

(HIST 100)

History of Western Civilization

Prof. Schulze

Office Hour: Friday 11.15am

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.
- 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.

Zoom contact codes will be made available through the “announcements” module on the course Home Page.

SEMESTER PLAN

All students are required to attend at least 1 discussion group each week.

All students are required to attend at least one viewing in a given Movie Week.

The Discussion Group (DG) Schedule of weekly options is as follows.

Monday: 4 groups (10am, 11.15am, 12.30pm, 1.45pm)

Tuesday: 4 groups (10am, 11.15am, 12.30pm, 1.45pm)

Wednesday: 4 groups (10am, 11.15am, 12.30pm, 1.45pm)

Thursday: 3 groups (10am, 11.15am, 12.30pm)

Friday: 1 group (10am make-up DG)

A Movie Week schedule for viewing options is as follows.

Monday: 2 viewings

Tuesday: 2 viewings

Wednesday: 2 viewings

Thursday: 2 viewings

Friday: 2 viewings

Discussion Group Weeks alternate with a Movie week as follows.

24 August - 28 August DG
31 August - 3 September DG
7 September – 11 September Movie Week
14 September – 18 September DG
21 September – 25 September DG
28 September – 2 October Movie Week
5 October – 9 October DG
12 October – 16 October DG
19 October – 23 October Movie Week
26 October – 30 October DG
2 November – 6 November DG
9 November – 13 November Movie Week
16 November – 20 November DG
23 November – 27 November Thanksgiving
30 November – 4 December DG

DISCUSSION GROUP PLAN

Each group is capped at 15 people and lasts approximately 1 hour.

At the beginning of discussion group all students get 3 questions (called the baseline set = 9 points).

The baseline set is loaded into the chat bar of the discussion group.

Each discussion group gets a different baseline set of 3 questions (15 sets of 3 questions).

The questions relate to the content of the lecture, the articles, and movies.

During discussion group each student may acquire more questions on top of the baseline set.

I keep track of the questions each student acquires or answers.

At the end of discussion group all students are assigned a short answer question (FQ = 8 points).

The Final Question (FQ) is structured as follows:

Identify and explain a stage in a process of change.

I pick a process of change discussed in my lectures, such as: the evolution of information technology, the evolution of the middle classes, the agricultural revolution, etc.

After discussion group each student generates a word document with their answers to the baseline set, any additional questions taken during discussion group, and the FQ. This .doc is uploaded into the assignment link I have created on Bb in Course Content.

Discussion Group Rules

If a student misses their scheduled discussion group they can enter another group in the remaining days of the week as long as that alternate group has not maximized its attendance (i.e. 15).

The final chance to correct for a missed discussion group is the make-up discussion group on Fridays.

The “make-up” discussion group is also capped at 15.

If a student misses all the chances to attend a discussion group they forfeit their access to the questions attached to the discussion groups. One of the two weekly assignments is effectively closed.

THERE ARE 2 WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

1. There will be 12 weeks of discussion group questions (DG? at 17 points)
2. There will be 12 Weekly Exercises (WkX at 24 points)

The deadline for submitting answers for weekly assignments is Sunday 11.59pm. I give a subsequent week grace period to get the assignment in (marked as late). After the 7-day grace period the assignment links are shut down. This ends a student's option on submitting that week's DG?s and WkX.

There is no "extra credit." Missed assignments are fixed by taking questions on top of the baseline set in the following week's discussion group.

Medical and family emergencies that are documented can reopen the option on a closed assignment. In these cases, the student is responsible for initiating the discussion with the professor. Documentation must present the relevant dates, the student's name, and some professional indicators. I encourage the student to block out all other personal information. The professor will collect documentation. The TAs will handle collecting the student's work through email.

The TAs are here, in part, to help students format and submit work. While this effort will be sincere it will also be short lived. The TAs are not technicians, if their efforts do not bear fruit then the student is responsible for seeking the appropriate technical support to ensure the timely submission of their assignments, the viewing of the lectures, and attendance in discussion groups.

THE WEEKLY EXERCISES (WkX)

The Weekly Exercises are a set of 4 articles. The tasks are to identify the thesis (2 points), a statement of purpose (2 points), and the analytical form (2 points).

The assignment will be sent out on Monday or Tuesday of each week. Each article in a WkX will be matched to a six point open note quiz in Bb. The thesis and statement of purpose answers are cut and pasted into the quiz answer boxes. The analytical form is a tick-the-box-that-applies type question. The student answers each article quizlet at their own pace until the link closes.

The TAs will be available to help the students with the skills related to answering the tasks set in the WkXs and answering the DG?s.

TECHNOLOGY

While it is possible to connect through a phone, this is not optimum. Screen size is a consideration as the discussion groups are grounded on working through research articles. A tablet, laptop, or desktop are optimum. Problems with connectivity that inhibit effective attendance in discussion group are resolved through attending other discussion groups or the make-up session on Fridays. If connectivity is such that these options also prove to be inoperable then the student is encouraged to drop the course. September 8 is the last day to drop with 100% tuition remission. September 9-15 one can drop with 50% tuition reimbursement.

Viewing the lectures is necessary because the questions in discussion group are grounded upon the lecture content. **Answers that have topical detail with nominal connection to the content of the lectures (and disproportionately more connections with a standard encyclopedia entry) are invalid (automatic 0).** The lectures will be available through Bb. If the student is unable to view the lectures then the student's option at that point is to drop the course. Refer to the above paragraph for the withdrawal schedule.

GRADES: THE POINTS SYSTEM

The goal of the student is to get as many points as they can. Each question from DG answered in writing is worth 3 points. Each question answered verbally in DG is 4 points. There are 12 DG's and 12 WkXs (a total of 492 points). The number of questions a student can take in DG is not capped at 3, so with this potential source of points added into the total from assignments there are well more than 500 points flowing during the semester.

A point total of 350 is an A+.

The final grade is calculated by dividing the points you attain by 350.

The letter grade C is 265 points. [$265 / 350 = .75$]

There are 24 assignments in the fall semester. $265/24 = 11$

One would need to get at least 11 points on each assignment to get a C.

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

To be an honorable person one must avoid the following:

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.