

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
Department of History

HIST 2301 #89-422
Spring 2007
9:05-9:55 MWF
Room 221 LeConte Hall

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Office Hours:

Western Society to 1500

In recent years the very notion of “Western Society” or “Western Civilization” has become the subject of heated debate. Is it accurate to speak of “The West” as the possessor of a distinctive heritage and unified culture? Or, conversely, do we disregard the unique achievements and contributions of the Western world at our peril? With such questions in mind, in this course we will examine Western history from Antiquity to the Age of Exploration. Principal topics will include the legacy of the ancient Mediterranean world, the origins and development of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, the growth of ideas of law and philosophy, the emergence and expansion of Western Europe, and cultural transformation.

Evaluation:

Reading quizzes	10%
Attendance and participation	10%
Short essay	15%
Mid-term exam	15%
Research essay	25%
Final exam	25%

Required Texts:

- T. Noble et al., *Western Civilization: the Continuing Experiment* vol. A, 4th edn.
- M. Perry, *Sources of the Western Tradition* vol. 1, 6th edn.
- *The Song of Roland*
- W. Strunk & E.B. White, *The Elements of Style*, 4th edn.

Attendance, quizzes, and participation:

Attendance is required and will be recorded. Absences will adversely affect your participation grade. Students who miss nine or more times (the equivalent of three weeks of class) over the course of the semester will be dropped (with a WF after March 1). Be on time to all class meetings. Late-comers disrupt the class and will receive nasty looks from the instructor. The consumption of food during class is not permitted, nor is the use of cell phones. Individuals whose phones ring in class may be asked to leave without further warning. The course will be a combination of lecture and in-class discussion. Accordingly, it is absolutely imperative that you *complete all the relevant reading assignments before class* and come prepared to contribute intelligently to the discussion and to answer questions relating to content. *Always bring the Perry text with you to class*; you will not be able to participate effectively in the discussion without it. There will be pop quizzes throughout the semester on your primary source reading

assignments. Quizzes cannot be made up, but depending on how many are given, the lowest one or two may be discounted.

Evaluation of your participation grade will be determined by the following criteria:

- Students who receive an “A” for this portion of their grade are regular attenders, have consistently completed their reading assignments, have systematically thought about the material before class, and actively participate in the class discussions as well as attentively listen and respond to other students.
- “B” students are also regular attenders and also complete their assignments. Such students some of the time actively engaging in class discussions with ideas, perspectives, and questions developed from their own reading and thinking. The “B” student, however, is more passive, waiting for others to raise issues, or awaiting pointed questions from the instructor. This student does not consistently try to respond to the ideas, perspectives, and questions raised by others.
- Students in the “C” category are also faithful in their attendance (a requirement for satisfactory completion of the course). But their role is largely passive, speaking when spoken to but taking no initiative for the quality of the ideas and discussion generated during the class sessions.
- Students who receive lower than a “C” for participation are those who are frequently absent, or unprepared, or silent—or a combination of these difficulties.

Written assignments:

There will be two written assignments for HIST 2301: a short essay (at least five full pages, not including title page), and a research essay (at least eight full pages, not including title page or bibliography) on a topic dealing with some aspect of Western civilization before 1500. Both essays are to be argumentative and based upon the examination of relevant primary sources (and secondary sources in the case of the research essay). Note the following general guidelines:

- Essays will be graded on the quality of argument, textual support, organization, accuracy, and writing ability. They should be completely free of errors in grammar, syntax, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling. The Strunk & White text is a valuable resource—read it thoroughly before submitting any written work.
- Lecture notes and internet sources are not acceptable sources for any written assignment.
- Both essays are to be printed, double-spaced in twelve-point font, paginated, and have a cover page with a title that reflects the paper’s content. Both essays are to be footnoted consecutively and must conform to Turabian style format (see Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* 6th edn., 1996). If you are unfamiliar with the Turabian style, it is your responsibility to learn it. The research essay must include a complete bibliography.

