

WESTERN CIVILIZATION I

HIST A101-603 – Fall 2009

Please read this syllabus carefully and let me know if you have any questions. Otherwise, I will assume you have read and understand the syllabus.

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ARTS 117
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This course is an introduction to Western history from the Neolithic Age to the late sixteenth century. The period was incredibly vibrant, with many of the conflicts of these centuries continuing to resonate within contemporary Western societies and, in some cases, far beyond. We will be examining some of the major themes and events of Western intellectual, political, economic, and social life over this period. A major focus of this course will be the interplay between religion, law and society.

The three main goals of this course are:

1. To introduce the major events and chronological sequence of ancient and medieval Western history.
2. To introduce the major issues and themes of this history, and the debates over them as seen through the eyes of the participants themselves and by historians seeking to understand the past. To this end, you will be reading a large number of primary and secondary works.
3. To introduce the basic techniques of the historical profession, especially those needed for analyzing both primary and secondary material. Most of these techniques will be useful to you in whatever major you are pursuing at UAA.

READINGS

All books are available at the UAA Bookstore.

It is the student's responsibility to acquire all textbooks.

TEXTS: Levack et al., *The West: Encounters and Transformations, volume I* (referred to below as "Levack")
Aristophanes. *Lysistrata*
Chaucer. *Canterbury Tales: The First Fragment*.
Machiavelli. *The Prince*.

BLACKBOARD: Most daily readings are available through the class Blackboard site; assume that any readings not listed above are available through Blackboard unless noted otherwise. You will want to have a copy (electronic or print) out for reference during class discussions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1) This course requires the fulfillment of all class assignments and participation in class activities. Key to fulfilling these requirements is regular class attendance and turning in

assignments on time. **All overdue assignments will be penalized 1 letter grade per day (including weekends and holidays). It is your responsibility to contact me about any missed absences or conflicts.**

2) ***Cheating and plagiarism (the usage of another's work without citation) will be handled with the greatest possible severity including an automatic failure in the course.*** It is your responsibility to understand the provisions of the *Student Code of Conduct for Student Rights, Freedoms, and Responsibilities* in this regard.

No Incomplete grades will be given except under extremely unusual circumstances.

3) Active participation in class discussions is a requirement for this course. ***Please note that we will be discussing topics of a mature and/or controversial nature; I expect everyone to adhere to common standards of courtesy and decorum.*** For class discussions, you will need to come to class having read all assignments and prepared to discuss the issues they raise; bring the readings and your notes to class with you each day. The textbook readings will provide background information for the week's topics, assist you in establishing a basic chronology, and help place the additional readings in their historical context.

4) Pop quizzes may be given throughout the semester. These will be short quizzes drawn from the day's readings, and will be given at the beginning of class. **There will be no make-up quizzes.**

5) Writing is an important component of the course, and essential to an active life as a citizen. Three written papers are required. These will be graded on both content (accuracy, argument and evidence) and writing (grammar, syntax, clarity, structure and style).

All citations for this class will need to follow the Turabian (also known as the Chicago) format. Links to examples of this format can be found on the Blackboard site for this course.

6) E-Mail Policy: I will be checking e-mail daily, but I am not necessarily online constantly. Please do not expect immediate replies. ***Note, however, I will not accept papers through e-mail or file attachment.*** There will also be a Blackboard site where I will be posting items of interest to the entire class (including information on extra-credit opportunities). You will want to check Blackboard a few times over the course of a week.

7) Extra-Credit: Throughout the semester, there might be some talks of interest to our class. I will post these on the Blackboard site as extra credit opportunities. Generally, you will be asked to attend the talk and do a brief write-up. Events and instructions will be posted on Blackboard as appropriate.

