

George Mason University, Fall 2012

HIST 100 History of Western Civilization

Course No. 70176, Section 012

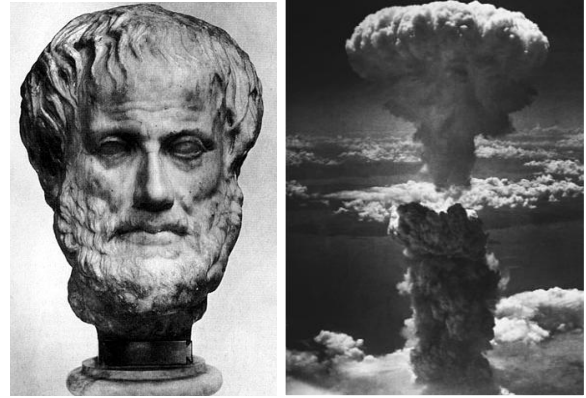
Planetary Hall, Room 122

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30-11:45 a.m.

Instructor: Dr. Gail Hook

Email: ghook@gmu.edu

Office hours: Tuesdays 12 noon – 12:45 p.m.
or by appointment. Location to be announced.



(Left) Aristotle, 384 B.C.E. – 322 B.C.E.

(Right) Atomic bomb over Nagasaki, August 9, 1945

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course is a survey of the development of the western world from ancient times to the present, primarily in Europe and to a lesser extent, the United States. Major themes include the rise and fall of governments and empires, the evolution of cultures and society, philosophy, economics, and commerce, and in the end, the globalization of the West. We will examine these themes through a variety of venues including readings in the textbook, primary documents, articles, and film. **IMPORTANT: Students should possess college-level reading and writing skills. If you have a question about this, please see the instructor or your academic advisor.**

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Students will demonstrate familiarity with the major chronology of Western Civilization.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to narrate and explain long-term changes and continuities in Western Civilization.
- Students will develop multiple historical literacies by analyzing primary sources of various kinds (texts, images, music) and using these sources as evidence to support interpretation of historical events.
- Students will communicate effectively—orally, in writing, and/or using digital media—their understanding of patterns, processes, and themes in the history of western civilization.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

- Spielvogel, Jackson J. *Western Civilization, A Brief History*. 7th edition (2011). Wadsworth Publishing. ISBN-13: 978-0-495-57147-6

GRADING

A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = below 60.

Grades are based on 3 exams (33% each). The exams cover material from the lectures, reading assignments listed in the syllabus and on Blackboard, and films. *Students are responsible for all the material, regardless if it was discussed in class.*

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to attend all classes. Exams will cover material from the lectures as well as readings, so attendance is important. PLEASE arrange your schedule so you can arrive on time and remain for the entire class period. ****NOTE that vacations are not excused absences for exams.** NO early final exams will

be given. Makeup exams will be given only in cases of emergency or unavoidable *documented* absence. (See Examination Policies below)

APPROPRIATE CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

****Appropriate classroom behavior is a requirement for remaining in this class. This means specifically that private conversations, sleeping, texting or other use of cell phones, or any other disruption in the classroom are strictly prohibited. This also requires you to be courteous and respectful of other students in the class in relation to ethnicity or religious beliefs.**

You may use your laptop computer to take lecture notes, but not for any other purpose during class time. No work for other classes will be allowed during class time.

Students violating these rules will be asked to leave the class for the remainder of that class period. Repeated violations will be referred to the Dean of Student Services for additional action.

NOTE that arriving late disturbs the class, so IF you must arrive late for reasons beyond your control, be sure to be quiet and not disrupt the class. Habitual tardiness will be reason for a conference with the Instructor, academic advisor, or Dean of Student Services about whether you should remain in the class. It is your responsibility to schedule your classes and personal schedule appropriately so you can be on time and remain in class for the duration of the class period.

ASSIGNMENTS AND CLASS PARTICIPATION

Assignments in the textbook and the supplementary documents or websites should be read before that week's class. Please be prepared to participate in class discussions about the assigned readings and homework assignments.

EXAMINATION POLICIES

All students are required to take all exams at the scheduled dates and times, including the final exam, which is scheduled by the college. No makeup exams will be given without a medical excuse or other documentation or reason of extreme emergency beyond the students' control. No final exams will be given earlier than the scheduled date and time without a medical excuse or reason of extreme emergency beyond the students' control, so students should take care not to schedule vacations or other personal activities until after the scheduled final exam date.

