HIST 101: Introduction to Western Civilization to 1660

Fall, 2009
TTH 2:20-3:35
Animal Industries 215

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Glasscock 007

Course Description

This class is an undergraduate survey of the history of Western Civilization to 1660. It pays particular attention to how political, social and intellectual developments differently shaped ancient Greece and Rome, medieval western and eastern Europe and the British Isles. No previous background in history is necessary. In this course, students will learn about not only the people and problems of the period, but also the discipline of history and the skills and techniques of the historian. We will therefore read a number of primary sources (i.e., sources written during the time that we are studying) in translation. Once each week, we will discuss a different primary source or group of sources in class.

Core Objectives for Language, Philosophy and Culture Foundational Component Area

Critical Thinking (to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information)

Communication (to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication)

Social Responsibility (to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities)

Personal Responsibility (to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making)
Student Learning Outcomes

Through this course, students will be able to:
1) evaluate and synthesize primary and secondary historical writings.
2) express their own ideas effectively in written and oral form.
3) identify historical and social contexts that created diversity in past and present human cultures.
4) apply knowledge about the human condition in the past and present to their personal lives and studies.

Prerequisites

None

Required Texts

Michael Burger, ed., *Sources for the History of Western Civilization, Vol. I*
Online Course Reader at Electronic Course Reserves <http://library.tamu.edu>

Course Requirements & Grading

You are expected to arrive punctually to all classes. I expect students to participate by attending class, doing weekly readings, and completing written work.

Graded course work will include:

*midterm exam (35%)
*final exam (35%)
*three primary source response papers (3@10%/each=30%)

Each assignment will be evaluated using the following percentage scale:

A  90-100
B  80-89
C  70-79
D  60-69
F  <59

You will find that regular attendance and participation in discussions will greatly increase your performance in this class. The midterm and final exams will incorporate readings and lecture and will have multiple choice questions and a short essay. The primary source response papers will require you to write a 2-page (500 word) analysis of three different primary sources from the ones we discuss this semester. You may choose which sources you want to
write on but must write one by Week 5, one by Week 10, and one by Week 13. The response paper will be due on the day we discuss the accompanying primary source in class.

The class is large, so you are encouraged to visit me or the T.A. in our office hours to introduce yourself. If we know who you are, we are more likely to be able to help you with your coursework and to be aware of your level of participation in the class.

Late Policy
I will only accept assignments late in the case of excused absences as defined by and in accordance with TAMU Student Rules: Attendance (http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07).

Academic Misconduct
"An Aggie Does Not Lie, Cheat or Steal or Tolerate Those Who Do." The Aggie Honor System Office (http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/) offers a clear definition of "Academic Misconduct." It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic misconduct and the processes mandated by the Aggie Honor Systems Office to deal with potential violations.

Respect and the Academic Environment

The college classroom is a forum for the discussion of ideas, and you may disagree with some of the views expressed in this class by me or other students. In order for us to speak openly and critically about the topics of the course, we must work together to create an environment that is both respectful and critically engaged. Hissing and other disrespectful behaviors will not be allowed in this classroom.

ADA- Students with Disabilities
The Americans with Disabilities Act is a federal anti-discrimination law that provides civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this law requires that students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If a student believes that they have a disability requiring accommodation, they should contact the Department of Disability Services, in Cain Hall (campus phone 845-1637) http://disability.tamu.edu/.

Course Schedule & Reading Assignments

Required readings for each week are listed below, along with a letter indicating the source in which they can be found (e.g., [T] for the Levack textbook, [R] for the Online Course Reader). Readings in the Burger sourcebook are marked with the number of the reading (e.g., [2] for the Code of Hammurabi, the second reading in the book). Readings that will be discussed in class are noted.
Week One: Introductions

9/1 What is Western Civilization?
[T] 3-8
Read in class: How to Read a Document [Handout]

9/3 Origins of Civilization
[T] 11-20, 27-30
Discuss: Creation Epics [R]; Code of Hammurabi [2]

Week Two: Ancient World
9/8 Small States of the Iron Age
[T] 42-66

9/10 Ancient Israel and Beginnings of Greece
View: Material Evidence Concerning the Greek World [14]

Week Three: Greek Civilization

9/15 Greek Culture
Read: Sappho of Lesbos, Poems [R]
[T] 66-89

9/17 Greek Philosophy
Discuss: Plato, Symposium [12]

Week Four: Roman Civilization

9/22 From Republic to Empire
[T] 110-158

9/24 Roman Culture
Discuss: Marcus Tullius Cicero, Letters [15]

Week Five: Late Roman World and the Beginnings of Christianity
FIRST PRIMARY SOURCE RESPONSE PAPER DUE BY TUESDAY

9/29 Pagans and Christians: First Encounters
[T] 158-190

10/1 Film: From Jesus to Christ
Discuss: Film
Week Six: Mediterranean World I
10/6 Byzantine Empire [T] 190-219
10/8 Birth of Islam [T] 219-235
Discuss: Selections from the Qur’an; Pact of Umar [R]

Week Seven: Mediterranean World II
10/13 Germanic Tribes

10/15 Midterm

Week Eight: Medieval Transformations
10/20 World of the Middle Ages [T] 237-268
10/22 Expansion and Counter-expansion: Reform and Crusade
Read: Ibn al-Qalanisi, Damascus Chronicle [R] Discuss: Readings on the Crusades

Week Nine: High Middle Ages
10/27 Arts and Smarts: The Medieval Renaissance [T] 271-305
Discuss: Documents on the Plague [R]

Week Ten: Beginnings of the Renaissance
SECOND PRIMARY SOURCE RESPONSE PAPER DUE BY TUESDAY
11/3 Renaissance, Discovery, and Conquest [T] 377-406
11/5 Renaissance Cultures [T] 343-373
Discuss: Marie de l’Incarnation, Letters [53]; Documents on the New World [R]

Week Eleven: Civilization of the Renaissance
Read: Martin Luther, Letters [49]
11/12 Reformation Continued
[T] 423-430
No Discussion today

**Week Twelve:** Protestant Reformation

11/17 Protestant Reformation and Catholic Reformation
[T] 430-439, 457-460

11/19 Witch Trials and Popular Culture
Discuss: Documents on the Witch Trials [R]

**Week Thirteenth:** Religious Wars and State Building

THIRD PRIMARY SOURCE RESPONSE PAPER DUE BY TUESDAY

11/24 A Century of Religious Wars
[T] 460-469

11/26 No class – Happy Thanksgiving!

**Week Fourteenth:** Early Modern World

12/1 Early Modern Cultures

12/3 Scientific Revolutions
[T] 513-525
Discuss: TBA

**Reassigned day:** Beginnings and Endings

12/8 What is Modern?

**Final Exam:** This exam will be administered according to the University Exam Schedule