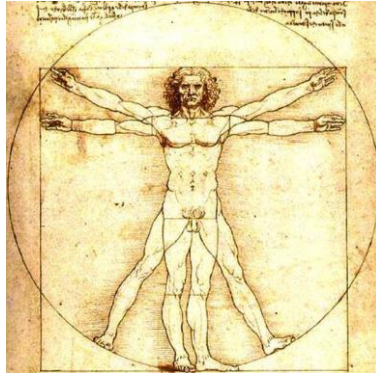


**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**  
Department of History and Art History

***A Survey of Western Civilization***  
**Spring 2019**

Course	Building/Hall	Room	Days	Time
<b>HIST 100/013</b>	<b>Music/Theater</b>	<b>1005</b>	<b>Mon-Wed</b>	<b>3.00-4.15 p.m.</b>



**INSTRUCTOR:**  
**OFFICE:**  
**OFFICE HOURS:**  
**TELEPHONE:**  
**E-MAIL:**

Dr Kevin Matthews  
Robinson B 226 A  
By appointment  
703.993.1250 (History Department main number)  
[cmatthe2@gmu.edu](mailto:cmatthe2@gmu.edu)

### **REQUIRED TEXT and MATERIALS:**

1. Frankforter, A. Daniel and William M. Spellman. *The West: A Narrative History*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (ISBN-13: 978-0-205-18095-0)
2. Orwell, George. *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (ISBN-13: 978-0-451-52493-5)
3. Three Scantron cards Form No. 882-E. Keep these but make sure you have one with on exam days.
4. You should expect to receive additional, brief reading assignments via Blackboard which are listed in the syllabus calendar. Students will also receive material via Blackboard - maps, cartoons, etc. - to enhance the student's understanding (and, it is hoped, enjoyment) of the topics covered in this course..

### **COURSE SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES - Making the modern world:**

This course is designed to provide an overview of the history of what is commonly called “the West” from its origins in ancient Greece to the present. More to the point, it shows how events over this expanse of time have shaped the world we live in today. Given the broad sweep of this course, it is impossible to cover every era and topic in detail. Instead, it will highlight various developments - political, economic, and social - that, together, have created a unique civilization. At the same time, this course will show how other civilizations - those of Africa, Asia, and the Americas - have influenced the West's own development even as these encounters have had often tragic results.

### **TEACHING TECHNIQUES and EXAMINATIONS:**

Based on a “semi-Socratic” method of teaching, this course is based on lectures, classroom discussions, and readings. If you are prepared, your contributions to these discussions will lead to a more lively and interesting experience for everyone. On a more prosaic level, your participation in class will benefit your final grade. Students who excel in this respect will benefit if their grades are borderline between a plus or minus; for example, a C might become a C+, or a B+ might become an A-.

All of the examinations will be composed of a mix of multiple-choice and short-answer questions. A **study guide** will be supplied prior to each of the three tests. The first exam will cover material assigned for the first day of class up through the session prior to the exam itself. The second exam will only cover material between the first and second exams. Similarly, the final exam will only cover material after the second exam. In other words, these exams are **not cumulative**.

You are **personally responsible** for knowing the time and date of all exams and other assignments. You are expected to take each exam on the date set by the course instructor; students are not allowed to take exams at a time of their choosing. If you fail to show up for an exam without a **documented excuse** (usually medical in nature), you will **not** be **allowed** to take a make-up exam. You will, instead, be given a zero grade without appeal. This applies, in particular, to the final exam; the dates for exams are given in the syllabus calendar. (**Note**: the dates for the first and second exams are tentative.)

**Make-up exams and quizzes** will be administered at a time and date that are mutually convenient to the instructor and student. It is up to each student to resolve the matter of make-up work with the instructor - not the other way around. Also, students who are permitted to take exams at the **testing center** must obtain the paperwork needed to do so **prior to each examination**.

**GRADING SCALE:**

First examination	25 percent
Second (mid-term) examination	30 percent
Final examination	35 percent
Classroom participation/attendance/quizzes:	10 percent
Total:	<hr/> 100 percent

90-100      A - signifies **remarkable, outstanding** work showing complete mastery of the subject.  
                  A+      97 - 100  
                  A        93 - 96.9  
                  A-      90 - 92.9

80-89        B - signifies work that is **above the average** expectations for this course.  
                  B+      87 - 89.9  
                  B        82 - 86.9  
                  B-      80 - 81.9

70-79        C - signifies work that meets **average** university standards.  
                  C+      77 - 79.9  
                  C        72 - 76.9  
                  C-      70 - 71.9

60-69        D - signifies work that is far **below average** but which is passable.

59-below    F - signifies failure.

**I do not grade on a curve. Nor is it possible to offer extra credit work - for any reason.** Students should instead devote their energies to the assignments laid out in this syllabus. If a student merits an "A", that is the grade that he or she will receive. At the same time, I do not distribute grades based on some sort of percentage basis, meaning that only a certain number of students can earn an "A", a certain number a "B", and so forth. If every student deserves an "A", that is the grade that each student will be given. Having said that, I again point out that "A" work as defined above is genuinely outstanding and shows complete mastery of the subject. While I hope that every student will strive to meet this standard, **it will not be easy to obtain such a grade.**

## ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION:

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 703.993.2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. You should see me about this matter immediately so that ODS can plan for the specific accommodation to assist you.