Note that no restroom breaks are given during exams. If there is a medical problem with this, please let me know ahead of time so we can make other examination arrangements for you.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Any student found cheating, including plagiarism, will receive a grade of "0" for the assignment or exam and may also be referred to the Dean of Student Services for additional disciplinary action. If you are unsure what plagiarism is, you might read through this website:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/>

SPECIAL NEEDS

Please let me know if you have documented special needs or require special accommodations, or if there is any other situation that may prevent you from fully participating in the class or completing the assignments so that I can help to determine reasonable and appropriate accommodations.

WITHDRAWAL FROM CLASS

If you choose to withdraw from this class, it is your responsibility to check the appropriate deadlines and proceed with the withdrawal process.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30-11:45 a.m.

WEEK 1

August 28-30

Read: Spielvogel, Chapters 1-2
Lecture topics: Introduction to the Class
 Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt

WEEK 2

September 3

Labor Day Holiday, University closed

September 4-6

Read: Spielvogel, Chapter 3 and Homer's *The Iliad* [Book 1], and other readings posted on Blackboard
Lecture topics: Homer and the Trojan War / The Persian & Peloponnesian Wars / Classical Greece

WEEK 3

September 11-13

Read: Spielvogel, Chapters 4-6
 Also read through Alexander's speech posted on Blackboard
Lecture topics: Alexander the Great / The Hellenistic World / The Roman Republic / Hannibal and the Punic Wars / Roman Empire

WEEK 4

September 18-20

Read: Spielvogel, Chapters 7-9
Lecture topics: Germanic kingdoms / Byzantine Empire / Rise of Islam / Middle Ages Exam review

WEEK 5

Tuesday, September 25

EXAM #1

Thursday, September 27

Read: Spielvogel, Chapters 10-11, and "The Decameron" readings on Blackboard
Lecture topics: Norman Conquest of England and the rise of other new states / The Crusades / The "Black Death" / The Hundred Years' War / Joan of Arc

WEEK 6

October 2-4

Read: Spielvogel, Chapter 12
Lecture topics: Film in class: *Leonardo da Vinci's Dream Machines*
 Renaissance Humanism / Italian Artistic Renaissance / New statecraft: Machiavelli

WEEK 7

October 8-9

Columbus Day recess (Monday classes/labs meet Tuesday. Tuesday classes do not meet this week)

October 11

Read: Spielvogel, Chapter 13
Lecture topics: The Protestant Reformation / The Catholic Reformation / Politics and Wars of Religion in the 16th c.

WEEK 8

October 16-18

Read: Spielvogel, skim Chapters 14-15, and read Chapter 16
Lecture topics: Elizabethan England (continued from Week 7) / Shakespeare /
 Film clip: *Merchant of Venice*
 Absolutism and Limited Monarchies / Scientific Revolution

WEEK 9

October 23-24

Read: Spielvogel, Chapter 17 and 19; skim through Chapter 18
Lecture topics: The Enlightenment / The American Revolution / The French Revolution
 / Napoleon

WEEK 10

October 30

Exam review

November 1**EXAM #2**

WEEK 11

November 6-8

Read: Spielvogel, Chapters 20-22
Lecture topics: Industrial Revolution / Liberal and Conservative Ideologies / Revolution
 and Reform / Age of Nationalism and Realism 1850-1871

WEEK 12

November 13-15

Read: Spielvogel, skim through Chapters 23-24; Read Chapters 25-26
Lecture topics: World War I / Fascist Italy / Rise of Hitler and Nazi Germany / The
 Spanish Civil War

WEEK 13

November 20

Film: *The Gathering Storm***NO CLASS ON THURSDAY: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY Nov. 21-25**

WEEK 14

November 27-29

Read: Spielvogel, Chapters 27-28
Lecture topics: World War II / The Soviet Union / Stalin / The Cold War

WEEK 15

December 4-6

(December 6 Last day of class)

Read: Spielvogel, Chapters 29-30
Lecture topics: Popular culture and politics in the United States: Women's lib,
 modern art, and the *Beatles* (compared to 21st c. hip hop) / The
 Vietnam War / End of the Cold War / The Western World in a Global
 Age
 Exam review

WEEK 16

Dec. 10-11 (Monday and Tuesday)

Reading Days (No Classes)

December 11-19

Final exam period (No classes)

December 18**Exam #3 Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.**