

WE '01  
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SYLLABUS  
Western Civilization I - H-22160  
January 12-March 16 - Friday 1645-2055

Instructor: Donald W. Wilson  
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Text: Richard D. Goff et-al, A Survey of Western Civilization,  
Vol. I, 2d edition, The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.,  
New York, N.Y..

Marvin Perry, et-al, Sources of the Western Tradition,  
Vol. I, 4th edition, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston,  
MA. 2000.

Description: The course surveys European History from the Ancient Period to the Age of Discovery. In doing so, it concentrates on economic, institutional, and political history, as providing a foundation for the historical processes of civilization, but also treats social, cultural, and intellectual developments. In particular, the latter can be found in the "source" readings. As an overall approach it examines the evolution of "secularization" that resulted in the development of scientific inquiry that, has been said, to have led to not only the technology, but the economic and social concepts that are part of contemporary society.

Objectives: To provide the student with an appreciation of the historical events that led to changes in political, social, economic, and philosophical outlooks, that created the modern European civilization. Also, as a corollary, by observing the outcome of the answers of our predecessors utilized to solve their problems, to provide a background by which to judge the solutions offered by today's leaders.

Writing Assignment: An approximately four double spaced typewritten page paper, subject matter to be discussed in class.

Class Format: A combination of lectures and discussion. Visual aids, such as historical videos, will be utilized where applicable. Students are encouraged to raise questions, or make comments, at any time.

Grading: Grading will be based on a point system as follows:

Mid-term Examination...	50	points	Ltr Grade:	200-180=A
Writing Assignment.....	45	"		179-160=B
2 Quizzes - 15pts/ea...	30	"		159-140=C
Final Examination.....	75	"		139-120=D
Total.....	200	"		119- 0=F

CLASS SCHEDULE/READING ASSIGNMENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>
Jan 12	Introduction/Administration	
19	Origins, Israel, Greece.	Text: Chap. 1-3 Sources: Chap. 1-3
26	Greek Culture & its spread - The Roman Beginning.	Text: Chap. 4-6 Sources: Chap. 4
Feb 2	Rome, Republic to Empire and Collapse - Christianity.	Text: Chap. 7-9 Sources: Chap. 5-6
	<u>Quiz #1</u>	
9	Rome's Legacy - Islam - Carolingian Revival.	Text: Chap. 10-12 Sources: Chap. 7,p190-212 8,p219-224
16	Medieval (Middle Ages) Progress - Feudalism.	Text: Chap. 13-15 Sources: Chap. 7,p212-217 8,p225-277
	<u>MID-TERM EXAMINATION</u>	
23	National Monarchy vs Dynasty + Rebirth, Humanism, Nationalism.	Text: Chap. 16-18 Sources: Chap. 9
Mar 2	Early European Expansion - The Reformation - Religious War - Nationalism (Cont)	Text: Chap. 19-21 Sources: Chap. 10-11
	<u>Quiz #2</u>	
9	Absolutism - Science - Enlightenment - Constitutionalism.	Text: Chap. 22,24,25 Sources: Chap. 12-13
16	<u>FINAL EXAMINATION</u>	

## Topics For Essays and Discussion

Jan 19: Compare the Egyptian and Mesopotamian Civilization. In what ways were they similar, and how did they differ? What factors influenced the development of these civilizations?

Describe the development and basic beliefs of the Hebrew religion. How did it differ from the religions of its formative era? What may account for its continuity after the destruction of the Jewish state?

Athens and Sparta are often presented as the models of Greek political development: one militaristic and aristocratic, the other intellectual and democratic. How accurate is this appraisal? To answer this question, one should begin with a description of the social and political evolution of both city states. What similarities do you find?

Jan 26: Perhaps the greatest legacy of Greece is intellectual. Trace the development of Greek science, philosophy, and drama from the pre-Socratic origins through Aristotle. What were the most significant developments and concepts?

During the Hellenistic period, much of the Near East was transformed by new ideas. What was the process of Hellenism, and what did it mean for society? Describe Hellenism in terms of the exchange of ideas in the fields of culture, political administration, philosophy, and science.

Describe Rome's beginning as a small city state ruled by alien kings, its development as a republic, and how the Punic Wars affected this development.

Feb 2: Describe the development of Rome from the Late Republic to its reorganization as an Empire by Augustus, and its subsequent fall. What were the conditions that led the Romans to embark on the road to empire? What caused it to eventually fail?

One of the most important events that occurred during the time of the Roman Empire was the birth of Christianity. Describe the early evolution of Christianity, why was it successful?

Feb 9: European civilization developed out of the Greco-Roman legacy, Germanic culture and tradition, and the Christian religion. What did each of these elements contribute? How did they interact to produce a distinctive European civilization? What impact did the Byzantine Empire have on European civilization?

The rise of Islam was one of the most extraordinary events in world history. Discuss Islam in terms of its origins, its religious, political, and social ideas, and its impact on Europe.

Feb 16: During the Early Middle Ages it is said a distinctly European society emerged. The foundation is identified as a combination of the legacy of Rome, feudalism, and the Roman Catholic Church. Describe the major elements of these entities, and how they contributed to a new Europe.

The era following the division of Charlemagne's Empire is described as a period of growth and achievement. There were, however, also a number of political and religious conflicts, whose resolution contributed to the progress credited to this age. What were these conflicts, what was their effect, and what were the changes that occurred?

The Crusades are probably the greatest symbol of the religious enthusiasm of the age. What were the goals of the Crusades? What motivated people to go on crusade besides religious zeal? What lasting impact did the Crusades have?

Feb 23: During the Late Middle Ages Europe experienced a series of religious, political, economic, and medical crises that contributed to a breakdown of the old order. However, although it might have seemed that the society was on the verge of disintegration, these events opened the way for further movement in new directions. What were the problems that afflicted Europe, and how did they influence its historical development?

During the High Middle Ages the medieval monarchs of England, France, and Germany had common goals and faced similar problems. The solutions to the problems laid the foundations for their modern states. What were these solutions and how did these "lay the foundation for modern states"?

The Renaissance has been described as the period when Western Europe began to turn away from the religious orientation of the Middle Ages towards a secular point of view, and the concept of Humanism. In what ways did the Renaissance display these values, and what was its effect on the evolving society?

Mar 2: The Reformation is considered one of the most significant events in western history. What were its causes, why is it so significant, who were its major figures, and what were its basic doctrines?

In the 15th and 16th centuries Europe began its outward expansion. The process was led by Spain and Portugal. Discuss the motivations for the voyages of exploration of the two nations, what were the major events, and results?

The 16th and 17th centuries in Europe were characterized by long violent wars. As a result of these conflicts there were major political, social, economic, and religious changes. Discuss the motivations for these wars, what did they have in common, and what was distinctive to each? What changes occurred?

Mar 9: In the 17th century absolutism became the dominant form of government in Europe. What was the appeal of this type of government, what were its features, and how does Louis XIV epitomize an absolute monarch?

During the 16th and 17th centuries a movement known as the "Scientific Revolution" took place in Europe. What type of revolution was this, what were its ideas, and who were its principle representatives?

The Enlightenment involved the application of the new science to the study of human society. What were the key beliefs of the Enlightenment, how did the philosophes represent its concepts?

During the 17th century England developed a political system known as Constitutionalism. Describe the process by which this occurred, and the features that contrasted with the absolutist state.