

HIST 117: Civilization I

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Office Hours: MW 9:00-9:50, 11:00-11:50
TR 1:55-2:55, F 9:00-9:50

Fall 2010
MWF 10:00-10:50
ADM 321
3 credit hours

Course Description: This course provides a survey of the social, economic, religious, political, and aesthetic activities of western civilization from the earliest times to c. 1660, with particular emphasis on worldview and its development over time. The course explores major themes such as the makings of civilization, the development of political institutions, commerce/expansion, and social, cultural, and religious developments. Lecture, discussion, and course readings from primary documents will illustrate these themes in order to paint the larger picture of ancient and medieval western history and worldviews.

Purpose of this course: To promote global citizenship, historical curiosity and cultural sensitivity. By examining the historic underpinnings of our own civilization, this course should deepen our understanding of ourselves and our way of looking at the world.

Course Goals/Student Outcomes and Competencies: This course seeks not only to communicate facts, but also to cultivate knowledge of chronology, trends, themes, and connections that will help students build a holistic understanding of western civilization. Upon completion of the course, successful students will be able to describe the trajectory of western history from the ancient to the early modern period, analyze and evaluate primary source material related to course themes, and compare and contrast various western worldviews. Students will also be able to relate ancient and medieval worldviews to their own understandings of the world and their place in it. The course requires critical thinking, analysis, and use of writing skills. The coursework also seeks to foster a historical perspective in students, that is, an understanding of and appreciation for the worldviews of the past, and an ability to relate that knowledge to the present.

What I expect of you: This course is designed for entry level students and may be used to satisfy Core requirements. Students should come to class on time, prepared, and ready to think through the full class period. Be ready to ask questions and participate in discussion, if appropriate. Apply yourself thoughtfully to your assignments, and turn them in on time. If you are engaged with the material, you will get more out of the class. All students must regularly check their ACU email accounts.

What you may expect of me: I will come to class prepared to make the coursework as clear and as interesting as I can. I will listen willingly to suggestions or comments on the course, when appropriate. I will start class on time and let you out on time. I will endeavor to return your assignments to you with thoughtful, helpful comments on them, and in a timely manner. As well, I will always be available to assist you in any way that I

can. Email is the best way to reach me, and I will do my best to respond to emails within 24 hours. I am always glad to meet with you during office hours or by appointment.

Mission Statements: The mission of Abilene Christian University is to educate students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world. ACU's College of Arts and Sciences mission is to educate students for worldwide Christian service and leadership through programs of study and other learning experiences that blend a liberal arts education with professional and career education.

Christian Perspective: This course is taught from a perspective of Christian faith. Students at Abilene Christian University should be able to interrogate their own views of history and the role religion has played in it. In this course, emphasis on worldview will help students understand and compare human religiosity in different times and places, and compare their own faith to that of past cultures.

I will be happy to meet with students to discuss issues of faith and ethics, church, plans for jobs, internships, or graduate school, or other topics.

"Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord. Isaiah 1:18

Required texts:

The Making of the West: Peoples and Cultures, 3rd ed., Vol. I To 1740, edited by Lynn Hunt, et al.

Sources of The Making of the West: Peoples and Cultures, 3rd ed., Vol. I to 1740, by Katherine J. Lualdi

Brief additional readings will be available on Blackboard and will include selections from:

The Epic of Gilgamesh

Homer, *The Iliad*

Plato, *The Allegory of the Cave*

The syllabus schedule and/or assignments may be altered at any time, according to my discretion, and with due notice to students.

Grading/Exams: Grades are reflective of your ability to master the material presented in lecture, discussion, and assigned readings. We will have two examinations. The first, a multiple-choice exam, will be at mid-term and will cover all material from the first half of the course. The second, final exam will cover the second half of the course (multiple choice) but will also include cumulative essay questions.

Assignments: Primary source response paper: Each student will write a paper based on the readings of the assigned primary source texts. This paper must be submitted to SafeAssign for review, and plagiarism will not be tolerated. A detailed prompt will be provided for this assignment in class. The paper will be 1000 words in length, and is worth 300 points. Students must turn in a hard copy of the paper to receive a grade.

Breakdown of grading, for 1000 total points:

100 points attendance and participation in discussion

300 points primary source response paper

600 points exams (250 midterm, 350 final)

Final grades for the course will be based on the percentage of points earned out of total possible points.

Grade scale:

A = 100-93 B = 86-83 C = 76-73 D = 66-63

A- = 92-90 B- = 82-80 C- = 72-70 D- = 62-60

B+ = 89-87 C+ = 79-77 D+ = 69-67 F = 59 and below

No extra credit is offered in this course.

Course Policies:

Attendance/Participation: Attendance will be taken on a daily basis, and students who consistently fail to come to class will be dropped. In-class discussion is a major component of this course. *Be advised that students who do not participate in discussion, or who fail to contribute substantively to discussion, will also lose participation points* (e.g, "I agree with what Jack said," is not a substantive contribution.) Please be aware that the participation points section of your grade is based on my observation, throughout the semester, of your attendance, contribution to discussion, and overall engagement in the class. Reading quizzes may be given over assigned texts; these points also go towards the participation grade. Habitual talking or cell phone disruption, including texting or internet surfing, will result in loss of participation points.