Sample footnote for primary source:

¹ Plato, *The Republic*, ed. M. Perry *et al.*, *Sources of the Western Tradition* vol. 1, sixth ed. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2006), 78.

Sample footnote for a secondary source:

² T. Noble *et al.*, *Western Civilization: the Continuing Experiment* vol. A, fourth ed. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2005), 100.

- Duplicate copies of submitted assignments must be retained by all students (in case of loss or the need for review of an assigned grade).
- Essay assignments are due at the beginning of class on the dates indicated in the course schedule. *No extensions will be given. Do not ask.* I will accept late essays for exactly one week after the due date. A penalty of one-third a letter grade (i.e. from A to A-, B- to C+) per day late (including Saturday and Sunday) will be deducted from the mark of any essay submitted after the due date. If you miss the due date by more than one week, you will be dropped from the course. If this occurs after the midpoint withdrawal deadline, you will receive a grade of WF.
- All essays are to be submitted directly to me. If for any reason you cannot hand your essay directly to me, go to the History department office (220 LeConte) and have the department secretary sign and date your paper. Then slip it under my door; do not ask the secretary to do this (“the secretary must have lost it” is not a valid excuse for a late paper). *Do not leave essays tacked onto or outside my door. Do not email your essay. Do not leave essays in my mailbox or under my door without a date and signature from the department secretary.* I may not be on campus every day, and will deduct points from an unsigned essay up until the day that I pick it up, which could be several days after you left it.

A note on plagiarism:

Be aware that I have a zero-tolerance policy on plagiarism (quoting an author directly without enclosing the passage in quotation marks and citing the source correctly, paraphrasing or summarizing another author's work without citing the source correctly, presenting an idea that was formulated by someone else as your own, reproducing information compiled by another author without citing the source correctly, buying essays, or copying essays). You must cite your sources in footnotes every time you refer to them, not just in a bibliography at the end of the essay. If I detect plagiarism, university policy obligates me to report the incident to the Office of the Vice President for Instruction and the Academic Honesty Committee for review. Possible sanctions include a course grade of F, suspension from the university, and expulsion. If you have any questions or concerns regarding plagiarism, please do not hesitate to speak with me.

Exams:

The mid-term and the final examination will include multiple-choice, short answer, and essay questions, and will be based upon material covered in lectures, assigned readings, and class discussions. They will be given on published dates only. Permission to write an exam on a later date may be granted only if illness or injury has prevented a student from writing an exam at the scheduled time; medical documentation will be required. Conflict with vacation/travel plans is not an acceptable excuse.

Instructor Office Hours:

I will be available for consultation regarding HIST 2301 two days a week, at times posted. No appointment is necessary. Students may also arrange to see me other mutually convenient times if course schedules do not permit consultation during office hours. As a rule, I do not discuss course content over email.

Course schedule and reading assignments:**Week 1: Jan 8, 10, 12**

Mon Introduction

Weds Pre-history & Mesopotamia: Noble, 3-21

Fri Discussion: Perry, 2-12

Start reading Strunk & White, *Elements of Style* (and continue reading throughout semester)

