

HIST 100: Western Civilization

Professor: Susan Schulze, Ph.D. sschulze@gmu.edu

OFFICE Hours: T TR 10.30 – 11.30am and 4.30 – 5.30pm

My “office” is a table somewhere in the space outside the Starbucks in the basement of the JC.

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.

Attention: Students with a diagnosed learning pattern contact the Office of Disability Resources at 703.993.2474. Accommodations must be arranged through that office.

OBJECTIVES

- demonstrate the use of History as a tool to understand the present, also called historical perspective.
- explain how change occurred (and is occurring) in the evolution of western civilization.
- equip the student with tools necessary to read critically and to recognize valid analysis.
- develop skills to competently access and assess sources of information.

MATERIALS

Lecture The information in lecture presents the content of the standard historical narrative. This historical narrative can be found in any standard textbook and reputable online reference (e.g. Library of Congress).

Readings and Viewing Lectures are supplemented with articles and documentaries. The articles are assigned in weekly Take Home Exercises (THX). All of the articles are sourced from JSTOR. Our work with the articles targets the development of your critical reading skills and your capacity to handle advanced scholarship. The documentaries are used as a tool to exercise intellectual flexibility.

COURSEWORK

The points flow through the entire semester is 500+ (averaging 40 points each week.).

Your goal is to get to or get as close as possible to 320 points total.

The personal obligation is not perfection; it is to do better with each opportunity.

TAKE-HOME EXERCISES (THX)

There will be at least 12 with a 20 points minimum on each (available points = 240+).

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

Completed work is **due** the following **Tuesday**. **All answers must be written in complete sentences.**

A **hardcopy** of your THX must be submitted by you **or a friend or family** who is nice enough to turn it in for you.

The assignment schedule is rolling which means that work is not accepted after the end of office hours on Tuesday.

If you miss turning in a THX on its scheduled date then you forfeit the opportunity to access those points.

I do not accept work placed in my department box, through Blackboard, or sent by email.

PARAGRAPH PAGES

There will be at least 8 close reading exercises with an 8+ points each (available points = 60+).

These pages (beginning in late September) will be made available through email and Blackboard on Fridays.

Completed work is submitted with your completed THX on Tuesdays.

A pattern (3 times) of work submitted during office hours results in a 5 point deduction.

QUIZZES

There will be 10 quizzes with a 15 points minimum on each (points possible = 150+).

A quiz will occur at the end of each **Thursday** class. **All answers must be written in complete sentences.**

If you are absent then you forfeit the quiz. In other words, generally speaking **no “make-up”** will be provided.

TESTS

There will be 2 tests at 50 points (possible points = 100+).

The inclusion of article content is optional but it is the way to break the 50 point cap on the test.

The tests are 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** 17 October **Test 2** exam date & time set by the university

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

YOUR GRADE

The bar for an A+ is set at 320 points. Your final grade is calculated by dividing the points you earn by 320.

If you earn 240 points by the end of the semester [$240 / 320 = 75$] you will have a final grade of 75, a C.

There are 14 weeks in the semester. So, if you want a C by the end of the semester that means you need to earn at least 18 points each week.

At the end of the semester whatever graded work I am holding after my last scheduled exam will be added up and subtracted from the student’s final grade.

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 midterm. Other than that list, I do not provide points upon request.

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
- Citation is required when using ideas or phrasing from the work of others. No recognition = 0

ABSENCES

The student is responsible for acquiring missed notes from a class-mate. I do not provide lecture notes or copies of the slides. Students are welcome to photograph the slides.

RULES FOR COMPOSITION

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. The act of not presenting citation is the “attempt to present.”

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

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