Make-ups: Tests may be made up for documented excused absences. **Late assignments/projects will receive a 5-point deduction per school day for each day they are late.** Assignments turned in on the due date, but after the class period, will be considered one day late. Papers turned in the day after the due date will be considered two days late, and so on. *No assignments will be accepted more than two weeks after the due date*, except under documented circumstances or at the professor's discretion.

Academic Integrity: Presenting someone else's work as your own, whether intentionally or not, is plagiarism. Plagiarism will result in a zero on the assignment and/or an F in the course. See the full university policy on plagiarism at <http://www.acu.edu/campusoffices/provost>).

Students with disabilities should provide proper documentation through Student Disability Services. SDS assists students with disabilities in obtaining appropriate academic accommodations.

All students are expected to adhere to the dress code as articulated in the student

handbook. Students who fail to do so will be asked to leave the classroom.

A significant portion of course time will be spent in discussion. Always, but particularly in discussion context, students are expected to conduct themselves with courtesy and sensitivity towards other students, the professor, and the course material.

Schedule of Topics/Assignments:

Week 1: Introduction

Monday 23 August – Introduction to course and each other

Wednesday 25 August – Western Civ defined

Friday 27 August – What is a worldview?

Read: *Making of the West*, P-3-P-16, 1-6

Week 2: Foundations of civilization

Monday 30 August – Introduction to the Ancient Near East

Wednesday 1 September – ANE continued

Friday 3 September – discuss Gilgamesh

Read: *Epic of Gilgamesh* (Blackboard); *Sources* 15-26; *Making of the West*, 7-13

Week 3: Aegean Civilizations and Homeric Greece

Monday 6 September – **Labor Day, no school**

Wednesday 8 September - Greek Foundations: Minoans and Mycenaeans; discuss Iliad

Friday 10 September – Mesopotamian Empires and Archaic Greece

Read: *Iliad* (Blackboard), *Making of the West*, 23-46

Week 4: Classical Greece

Monday 13 September – Greece's golden age

Wednesday 15 September – Greece's golden age, cont.

Friday 17 September – Greek philosophy; discuss Plato

Read: Plato, *Allegory of the Cave* (Blackboard); *Making of the West*, 47-101

Week 5: Hellenistic to Roman

Monday 20 September – Alexander the Great

Wednesday 22 September – Hellenistic World

Friday 24 September – Rise of Rome

Read: *Making of the West*, 103-131; *Sources* 79-83, 88-93

Week 6: Rome

Monday 27 September – The Roman Republic

Wednesday 29 September – The Decline of the Republic and the Principate

Friday 1 October – The Roman Empire

Read: *Making of the West*, 133-180

Week 7: Fall of Rome

Monday 4 October – Fall of Western Roman Empire
Wednesday 6 October – Rise of Christianity
Friday 8 October – MID-TERM EXAM
Read: *Making of the West*, 181-229; *Sources* 123-131

Week 8: Developments in the East
Monday 11 October – Emergence of Islam
Wednesday 13 October – Byzantium
Friday 15 October – **Homecoming, no school**
Read: *Making of the West*, 231-259; *Sources* 153-161

Week 9: Romans, Germans, Christians
Monday 18 October – Barbarian to European
Wednesday 20 October – New Institutions in the Early Middle Ages: King, Monk, Pope
Friday 22 October – Rise of the State
Read: *Making of the West*, 261-293; *Sources* 162-169

Week 10: Political and Economic Developments in the Middle Ages
Monday 25 October – Carolingian State
Wednesday 27 October – Carolingian Culture
Friday 29 October – Feudalism
Read: *Making of the West*, 295-325; *Sources* 170-177
Primary Source Response Paper due Friday 29 October

Week 11: Medieval Institutions
Monday 1 November – The Emergence of Towns
Wednesday 3 November – Gown and Crown
Friday 5 November – Holy Mother Church and Investiture
Read: *Making of the West*, 327-357; *Sources* 188-195

Week 12: Late Middle Ages
Monday 8 November – Achieving Stability in the Late Middle Ages
Wednesday 10 November – Knights and the Crusades
Friday 12 November – Medieval Scholarship
Read: *Making of the West*, 359-384; *Sources* 195-211

Week 13: Crisis and Transition
Monday 15 November – Plague and transition; discuss Dante
Wednesday 17 November – Renaissance in Italy
Friday 19 November – Renaissance humanism; discuss Mirandola
Read: *Making of the West*, 387-416; *Sources* 247-254

Week 14: Renaissance culture
Monday 22 November – Renaissance art
Wednesday 24 November – **Thanksgiving, no class**
Friday 26 November – **Thanksgiving, no class**

Read: *Making of the West*, 419-425

Week 15: Religious Reform

Monday 29 November – Protestant Reformation

Wednesday 1 December – Protestant Reformation, cont.

Friday 3 December – Discussion and Review: Worldview and Rise of the Modern

Read: *Making of the West*, 426-449; *Sources* 278-285

Final Exam: 2-3:45 p.m., Tuesday, December 7. Please note that final exams are scheduled by the university. Final exams may not be taken early.