

# **HISTORY OF WESTERN CIVILIZATIONS**

HIST 100-011

Fall 2019

Instructor: Vadim Staklo

Location:

Office: Robinson Hall B, 369

e-mail: Please use Blackboard for communication

Office hours: Monday, Tuesday 6:00-7:00 PM and by appointment

TA: Marissa Hoover  
Allison Kleffman

## **Course description**

The History of Western Civilization course explores the events, personalities, and complex social, political, and cultural changes that have contributed to the genesis of today's world. It follows the great civilizations of Greece and Rome, the Middle Ages, the advent of the Renaissance and the emergence of modern democracy, the rise of the Industrial Age and the collapse of old empires and political systems in the course of the great wars and revolutions. It will also touch upon the key terms, concepts and methods that historians use in their work.

The goal of this course is to gain a better understanding of the western tradition as you learn about primary and secondary sources, historical methodology, periodization, major economic and social developments, and sharpen your analytical, presentation and writing skills.

## **Required text:**

Frankforter, Daniel and William Spellman, *The West: A Narrative History*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition

Additional weekly reading will be posted on Blackboard.

(It is best to read the assigned chapters and primary sources before the lecture).

## **Course requirements**

We will read the textbook and the primary source documents assigned for every class. It is your responsibility to keep up with the readings as we have no recitation sections. Lectures will supplement that and will help identify the most important events and concepts.

Attendance is required, and participation is essential to your grade—10%

The midterm exam will consist of short answer questions and short essays—25%

The final exam, similar in format to the midterm, will focus primarily on the second half of the course but may have questions from the previous period—25%

One analytical paper, 4-5 double-spaced pages, on one or both of the in-class movies, or on a contemporary important issue of your choice from a historical perspective--20% (see me for the approval if you decide to explore your own subject). Writing prompts will be posted on BB.

Quizzes. Surprise quizzes will test your knowledge of the previous week's material and will mostly consist of multiple-choice or short identification questions. I will drop the lowest quiz score when calculating the final grade—20%

All written assignments will be evaluated based on their thesis/argument, use of evidence, and grammar/style. Please submit the analytical paper in hard copy personally in class before the deadline AND submit a digital copy on Blackboard. Note that the digital copy is for filing purposes only, and by itself does not represent the official submission.

Late papers will result in a 5-point final grade deduction for each day past the deadline. We understand real life emergencies, but please provide a letter from a doctor or some other form of proof. If you are forced to miss a midterm or a final, let me know immediately and we will arrange for a make-up. Quizzes cannot be retaken.

Please be considerate of others and turn off and put away cell phones and other electronic devices, unless you are emergency response personnel. It is OK to use your laptops, but only to take notes, and with WiFi turned off. No audio or video recording, please.

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 993-2474, <http://ods.gmu.edu>. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS.

The integrity of the University community is affected by the individual choices made by each of us. Mason has an Honor Code with clear guidelines regarding academic integrity. Three fundamental and rather simple principles to follow at all times are that: (1) all work submitted be your own; (2) when using the work or ideas of others, including fellow students, give full credit through accurate citations; and (3) if you are uncertain about the ground rules on a particular assignment, ask for clarification. No grade is important enough to justify academic misconduct. Plagiarism means using the exact words, opinions, or factual information from another person without giving the person credit. Writers give credit through accepted documentation styles, such as parenthetical citation, footnotes, or endnotes. Paraphrased material must also be cited, using MLA or APA format. A simple listing of books or articles is not sufficient. Plagiarism is the equivalent of intellectual robbery and cannot be tolerated in the academic setting. If you have any doubts about what constitutes plagiarism, please see me.

As a faculty member and designated “Responsible Employee,” I am required to report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per university policy 1412. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact the Student Support and Advocacy Center (703-380-1434), Counseling and Psychological Services (703-993-2380), Student Health Services, or Mason’s Title IX Coordinator (703-993-8730; [cde@gmu.edu](mailto:cde@gmu.edu)).

## CLASS SCHEDULE

- Lecture Introduction
- Lecture 1 Early Civilizations  
Read: Frankforter, pp. 1-63  
Online texts
- Lecture 2 Greece  
Read: Frankforter, pp. 66-123  
Online texts
- Lecture 3 Rome  
Read: Frankforter, pp. 124-185  
Online texts
- Lecture 4 The Emergence of Europe and the “Middle Ages”  
Read: Frankforter, pp. 219-299 (optional: 186-335)  
Online texts  
Movie: *The Man for All Seasons* 1/2
- Lecture 5 Renaissance and Reformation  
Read: Frankforter, pp. 339-415  
Online texts  
Movie: *The Man for All Seasons* 2/2
- Lecture 6 **Midterm exam**  
The Age of Enlightenment and the French Revolution  
Read: Frankforter, pp. 475-525 (optional: 421-525)  
Online texts
- Lecture 7 Movie: *Danton*
- Lecture 8 Napoleonic Era, Industrialization, and the Revolutions of 1848  
Read: Frankforter, pp. 528-576  
**Paper due: *The Man for All Seasons***
- Lecture 9 Nationalism, Imperialism and World War I  
Read: Frankforter, pp. 586-663; 670-675  
Online texts
- Lecture 10 Marxism and the Russian Revolutions  
Read: Frankforter, pp. 577-584; 664-669; 698-701  
Online texts  
**Paper due: *Danton vs. The Man for All Seasons* or Your topic**
- Lecture 11 Interwar Years: The Rise of Authoritarianism  
Read: Frankforter, pp. 679-698

Online texts

- Lecture 12 World War II  
Read: Frankforter, pp. 707-733
- Lecture 13 The Cold War and Beyond  
Read: Frankforter, pp. 736-805  
Online texts