

HIST 117: Civilization I

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Office Hours: MWF 9-11 and by appointment

Spring 2015
TR 8:00-8:50
ADM 310
3 credit hours

Course Description: This course provides a survey of the social, economic, religious, political, and aesthetic activities of human civilization from the earliest times to c. 1660, with particular emphasis on worldviews and the development of cultures over time.

Broad course themes include the following:

- the making of human civilization and how civilization is defined
- the development of political and economic institutions and ideas
- commerce, expansion, warfare, and cross-cultural exchange
- social constructions such as gender, class, and other markers of status
- religion's development and role in society and culture
- the relationship between physical/ecological environment and religion/culture

Lecture, discussion, and course readings from primary documents will illustrate these themes in order to paint a larger picture of ancient and medieval 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. Students should emerge with a greater sensitivity to both historic and contemporary diversities of culture and worldview.

Student Learning Outcomes/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 human civilizations. Upon completion of the course, successful students will be able to describe the trajectory of human history from the ancient to the early modern period, analyze and evaluate primary source material related to course themes, and compare and contrast various worldviews.

Students will learn to relate ancient and medieval worldviews to their own, demonstrating the capacity to identify their own cultural patterns, compare and contrast them with others, and adapt to other ways of being. 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 engage in thoughtful discussion. Turn assignments in on time. If all of us are engaged with the material and with each other, we will all 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. You are also welcome to text or call my cell phone (number provided above) before 10pm. 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. We believe that the study of the past enlightens our understanding of the present and our insight into the future. The ACU Department of History and Global Studies seeks to examine the experiences of mankind, stimulate thought concerning various institutions and ideas, and promote ethical standards in keeping with the Christian faith.

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. In particular, this course will explore the origins and development of Christianity and the church, and seek to promote students' sensitivity to the varied and rich history of the faith. As the professor, I will always try to be transparent about my own understanding of faith and how history informs that.

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. I am also glad to meet with students to fill in holes in notes or to clarify confusing material, or to look over rough drafts of papers or projects. Please come and see me during office hours; I would be delighted to know you better!

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

Textbook:

Western Civilizations vol. 1, by Coffin, Stacey, Cole and Simes (Norton Press).

It is recommended that students purchase this text and read the assigned sections noted for each week, keeping up with the lecture and discussion material. However, the textbook is not required, and I will not take any test questions from it. Students should decide for themselves how much additional structure they would like and choose accordingly. Exam questions will come from primary source readings and from class lecture and discussion.

Primary source readings will be available online on our course OpenClass page and will include selections from:

The Epic of Gilgamesh

Homer, *The Iliad*

Plato, *The Allegory of the Cave*

Virgil, *The Aeneid*

The Quran

Accounts of the Battle of Tours

Accounts of the Invasions of the Northmen

William of Malmesbury, *The Battle of Hastings*

Dante, *Inferno*

Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince*

Martin Luther, *The Freedom of a Christian*

The Augsburg Confession

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 will be at mid-term and will cover all material from the first half of the course. The majority of the second, final exam will cover the second half of the course, but it will also include cumulative essay questions.

Assignments: Two major projects are required in this course. One, a primary source response paper, is a formal writing assignment to be completed individually. The other, a primary source presentation and discussion, is a formal presentation to be given by a group of students.

Primary source response paper: Each student will write a paper based on the readings of the assigned primary source texts. A detailed prompt will be provided in class. The paper will be 1000 words in length, and is worth 250 points. Students must turn in a hard copy of the paper to receive a grade. Papers turned in more than two weeks after the due date will not be accepted, except in extenuating circumstances to be determined at the discretion of the professor. Plagiarism will not be tolerated, and failure to give credit to work that is not your own will result in an automatic 0 on this assignment.

Primary source presentation and discussion: Students will be assigned to groups during the first week of class. Each of these groups will be responsible for giving a presentation on their primary source, and for leading discussion of the source with the rest of the class. The presentation/discussion is worth 200 points.

Breakdown of grading, for 1000 total points:

100 points attendance *and participation in discussion*

250 points primary source response paper

200 points primary source presentation/discussion guide

450 points exams (200 midterm, 250 final)

Final grades for the course will be based on the percentage of points earned out of total possible points. Students may check their grades on Blackboard throughout the semester.