GRADING

• CLASS PARTICIPATION/QUIZZES	10%	
• MAP TEST	10%	(Given 10 September)
• SCAVENGER HUNT ASSIGNMENT	25%	(Due 6 October)
• SHORT ESSAY (5-6 pages)	25%	(Due 5 November)
• <u>FINAL PAPER (5-6 pages)</u>	<u>30%</u>	<u>(Due 10 December)</u>
	100%	

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Week 1: Agricultural Revolution

Tuesday, 25 Aug. Course Introduction

Thursday, 27 Aug. Levack, “What is the West?” and Chapter 1

Week 2: Urban Revolution: Law, Religion and Society

Tuesday, 1 Sep. Levack, Chapter 2 and Chapter 3 (stop at page 66)

Thursday, 3 Sep. Hammurabi, selections from the *Code of Hammurabi*
Selections from the *Book of Deuteronomy* and the *Book of Judges*

Week 3: The Greek World

Tuesday, 8 Sep. **LABOR DAY BREAK: No Class**

Thursday, 10 Sep. **MAP QUIZ** (beginning of class)
Chapter 3 (remainder)

Week 4: The Glory that was Greece

Tuesday, 15 Sept. Aristophanes, *Lysistrata* (entire)

Thursday, 17 Sept. Thucydides, “Pericles’ Funeral Oration” and “Melian Dialogue”

Week 5: The Harvest of Hellenism

Tuesday, 22 Sep. Levack, Chapter 4 (stop at page 110)
Diodorus of Sicily, selections from the *Library of World History*

Thursday, 24 Sep. Plato, selections from *Apology*
Aristotle, selections from *Politics*

Week 6: Roman Republic and Revolution

Tuesday, 29 Sep. Levack, Chapter 4 (remainder)
Plutarch, selections from *Lives*, “Tiberius Gracchus”

Thursday, 1 Oct. Sallust, selections from *The War with Catiline*
Cicero, “First Oration against Catiline”
Julius Caesar, selections from *Civil Wars*

Week 7: The Grandeur that was Rome

Tuesday, 6 Oct. **SCAVENGER HUNT DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS**
In-class discussion on the Roman Empire

Thursday, 8 Oct. Levack, Chapter 5
Tacitus, selections from *Germania*
Josephus, selections from *Jewish War*

Week 8: From Empire to Commonwealth

- Tuesday, 13 Oct. Levack, Chapter 6
Edward Gibbon, “The Victory of Christianity”
Paul of Tarsus, selections from *Epistle to the Romans*
- Thursday, 15 Oct. Eusebius of Caesarea, selections from *History of the Church*
Sulpicius Severus, “Life of Martin of Tours”

Week 9: The Rise of Feudalism

- Tuesday, 20 Oct. Levack, Chapter 8
Charlemagne, “Capitulary of the Missi”
Chronicle of the Counts of Anjou
- Thursday, 22 Oct. Levack, Chapter 9
The Rule of Saint Benedict
Venerable Bede, selections from *The Ecclesiastical History of England*

Week 10: The Christian Commonwealth and its Rivals

- Tuesday, 27 Oct. Levack, Chapter 7
Selections from the *Qu’ran*
- Thursday, 29 Oct. Pope Urban II, “Speech at the Council of Clermont”
Selections from *The Song of Roland*
Ibn Al-Qalanisi, selections from *The Damascus Chronicle*

Week 11: High Feudalism

- Tuesday, 3 Nov. Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales* (Prologue, The Knight’s Tale, The Miller’s Prologue and Tale, The Reeve’s Prologue and Tale, and The Cook’s Prologue and Tale)
- Thursday, 5 Nov. **SHORT PAPER # 1 DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS**
Chaucer (continued)

Week 12: Crisis and Rebirth

- Tuesday, 10 Nov. Levack, Chapter 10 and Chapter 11
- Thursday, 12 Nov. Machiavelli, *The Prince* (entire)

Week 13: The Collapse of the Commonwealth

- Tuesday, 17 Nov. Levack, Chapter 13
Martin Luther, selections from *Appeal to the Christian Nobility*
Selection from “Statement of Grievances” of the Diet of Worms
- Thursday, 19 Nov. Levack, Chapter 14
John Calvin, “Reformation Required without Delay”
“The Examination of Elizabeth Dirks”

Week 14: Towards the Modern European State

Tuesday, 24 Nov. Levack, Chapter 15

Thursday, 26 Nov. **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY:** No Classes

Week 15: The West and the World

Tuesday, 1 Dec. Levack, Chapter 12
Christopher Columbus, *Letter from the First Voyage*

Thursday, 3 Dec. Bernardino de Sahagún, selections from *General History of the Things of New Spain*
Bernal Díaz, selections from *The True History of the Conquest of New Spain*

***FINAL PAPER DUE AT 3:45pm THURSDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2009 IN ART 117
(end of final exam period for this class)***