "An Iron Curtain…across the Continent": the Cold War Begins

Read: pp. 814-828, 839-844; *Sources*, vol. 2, 275-277

December 8: The Tragic Games: The 1972 Munich Olympics

Read: pp. 828-833, 848-862, 867-877

TURN IN PAPER ON *MAUS I* and *II*

December 13: **EXAM #3** (starts at 10:30 a.m.)

TURN IN ONE-PAGE PAPER ON *LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL, THE THIRD MAN OR THE GREAT DICTATOR* (PROMPT IS ON PAGE 3 OF SYLLABUS)