Grade scale:

A = 100-90 B = 80-89 C = 70-79 D = 60-69 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 miss more than 6 classes (20% of the course) will be dropped with a grade of F.** Three tardies constitute one absence. 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,” or “it was boring,” 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, reading of outside materials, texting, and internet surfing will result in loss of participation points. iPhones and iPods should never appear in class unless the professor expressly asks students to use them. This includes note-taking. Please take notes on paper or on a laptop; iPhones should not be used for this purpose.

Make-ups and late work: Tests may be made up for documented excused absences. **Late assignments/projects will receive a 10-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 includes, but is not limited to, the following:

Intentional or unintentional failure to give credit to sources used in a work in an attempt to present the work as one's own.

Submitting for credit in whole or in part the work of others.

Submission of paper(s) or project(s) obtained from any source, such as a research service or a club paper file, as one's own.

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.

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

Tuesday 13 January – Introduction to course and each other

Thursday 15 January – Caveats: Who defines “Western” and “Eastern?”; What is a worldview?

Read: *Epic of Gilgamesh* selections; *Western Civilizations* 3-21

Week 2: Foundations of Civilization

Tuesday 20 January – Introduction to the Ancient Near East

Thursday 22 January – Gilgamesh presentation and discussion

Read: *Epic of Gilgamesh* selections; *Western Civilizations* 37-40, 46-71

Week 3: Aegean Civilizations and Homeric Greece

Tuesday 27 January – Minoans and Myceneans

Thursday 29 January – Iliad presentation and discussion

Read: *Iliad* selections; *Western Civilizations* 73-93

Week 4: Classical Greece

Tuesday 3 February – Mesopotamian Empires and Archaic Greece

Thursday 5 February – Greece’s golden age

Read: Plato, *Allegory of the Cave*; *Western Civilizations* 93-105

Week 5: Hellenistic to Roman

Tuesday 10 February – Greek philosophy; Plato presentation and discussion

Thursday 12 February – Alexander the Great; Hellenistic World

Read: *Aeneid* selections; *Western Civilizations* 107-139

Week 6: Rome

Tuesday 17 February – Rise of Rome; *Aeneid* presentation and discussion

Thursday 19 February – The Roman Republic; The Decline of the Republic and the Principate

Read: *Western Civilizations* 141-173

Week 7: Fall of Rome

Tuesday 24 February – The Roman Empire; Fall of the Western Roman Empire

Thursday 26 February – Rise of Christianity

Read: *Western Civilizations* 175-205

Week 8: Developments in the East

Tuesday 3 March – MID-TERM EXAM

Thursday 5 March – Emergence of Islam; Quran presentation and discussion

Read: *Quran* selections; *Western Civilizations* 207-223

SPRING BREAK, MARCH 9-13

Week 9: Romans, Germans, Christians

Tuesday 17 March – Barbarians to Europeans; New Institutions in the Early Middle

Ages: King, Monk, Pope

Thursday 19 March – Rise of the State

Read: *Accounts of the Battle of Tours*; *Western Civilizations* 223-230

Week 10: Political and Economic Developments in the Middle Ages

Tuesday 24 March – Carolingian State and Culture

Thursday 26 March – *Battle of Tours, Invasions of the Northmen, and Hastings* presentation and discussion; Feudalism

Read: *Accounts of the Invasions of the Northmen*; William of Malmesbury, *Battle of Hastings*; *Western Civilizations* 231-247

Primary Source Response Paper due Thursday 26 March

Week 11: Medieval Institutions

Tuesday 31 March – The Emergence of Towns

Thursday 2 April – Gown and Crown

Read: William of Malmesbury, *Battle of Hastings*; *Western Civilizations* 247-273

Week 12: Late Middle Ages

Tuesday 7 April – Holy Mother Church and Investiture; Achieving Stability in the Late Middle Ages

Thursday 9 April – Knights and the Crusades

Read: *Western Civilizations* 275-309

Week 13: Crisis and Transition

Tuesday 14 April – Medieval Scholarship

Thursday 16 April – Plague and Transition; Dante presentation and discussion

Read: Dante's *Inferno*; *Western Civilizations* 311-326

Week 14: Renaissance culture

Tuesday 21 April – The Renaissance

Thursday 23 April – Renaissance art and music; Machiavelli presentation and discussion

Read: Machiavelli, *The Prince*; *Western Civilizations* 329-336, 373-397

Week 15: Religious Reform

Tuesday 28 April – Protestant Reformation

Thursday 30 April – Luther and Augsburg presentation and discussion; Review: Worldview and the Rise of the Modern

Read: Luther, *On the Freedom of a Christian* and the Augsburg Confession; *Western Civilizations* 399-425