## ATTENDANCE:

Since lectures and discussions are the foundation of this course, **class attendance is mandatory**. Each student is responsible for all material and all announcements presented at each lecture. Students should also be aware that they will be tested on material covered in class but which will not necessarily be found in the assigned readings - and vice versa.. If a student **must** miss a class, (s)he should arrange to obtain class notes from a fellow student. Lecture notes **will not - under any circumstances - be provided** by the instructor.

A **great amount of reading is required** for this course and it is important that students stay ahead of the readings to be prepared for classroom discussions. **Failure to attend class on a regular basis** makes it extremely difficult to keep abreast of the course; the result is a lower final or even a failing grade for the course. **Specifically**, the final course grades for students who fail to attend class on a **regular basis** (as determined by the instructor) will **drop an entire letter grade** - without exception. This is beyond the 10 percent part of your grade covered by “classroom participation/attendance and quizzes”. Valid excuses for missed lectures (again, usually medical in nature) must be in **writing**.

## MISCELLANEOUS:

**Classroom decorum** - Students are expected to **show up for class on time** and, once in class, to **remain for the entire session**, except in case of emergency. Arriving late or leaving in the middle of a lecture is **disruptive and disrespectful** to your fellow students. Students who leave in the middle of a session can expect to be called out to explain why they are disrupting class in this manner. Those who violate these rules can expect to receive a lower course grade. Having said that, because this class lasts nearly three hours, there will be a break midway through each session.

**Use of lap-top computers & audio-recorders** - The use of lap-top computers & any other such devices (e.g., Tablets) is **banned** from these sessions. You should, instead, use paper & pen or pencil for taking lecture notes. If you are unable to do so because of a medical disability, you **must provide** documentation, usually in the form of a **doctor’s letter**, to be exempted from this ban. You may record lectures if you wish but only after consulting with me in office hours.

Cell phones are to be **turned off** at the beginning of each class. Repeated failure to do so will adversely affect your course grade. Any attempt to use unauthorized devices during an examination will constitute grounds for failing the course. You are welcome to bring drinks to class. However, **eating** in class is **forbidden**. Put another way, **I don’t lecture in your kitchen; don’t eat in my classroom**.

Cheating and plagiarism - **Either offense will constitute grounds for failing the course.** The university has a code governing academic ethics. Any student who is caught cheating on a quiz or exam or who plagiarizes will have his or her case sent to the Dean's Office for adjudication.

The Internet - The instructor's E-mail addresses is at the top of this syllabus & I will check messages on a regular basis. However, I prefer face-to-face communication. **Do not abuse** the internet. If a student repeatedly sends unnecessary messages, I will simply decline to respond.

**If history is not a topic you like and/or if English is a second language**, I strongly recommend that you form study groups. Students who fall into either or both of these categories have told me that forming small groups of seven or eight students helped them immensely in this course.

### **IMPORTANT DATES & READING ASSIGNMENTS:**

{**NOTE:** Each week's reading assignments are set out below. You are required to have these readings completed by the first class of the week in which they are given. However, you are only required to read the pages given in parentheses ( ) following each chapter number. For example, for Week 1 you are only required to read pages 53-60 of chapter 2, pages 67, 74-75, and 82-88 of chapter 3, and so forth.}

#### **Week 1**      21 - 25 January      **The Greco-Roman World**

*The life which is unexamined is not worth living.*  
- Socrates

#### 23<sup>rd</sup> - **First meeting of HIST 100/013**

Readings: Frankforter & Spellman, Chapters 1 (skip); 2 (pp. 53-60); 3 (pp. 67, 74-75, 82-88); 4 (113-121); 5 (pp. 125-131, 135-151); 6 (pp. 155-161, 166-169, 175-183)

#### **Week 2**      28 January - 1 February **From the Dark Ages to the Renaissance**

*The first method for estimating a ruler's intelligence is to look at the men he has around him.*  
- Niccolò Machiavelli

Readings: Frankforter & Spellman, Chapters 7 (pp. 189-201, 205-214); 8 (pp. 224-227, 235-241); 9 (pp. 255-259, 268-272); 10 (pp. 299-300); 11 (pp. 318-321); 12 (pp. 339-361)

**Week 3**      4 - 8 February                      **Exploration, Reformation, Enlightenment**

*Here I stand; I can do no other.*

- Martin Luther

Readings: Frankforter & Spellman, Chapters 12 (pp. 367-373); 13 (pp. 379-403, 406-407, 408-414); 14 (pp. 421-423, 430-440, skim 440-446); 15 (pp. 451-461, 466-467); 16 (pp. 475-485, 487-489)

**Week 4**      11 - 15 February                      **Revolutions in America and France**

[Asked to assess the impact of the French Revolution:] *It's too soon to tell..*

- Chinese Premier Chou En-lai to Henry Kissinger

Readings: Frankforter & Spellman, Chapter 17 (the entire chapter); US Declaration of Independence and Constitution (copies on Blackboard)

**Week 5**      18 - 22 February                      **The Industrial Revolution**

*Hegel remarks somewhere that all facts and personages of great importance in world history occur, as it were, twice. He forgot to add: the first time as tragedy, the second time as farce.*

- Karl Marx

18<sup>th</sup> - **First examination** (tentative)

Readings: Frankforter & Spellman, Chapters 18 (the entire chapter); 19 (pp. 559-560, 563-565, 567-573, 580-583)

**Week 6**      25 February - 1 March                      **Nationalism**

*My country right or wrong; when right, to be kept right; when wrong, to be put right.*

- Carl Schurz

Readings: Frankforter & Spellman, Chapter 20 (pp. 587-597, 608-614); Loewen, "Unknown Well-known Documents", introduction to *The Confederate and Neo-Confederate Reader* (see Blackboard for copy)



