History 100 **History of Western Civilization**

Prof. John Orens
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Mr. Sean Earner
Ms. Megan Glenn

Hours: TR 10:00-10:30 (Prof. Orens/jorens@gmu.edu) Office: Robinson B 226C
R 3:30-4:30 (Ms. Chiccino/kchiccin@gmu.edu)
T 3:30-4:30 (Mr. Earner/searner@gmu.edu)
T 4:30-5:30 (Ms. Glenn/mglenn2@gmu.edu)

Required Reading

Cole, Symes, Coffin, and Stacey, *Western Civilizations*, Brief 4th edition
Primary Sources emailed to you with this syllabus

Course Description

This course will follow the political, economic, social, and cultural development of western civilization from its roots in antiquity to the present. We shall devote special attention to the ideas that have shaped the world in which we live and that continue to inform our understanding of who we are. Thus, ours will be more than a journey into the past. It will also be a voyage of self-discovery.

Course Requirements

Because this course covers the whole story of western civilization in a single semester, it presents unique challenges. ***It is essential, therefore, that you pay careful attention to the following requirements.*** *They are intended for your benefit, and to do well in this class you* ***must*** *adhere to them faithfully. Failure to do so will lower your grade.*

1. ***Attendance.*** Our class meetings are the foundation of everything we do this semester. Although we shall not take attendance, *you cannot earn a good grade if you do not come to class or if you are inattentive in class*.

2. ***No laptops or smartphones.*** Because this class demands your undivided attention, and because laptops and smartphones are almost always distracting to you and to those around you, *you may not use a laptop or a smartphone during class. Texting is* ***strictly*** *forbidden.* ***Every time*** *you text or use your smartphone for any reason during class,* ***ten points will be deducted from your quiz average for the semester*** *without exception.*

If you believe that you need to use a laptop because you have a disability, you must submit a note from the Office of Disability Services.

3. ***Quizzes.*** Beginning the fourth week of class, there will be four multiple-choice quizzes approximately every two to three weeks on either Tuesday or Thursday. I have indicated with asterisks on the class schedule the weeks on which there will be a quiz. We shall send you review questions (not the quiz questions themselves) to help you study. These quizzes will account for 40% of your final grade.

4. ***Midterm and Final Essays.*** There will be a midterm and a final essay paper. These will both be take-home assignments of about three pages. You will receive each assignment at least two weeks before it is due. These essays will account for 60% of your final grade. There will be no in-class midterm or final examination.

Please keep in mind that you ***cannot*** *earn a good grade on these important essay assignments if you cannot write clear English prose.*

5. ***Extra-Credit Papers*** I shall choose a film for you to watch online before the midterm and another before the final. I shall give you questions to answer about the film. If you want to earn extra credit, on the

day that the midterm paper is due, and then again on the last day of class when the final paper is due, you may hand in a paper in which you answer these questions. If your paper is acceptable, up to five points will be added to your midterm or final essay grade.

6. ***Final Extra-Credit Assignment.*** On the last day of class, I will show a film and then ask a few simple questions about it. If you participate and your answers are acceptable, up to five points will be added to your final essay grade.

Grading Scale

A = 93-100, A- = 90-92, B+ = 87-89, B = 83-86, B- = 80-82, C+ = 77-79, C = 73-76, C- = 70-73, D = 60-69

Weekly Class Schedule (T = textbook chapters, P = primary sources, * = quiz this week):

Aug. 29	Introduction to History, the Ancient Near East, Greek Civilization (T, 1-2; P, Gilgamesh)
Sept. 5	Classical and Hellenistic Greece, Roman Civilization (T, 2-6; P, Plato, Aristotle, Stoicism, Cicero, Sermon on the Mount)
Sept. 12	Christianity, the Middle Ages (T, 6-10; P, Sermon on the Mount, Bernard of Clairvaux, Thomas Aquinas, Julian of Norwich).
Sept. 19*	The Renaissance (T, 11-12; P, Pico della Mirandola, Machiavelli)
Sept. 26	The Reformation and Absolutism (T, 13-15; P, Luther, Bossuet, Hobbes)
Oct. 3	Limited Monarchy (T, 15; P, Locke)
Oct. 12*	The Age of Reason (T, 16-17; P, Descartes, Voltaire, Kant)
Oct. 17	The Age of Revolution (T, 18; P, Declaration of the Rights of Man, Olympe de Gouges, Burke)*,* **Midterm/First extra-credit paper**
Oct. 24	The Age of Industrialism and Nationalism (T, 19-21; P, Mill, Mazzini, Treitschke, Wordsworth, Marx)
Oct. 31*	The Birth of Modern Culture (T, 22-23; P, Social Darwinism, Certainty and Uncertainty, Nietzsche, Freud)
Nov. 7	War, Communism, and Fascism (T, 24-25; P, Lenin, Stalin, Mussolini)
Nov. 14	Nazi Germany and the Second World War (T, 25-26; P, Hitler)
Nov. 21	Postwar Europe and the Cold War (T, 27-29; P, Gorbachev, Sartre, John Paul II)
Nov. 28*	The Contemporary West (T, 28-29)
Dec. 7	**Final Essay/Second extra-credit paper/Final extra-credit assignment in class**

MISSED PAPERS AND MISSED TESTS

If you miss a test or cannot submit a paper on time and you do not want to be penalized, you **must** bring us a *documented* reason for your absence or your late paper. *I shall schedule a make-up quiz and allow you to hand in your paper late without penalty* ***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 late paper*. I will not accept papers submitted by e-mail except in cases of dire emergency, and even in those cases you must submit a hard copy as soon as possible 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 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*. *To insure that we receive your message, and in order to comply with student privacy laws,* ***make sure to send it from your GMU address****.* Your message should be grammatical and properly spelled. Do not use instant messaging abbreviations.

Whenever you write, ***you must include your name and identify the section*** *you attend. This is* ***very important****.* 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 5.

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.