

HIST 100: Western Civilization

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OFFICE Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10.30-11.30am & 4.30-5.30pm

The Honor Code at George Mason University: *To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the University Community have set forth this:* Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, and/or lie in matters related to academic work.

OBJECTIVES

- The study of History to gain an understanding of the present.
- To understand how change occurred and occurs in the evolution of Human society.
- To equip the student with tools necessary to read critically and to recognize valid analysis.
- To develop skills to competently access and assess sources of information.

Attention: If you are a student with one of the identified learning patterns 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.

MATERIALS

Lecture The information in the lectures is the Standard Historical Narrative. This historical narrative can be found in **ANY** Western Civilization textbook. Within a single semester portions of about 10 chapters (out of a 35 chapter textbook) would be in direct correlation with the lecture. Hence, I do not see a textbook as cost effective. If you want a textbook it is not difficult to find one. There are copies of various Western Civ textbooks in Fenwick Library. I suggest the authors Jackson Spielvogel or Linda Hunt.

Readings The lectures are supplemented with articles and chapters from books. These articles and chapters are assigned in Take Home Exercises (THX). The articles and chapters are drawn from JSTOR. Our work with the articles is geared to: the development of critical reading skills; the cultivation of a knowledge-base upon which to build independent thought; the acquisition of the skills needed to handle scholarship; and a demonstration of the proper use of research and the application of proper analysis to written composition.

COURSEWORK

TESTS *There will be 3 tests at 50 points each. (total available points 100)*

Test content will be drawn from lecture material and the articles assigned in the THX.

Test content is cumulative, closed note, and copies of the articles are not allowed during testing.

All answers must be written in complete sentences.

TESTING SCHEDULE: Test 1 28 September

Test 2 2 November

Test 3 is the final. It is an opportunity to replace your lower test score.

TAKE-HOME EXERCISES (THX) *There will be at least 10 THX at 20+ points each (total available points = 200+).*

A cluster of articles will be made available on Fridays through email and/or Blackboard.

Completed work is due the following Tuesday. If the THX is not submitted on the scheduled Tuesday you forfeit the opportunity to try for the points attached to that THX. In other words, **no other submission opportunity** will be accommodated. Hand in your completed THX when you turn in your quiz.

QUIZZES *There will be 5- 8 quizzes at 18+ points each (total available points = 100+).*

Each Tuesday class will begin (10-15 minutes) with a quiz. If you miss the beginning of class then you forfeit the opportunity to try for the points attached to the quiz. In other words, **no "make-up" opportunities** will be provided.

PARAGRAPH PAGES *There will be at least 5-8 Paragraph Exercises at 5-10 points each (total available points = 50+ points).*

An approximate total of 400+ points will be made available at an average flow rate of about 30 points each week.

The course is designed to allow for the learning curve of the individual student and to provide a means to compensate for mistakes made (such as the forfeit of a THX, a quiz, or a poor paragraph page). There are of course limits to the number of bungled assignments that the system can absorb. Keep that in mind.

THE GRADE

Your goal by the end of the semester is to accumulate as many points as possible up to a cap of 250.

Your final grade is calculated from the total points you earn divided by 250.

So, if you earn 180 points by the end of the summer [$180/250=72$] you will have a final grade of 72, a C-.

Each student is responsible for keeping track of his/her own points and totals. I strongly encourage students to collect and save all of their work. I provide a list of your recorded scores at the end of the midterm evaluation. Other than that list, I do not nor will I provide points upon request. Keep track of your own grade during the semester.

Grading Rubric

- **All answers must be written in sentence form.** Incomplete sentences, bullet-point and/or slashed constructions = 0.
- Fallacies: e.g. hypothetical constructs, contradiction, and hyperbolic assertions = 0
- Both the page number and author's name are required in citation. No page number in the citation = 0
No name in the citation = 0
- Citation is required when using ideas or phrasing from the work of others.

RULES FOR SUBMISSION OF THX and the Paragraph pages

A hardcopy of your THX and Paragraph Page must be submitted by you (**or a friend or a family member** who is nice enough to turn it in for you). I do not accept work placed in my department box or sent by email.

Be prepared to submit a hardcopy of your work on Tuesdays. After you complete the quiz scheduled for each Tuesday, turn in your THX with the quiz. Work submitted outside of class is penalized as follows: ***after class or during office hours results in a 5 point deduction. Students that manifest a pattern of submitting their work during class, after the end of class, or during office hours will have 10 points deducted on the fourth submission. (A pattern is 3 times across or within categories.) Work will not be accepted after the end of my office hours.***

ABSENCES

The student is responsible for acquiring missed notes from a class-mate. I do not provide lecture notes.

Absences on a scheduled test day.

To schedule a "make-up" session some form of official documentation must be submitted to confirm the validity of the absence.

The documentation reestablishes your option on the test.

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

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

RULES FOR COMPOSITION

On-line or hardcopy reference materials (such as encyclopedias, biographical dictionaries, web-site quick references, textbooks, enthusiast sites, course materials from other universities, exam-prep summaries, etc.) are **not** acceptable as sources for research compositions. The use of valid sources and the proper citation of those sources is required in an analysis. Direct quotation is a verbatim transcription (a copy) of two or more words the author wrote. A direct quote **always** requires quotation marks and citation.

To alter one word of a quote transforms the quotation into a paraphrase (a lame paraphrase but a paraphrase nonetheless). To paraphrase something is to restate the ideas expressed in a set of sentences written by the author of a source. In other words, to paraphrase is to quote indirectly. Therefore paraphrased material always requires citation, however does not require quotation marks.

PLAGIARISM: To plagiarize is to copy and attempt to present as one's own the ideas, phrasing, and/or order of the work of someone other than one's self. It is in the act of not presenting citation that you make the "attempt to present" the words as yours.

FALSE CITATION is to present a citation to a source that is in fact not the actual source of the content in the essay. False citation is a particularly egregious form of plagiarism.

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