

HY 105
HONORS WESTERN CIVILIZATION I: TO 1648
Spring 2004
T TR 9:30-10:45

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Office Hours: MWF 10-11, or by appointment

“Not to know what happened before you were born – this is forever to be a child.”
-- Cicero, *De Oratore*

Course Description

This course is foundational in every respect. Its subject matter concerns some of the most foundational themes, subjects and issues of the Western heritage; it is a course that offers foundational training in the craft of history – the reading, critiquing and arguing over sources and studies that real historians do every day. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, it introduces students to the ethical foundations of college-level intellectual life. It demands of them daily hard work, concentration, a willingness to think critically, to argue civilly, to experiment, and ultimately to grow as historians, scholars and adults in civil society. For all these reasons, this is a course that, if taken seriously, can repay its participants’ efforts by continuing to enrich their personal and professional lives many years after they have left the University of Alabama. There are no prerequisites.

Course Objectives

The substantive and methodological aims of the course may be summarized as follows:

- ❖ **To describe in detail** and be able **to evaluate comparatively** the lives and experiences of those who lived Western history to 1648.
- ❖ **To identify, to question and critique** some of the most important **primary** sources relevant to a given question concerning that history.
- ❖ **To argue eloquently** in speech and writing over the issues of broad historical significance within the context of the course.

Requirements, Grade Distribution and Policies:

❖ Attendance Policy

- Your prompt attendance is expected and will be checked daily.
- You are allowed **THREE UNEXCUSED ABSENCES**. For each unexcused absence after the third, you will lose **5% of your final grade**. Students will be held accountable for excessive absences at the discretion of the instructor. More than **7 unexcused absences** will result in **failure**.
- **THREE** late arrivals to class **COUNTS AS AN ABSENCE**.
- Should you need to **drop** the course, please let me know.

❖ Class Participation: 15%

- Students are expected to participate both individually and collaboratively, and will be evaluated accordingly. Individual participation in class discussions will be evaluated at 10% of the participation grade, group participation at 5%.

❖ Quizzes and Daily Assignments: 15%

- A series of **brief quizzes** to test basic factual information will be evaluated at 10% of the overall grade. Students will also be required on occasion to **submit of brief, informal exercises** on the primary sources assigned for that week. These will be averaged and assessed as 5% of your overall daily assignment grade.

❖ Two exams: 20%

- These will test the integration of reading and lectures with the larger picture. They will consist of paragraph-length identifications of key concepts, figures, and the like, source analysis, and multiple essay questions. **Their dates are February 19 and April 13.**

❖ Two Source Essays: 30%

- Five times during the semester, we will discuss as a class our interpretations of a few “great works” from Western history. **Two of those five times, you will be required to submit a 4-6 page paper** in which you address a set of interpretive questions or problems (distributed in advance) related to your source. Which sources you choose to write on is up to you, but **in all cases the papers are due at the beginning of the class period during which they will be discussed**. Moreover, because of the flexibility of due dates, **no late papers will be accepted**. Further detailed information on the expectations and evaluation of these papers will follow at the appropriate time. **The discussion/due are 2/5, 2/12, 3/16, 3/25 and 4/22.** Please plan accordingly!

❖ Final Exam: 20%

- A series of extended essay questions will test students’ ability to integrate both the course’s basic material and their own fifteen weeks worth of reading and reflection on the sources of Western history.

Other Policies and Guidelines:

- ❖ Please note that you are required to abide by the **academic honor code**, available in full at: <http://catalogs.ua.edu/undergraduate/10480.html>. Also, please review the discussion of plagiarism from Georgetown University's Honor Council: www.georgetown.edu/honor/plagiarism.html.
- ❖ **Make-up work** for assignments missed because of **excused** absences will be allowed according to university policy.
- ❖ **Class Preparation and Participation:** This course is centered on you. It will not be simply sixteen weeks of information handed down from on high -- information that will be recycled for an exam and then dutifully forgotten. You will instead be required to think and to work for yourself, diligently and every day of the semester. You will thereby be reminded of a valuable lesson about life in general -- what you get out of it depends largely on your willingness to prepare diligently and to work well, both individually and as part of a team.
- ❖ To that end, **remember the fundamentals:**
 - **Buy the books** at the beginning of the semester.
 - **Prepare** every day, and prepare well.
 - **Come to class on time**, and **with the relevant books**.
 - Come to class with your own **ideas, questions and criticisms**
 - **Appreciate** your privileges, **enjoy** the work, **and have fun!**
- ❖ **More Uptight Regulations:**
 - Please do not eat in class (drinks are ok), sleep in class, leave the room during class without prior arrangement, read the paper during class – etc. Also, please turn off cell phones. In short, be respectful of the time and energy your instructor and fellow students are putting in to learning, and be a full participant in that community effort.