Week 2: Jan 17, 19

Weds Ancient Egypt: Noble, 21-35

Fri Discussion: Perry, 13-18

Week 3: Jan 22, 24, 26

Mon Western Asia: Noble, 39-56

Weds Discussion: Perry, 27-41

Fri Minoans & Ancient Greece: Noble, 57-65, Perry, 46-50

Week 4: Jan 29, 31, Feb 2

Mon Classical Greece: Noble, 69-103

Weds Discussion: Perry, 53-8, 66-8

Fri Discussion: Perry, 77-91

Week 5: Feb 5, 7, 9

Mon The Hellenistic World: Noble 105-33

Weds Discussion: Perry, 91-9

Fri Republican Rome: Noble, 137-69

Week 6: Feb 12, 14, 16

Mon SHORT ESSAY ASSIGNMENT DUE FEB 12

Discussion: Perry, 107-113, 119-23

Weds Imperial Rome: Noble, 173-90

Fri Late Empire: Noble, 203-11; Short Discussion: Perry 143-4, 147-8

Week 7: Feb 19, 21, 23

Mon MIDTERM EXAM MARCH FEB 19

Weds Early Christianity: Noble, 191-9

Fri Discussion: Perry, 160-8

Week 8: Feb 26, 28, Mar 2 MIDPOINT WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE MAR 1

Mon Late Antiquity and new kingdoms: Noble, 203-11, 217-23, 253-7

Weds Rise of the Christian Church: Noble, 211-17, 229-35

Fri Discussion: Perry, 168-74, 184-8

Week 9: Mar 5, 7, 9

Mon Byzantium: Noble, 223-8, 247-53

Weds Rise of Islam: Noble, 239-47

Fri Discussion: Perry, 193-201

SPRING BREAK MARCH 12-16

Week 10: Mar 19, 21, 23

Mon Carolingian and post-Carolingian eras: Noble, 257-66, 283-306

Weds Discussion: Perry, 203, 206-8

Fri Medieval economy and society: 275-83, 317-27

Week 11: Mar 26, 28, 30

Mon Medieval economy and society: Noble, 317-27

Weds Discussion: Perry, 212-22; *The Song of Roland*, stanzas 1-92

Fri *The Song of Roland*, stanzas 93-202

Week 12: April 2, 4, 6

Mon *The Song of Roland*, stanzas 203-91

Weds The Crusades: Noble, 306-13

Fri Discussion: Perry, 226-30, 241-2

Week 13: April 9, 11, 13

Mon Social and religious movements: Noble, 327-33

Weds Medieval learning and culture: Noble, 333-51

Fri Discussion: Perry, 234-40, 246-8

Week 14: April 16, 18, 20

Mon Fourteenth-century Calamity: Noble, 362-74

Weds Discussion: Perry, 258-63

Fri RESEARCH ESSAY ASSIGNMENT DUE APRIL 20
Crisis and Consolidation: Noble, 355-62, 374-88

Week 15: April 23, 25, 27

Mon The Renaissance: Humanism: Noble, 393-402, 410-17

Weds The Renaissance: Fine Art: Noble, 402-10, 417-18

Fri Discussion: Perry, 276-83

Week 16: April 30

Mon Catch-up & review

FINAL EXAM WEDS MAY 2, 8:00-11:00 AM

HIST 2301

First Essay Assignment

This is an exercise in the analysis of primary documents and the concise expression of that analysis in correct essay form. Do not use any sources, primary or secondary, other than those found in Perry, *Sources of the Western Tradition*, and any class handouts. Footnotes must conform to Turabian style format. See pages 2 and 3 of the syllabus for further requirements.

Write an argumentative essay at least five full pages long (not counting title page; a bibliography is not necessary for this assignment) on one of the following topics:

1. Compare and contrast the Mesopotamian, Egyptian and Hebrew concepts of deity. What role or function did the gods / God play in these ancient societies? How did people relate to the divine?

or

2. Assess the status of women in classical Greece and Rome. Discuss some of the specific societal values evident from the manner in which women were treated among the Greeks and Romans.

or

3. Discuss the development of law among the Mesopotamians, the Hebrews, and the Romans. Did these societies view law differently from one another? Did law become more sophisticated over time or did it remain fairly consistent from one society to another?

Essays are **due at the beginning of class February 12th**. There will be no extensions of the deadline. A penalty of one-third a letter grade per day late, including weekends, will be deducted from the mark of any essay submitted after the due date. All essays are to be submitted directly to me. Essays left under my door **must** have the department secretary's signature and date. Do not leave essays outside or tacked to my door. Do not email essays.