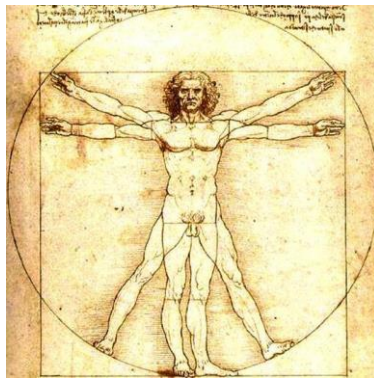


**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**  
Department of History and Art History

***A Survey of Western Civilization***  
**Autumn 2021**

Course	Building/Hall	Room	Days	Time
<b>HIST 100/005</b>	<b>Merten</b>	<b>1200</b>	<b>Mondays/Wednesdays</b>	<b>10.30-11.45 a.m.</b>



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

**Dr Kevin Matthews**  
**Horizon Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**  
**703.993.1250 (main department number)**  
[cmathe2@gmu.edu](mailto:cmathe2@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. Three Scrantron cards Form No. 882-E. Keep these but make sure you have one on exam days.
3. 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 sometimes have had tragic results.

### **TEACHING TECHNIQUES, ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION, and EXAMINATIONS:**

Following 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 are 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**.

Students who are permitted to take exams at the **Testing Center** must obtain the paperwork & send it to me immediately. Once approved you will be given the extra time allotted to take the exams.

You are **personally responsible** for knowing the time and date of all exams and other assignments. That means regularly checking your E-mail. You are **required** to take each exam on the date set by the 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** will be given at a mutually convenient time for the instructor and student. It is up to the student to resolve the matter of make-up work with the instructor — not the other way around.

Regarding the **final exam**: The date for this last test is set by the University and does not conflict with exam times for other courses. Because this date is announced now, **I do not make allowances for students' travel plans**. If you make travel plans that conflict with the final exam you will, as stated above, be assigned a zero grade for this test by failing to take the test at the announced time.

#### **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.

**Use of lap-top computers & audio-recorders** – **All** lap-top computers & any other such devices (e.g., Tablets) are **banned** from these sessions. You should use paper & pen or pencil for taking lecture notes. If you are unable to do so because of a medical issue, 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, first.

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.

**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. It also helps for sharing lecture notes. I do not provide lecture notes to students for any reason.

### 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 **below average** but is a passing grade.

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 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.**

## 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**      23 – 27 August      **The Greco-Roman World**

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

23<sup>rd</sup> - **First session of HIST 100/005**

Required 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)

Required readings on Blackboard: *New York Times* article about laptops & lectures; Woods on Troy; Woods on Troy & Gallipoli; Keegan on Gallipoli; Shaw-Stewart poem; "The Searchers" film synopsis

### **Week 2**      30 August – 1 September      **From Rome to Renaissance**

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

Required 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**      6 – 10 September      **Exploration and Reformation**

*Here I stand; I can do no other.*  
- Martin Luther

6<sup>th</sup> – Labor Day holiday (university closed)

Required readings: Frankforter & Spellman, Chapters 12 (pp. 367-373); 13 (pp. 379-403, 406-407, 408-414)

**Week 4**      13 – 17 September      **The impact of the Enlightenment**

*I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.*  
- Attributed to Voltaire, French Enlightenment philosopher

Required readings: Frankforter & Spellman, Chapters 14 (pp. 421-423, 430-440, skim 440-446); 15 (pp. 451-461, 466-467); 16 (pp. 475-485, 487-489)

**Week 5**      20 – 24 September      **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

Required readings: Frankforter & Spellman, Chapter 17 (the entire chapter)

Required readings on Blackboard: US Declaration of Independence and Constitution

**Week 6**      27 September – 1 October      **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

1<sup>st</sup> - **First examination** (tentative)

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

**Week 7**      4 – 8 October      **Nationalism**

*My country right or wrong; when right, to be kept right; when wrong, to be put right.*  
- Carl Schurz, American abolitionist, soldier, & statesman

Required readings: Frankforter & Spellman, Chapter 20 (pp. 587-597, 608-614)

**Week 8**      11 – 15 October      **Imperialism and its legacy**

*Whatever happens, we have got / The Maxim gun, and they have not.*  
- Hiliare Belloc, Anglo-French writer & historian

11<sup>th</sup> – **Fall break**: Monday classes meet on Tuesday

12<sup>th</sup> – HIST 100 **will meet** on **Tuesday**, the 12<sup>th</sup>, & on **Wednesday**, the 12<sup>th</sup>

Required readings: Frankforter & Spellman, Chapter 21 (pp. 619-634, 637-638)

**Week 9**      18 – 22 October                      **The Great War**

*If any question why we died / Tell them, because our fathers lied.*

- Rudyard Kipling, Epitaphs of the War, 1914-1918

Required readings: Frankforter & Spellman, Chapter 22 (pp. 647-664, 669-674)

**Week 10**      25 – 29 October                      **Age of extremes: Bolsheviks and fascists**

*Freedom only for the supporters of the government, only for the members of one party - however numerous they may be - is no freedom at all. Freedom is always and exclusively freedom for the one who thinks differently.*

- Rosa Luxemburg, Polish-German revolutionary

Required readings: Frankforter & Spellman, Chapter 22 (pp. 664-669); Chapter 23 (pp. 688-690, 698-702)

**Week 11**      1 – 5 November                      **“Dark Valley”: the 1930s**

[Asked if there was any historical parallel to the Great Depression:] *Yes. It was called the Dark Ages, and it lasted 400 years.*

- John Maynard Keynes, British economist

1<sup>st</sup> - **Second examination** (tentative)

Required readings: Frankforter & Spellman, Chapter 23 (pp. 684-688, 690-698)

**Week 12**      8 – 12 November                      **“A close-run thing”: World War II**

*The refusal of the British and Russian peoples to accept what appeared to be inevitable defeat was the great factor in the salvage of our civilization.*

- George C. Marshall, U.S. Army Chief of Staff

Required readings: Frankforter & Spellman,, Chapter 24 (the entire chapter)

**Week 13**      15 – 19 November                      **The Cold War**

*There are people in every time & every land who want to stop history in its tracks. They fear the future, mistrust the present, and invoke the security of a comfortable past which, in fact, never existed.*  
- Robert F Kennedy, American politician

Required readings: Frankforter & Spellman, Chapter 25 (pp. 736-748)

**Week 14**      22 – 26 November                      **End of empire**

*I am not less life-loving than you are. But I cannot sell my birthright, nor am I prepared to sell the birthright of the people to be free.*  
- Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress

24<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving break; HIST 100 **will** meet on the 22<sup>nd</sup>; it will **not** meet on the 24<sup>th</sup>

Required readings: Frankforter & Spellman, Chapter 25 (pp. 748-767)

**Week 15**      29 November – 3 December                      **The dawning of the rest of our lives**

*The only thing new in the world is the history you don't know.*  
- Harry Truman, U.S. President

1<sup>st</sup> - **Last** session of HIST 100/005

Required readings: Frankforter & Spellman, Chapter 26 (the entire chapter)

**Week 16**      8 December                      **Final exam**      10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

{ Because of the large number of students taking this course, I cannot make allowances for students who have **multiple final exams** scheduled on this date. Nor is it possible for students to take the final exam at another time because of **travel plans**. In other words, **do not ask** to be allowed to take this test at another time. }

**PLEASE NOTE: ALL DATES AND ASSIGNMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES.**