Required Texts:

- ❖ Kishlansky, Geary, O'Brien, *Brief History of Western Civilization* (3rd edition, Longman) [BWHC];
- ❖ Burger, *Sources for the History of Western Civilization*, vol. 1 [Burger]
- ❖ Plato, *Five Dialogues*, tr. Grube (Hackett, 2002)
- ❖ Cicero, *Selected Works*, tr. Grant (Penguin, 1960)
- ❖ *Two Lives of Charlemagne*, tr. Thorpe (Penguin, 1969)
- ❖ *Letters of Abelard and Heloise*, tr. Radice (Penguin, 1974)
- ❖ Boccaccio, *Decameron*, tr. McWilliam (Penguin, 1972)

CLASS SCHEDULE

DATE AND TOPICS	READINGS
❖ TH Jan 8: Introductions	None
❖ T Jan 13 Mesopotamia	Burger, no. 2; BHWC, pp. 2-12
❖ TH Jan 15 Egypt	Burger, nos. 4-6; BHWC, pp. 13-17
❖ T Jan 20 Israel	BHWC, pp. 18-23
❖ TH Jan 22 Archaic Greece	Burger, no. 9; BHWC, pp. 26-39
❖ T Jan 27 Classical Greece: Politics	Burger, no. 10; BHWC, pp. 40-59
❖ TH Jan 29 Classical Greece: Society	Burger, no. 11
Quiz 1	
❖ T Feb 3 Classical Greece: Culture	Plato, <i>Five Dialogues</i> ; Burger, no. 14.
❖ TH Feb 5 Hellenistic Greece	Plato, <i>Five Dialogues</i> ; BHWC, pp. 60-72; Plato Papers Due
❖ T Feb 10 Roman Republic: Politics	Cicero, <i>Selected Works</i> I.1; I.3 ; BHWC, pp. 74-87
❖ TH Feb 12 Roman Republic: Society	Cicero II.4; II.5; BHWC, pp. 88-94; Cicero papers due
❖ T Feb 17: Early Roman Empire	BHWC, pp. 96-121; Exam Review
❖ TH Feb 19: * Test I *	
❖ T Feb 22: Roman Empire	Plutarch and Tacitus (Selections)
❖ TH Feb 24: Roman Empire	
❖ T Mar 2 Christianity c. 300	Burger nos. 22, 24; BHWC, pp. 124-142

❖ TH Mar 4 Late Antiquity	Burger nos. 27, 28; BHWC, pp. 124-142
❖ T Mar 9 Rise of Islam	Qu'ran (selections) BHWC, pp. 144-165
❖ TH Mar 11 Carolingian Politics	Einhard; BHWC, pp. 168-189
❖ T Mar 16 Carolingian Culture	Notker; Einhard Papers Due
❖ TH Mar 18 Special Collections Tour	
Quiz 2	
❖ T Mar 23 The Feudal Revolution	Abelard and Heloise, pp. 9-106; BHWC, pp. 192-200
❖ TH Mar 25 Schools and Scholars	Abelard and Heloise, pp. 109-156; Abelard Papers Due
* Spring Break *	
❖ T Apr 6 Religious Movements	BHWC, pp. 200-214; Francis and Claire
❖ TH Apr 8 Courts and Chivalry	Exam review
❖ T Apr 13 * Test II *	
❖ TH Apr 15 The Black Death	Boccaccio (selections); Burger nos. 40, 41, 42; BHWC, pp. 216-230
❖ T Apr 20 Renaissance Politics	Boccaccio (selections); BHWC, 230-260
❖ TH Apr 22 Renaissance Culture	Boccaccio (selections); Boccaccio papers Due
❖ T Apr 27 Columbus and Cortés	BHWC, pp. 264-286
❖ TH Apr 29 Reform, Reformation and Wars of Religion	Burger, nos. 48, 49; BHWC, pp. 290-310; 314-322; 326-331

FINAL EXAM: F May 7, 8:00-10:30 AM, Room 256