

HIST 118 (Civilizations II) should be approved for the Cultural Awareness Menu.

Through the historical study of the interactions between widely varying people, material cultures, ideas, and religious perspectives, Civilizations II cultivates students' "capacity to identify (their) . . . own cultural patterns, compare and contrast them with others, and adapt . . . to other ways of being." The course opens in the fifteenth century A.D., a period of European expansion and discovery. Western people found their own identities and assumptions challenged as they interacted with the Other in the East and in the Americas. As we proceed through history to the twenty-first century, themes of globalization, cross-cultural communication, empire, "civilizing mission," and war drive lecture and discussion. Course content challenges mainline interpretation of Atlantic slavery by highlighting African agency, asks students to question strict dichotomies between the Muslim and Christian worlds, and forces engagement with questions about the relationship between faith and colonialism.

The class provides critical background to contemporary issues of globalization, creole identities, race, and religious and cultural hegemony. As such, it promotes curiosity and sensitivity towards diverse cultures and perspectives by getting to the historical roots of current intercultural problems and relationships. Please see particularly italicized sections from course syllabus below.

Course Description: This course provides a survey of the social, economic, religious, political, and aesthetic activities of Western civilizations from c. 1500 to the present, with particular emphasis on worldview and its development over time. The course explores major themes such as the creation of the state, exploration and colonization, slavery and the Atlantic economy, social and political revolution, modernity, and post-modernity. Lecture, discussion, and course readings from primary and secondary documents will illustrate these themes in order to paint the larger picture of modern history and worldviews.

Purpose of this course: To cultivate the student's ability to think critically, consider information in context, and write about and discuss information in an incisive and analytical fashion. *The course also seeks 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 history. Upon completion of the course, successful students will be able to describe the trajectory of Western history from 1500 to the present, analyze and evaluate primary source material related to course themes, and *compare and contrast various worldviews. Students will also be able to relate historic worldviews to their own understandings of the world and their place in it.* The course requires critical thinking, analysis, and use of writing skills.