

History 106: Honors Western Civilization Since 1648

Prof.: Dr. Paul M. Hagenloh

Monday-Wednesday, 2:00-3:15, ten Hoor 250

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 6:15-7:30 and by appointment

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This course surveys Western culture, society, and politics from 1648 to the present. Major themes include the “West” in the world, revolutions (political, religious, and scientific) and their legacies, continuing debates about “civilization,” human nature, the origins of political authority and the social order, national identity, and the place of violence in history.

READINGS

We will use the following **textbook**, which is required and is available at several local bookstores:

Marvin Perry, *Western Civilization. A Brief History* (Houghton Mifflin Co; 4th edition (January 2001). ISBN 061804423X.

Reserve Readings: Most of our reading comes from electronic reserve at the Gorgas library. These readings can be accessed from the main page of the UA library system, at <http://www.lib.ua.edu/libraries/gorgas/> (under the heading “course reserves”). These readings are **required**; they are the primary readings for the course. Each reading is listed in the syllabus on the day on which we will discuss it in class. You **MUST** print a copy of each for yourself and bring the copies to class for discussion. I would suggest that you print them all as soon as they are available so that you don’t have any problems later in the course. I will keep you posted regarding the availability of the reserve readings.

This course is designed as a seminar. I will not lecture; instead, we will spend our time discussing the assigned readings. The textbook is a very brief history of western civilization that concentrates on intellectual developments; it will provide a basic background to guide our discussions. Our real focus in discussion will be the primary documents (from the Library reserves). Therefore, it is imperative that you not only read and think about the textbook chapters and the reserve readings before the class for which they are assigned; you must also outline your thoughts and be prepared for in-depth discussion.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Your grade in the course will be based on:

- 1) Active participation in class discussion: 20%
- 2) Written responses to daily readings 20%. You are responsible for 20 one-page responses to the daily readings. Each should be a page of typed text (double spaced, Times font, 1” margins). Each is worth one point; I will award either a 1, .5, or 0 as a grade for each. You do not need to respond to the textbook. These written responses serve several functions: they encourage you focus your thoughts before class, help you learn to write without too much anxiety, and give me a sense of how you are apprehending the readings. Your goal with each response is to identify the central issue of each reading (or set of readings). That is, once you understand the content of the reading, you should try to determine what makes it important, how it is emblematic of a particular trend or issue that we are studying, why it’s worth considering, etc. We will talk more about these responses as the course progresses.
- 3) Two take-home mid-term exams, 7 pages, 20% each
- 4) One take-home final exam, 7 pages, 20%

ATTENDANCE POLICY: I have a standard attendance policy for all of my courses that is generous and draconian at the same time. I do take attendance at the beginning of each class. I do not, however, differentiate between excused and unexcused absences. Missing up to **six** class meetings will not affect your grade. If you miss **seven** or more class meetings, your final grade in the course will be lowered by a **full letter grade** for every class over six that you miss. This attendance policy will likely not come into play for anyone, given the requirements for turning in intellectual journals. Please be aware, however, that there are no exceptions to this policy for any reason. If you miss six class meetings for whatever reason and you miss a seventh because you are legitimately ill, you will still lose a letter grade. If you are ill, you of course should stay home, but if you have to miss more than six class meetings because of illness, you should seek a medical withdrawal from the course.

FILM SCREENINGS: This course includes screenings of several films, which are longer than the class period. At the beginning of the semester, we will determine a time during which all members of the class can see the films. Once this time is set, attendance at the films is required. If you miss a film, you will be required to borrow the film and write a 3-page typed paper on it. Please take note of the film schedule now and plan accordingly.

SOME OTHER POLICY MATTERS:

Academic Misconduct: Please review the below excerpts from the University policy on misconduct. The full text of the policy is also available on page 22 of the 2002-2004 UA Undergraduate Catalog.

Academic misconduct includes all acts of dishonesty in any academically related matter and any knowing or intentional help or attempt to help, or conspiracy to help, another student commit an act of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following acts when performed in any type of academic or academically related matter, exercise, or activity.

1. Cheating -- using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, study aids, or computer-related information.
2. Plagiarism -- representing the words, data, works, ideas, computer program or output, or anything not generated in an authorized fashion, as one's own.
3. Fabrication -- presenting as genuine any invented or falsified citation or material.
4. Misrepresentation -- falsifying, altering, or misstating the contents or documents or other materials related to academic matters, including schedules, prerequisites, and transcripts.

Penalties for academic misconduct can range from a reprimand to a penalty as severe as suspension for a definite time or even indefinite suspension. All persons who admit to or are found guilty of an academic offense for which a penalty less than an indefinite suspension is imposed will receive a penalty of indefinite suspension if they admit to or are found guilty of another offense of academic misconduct.

In addition, students guilty of academic misconduct will receive a score of 0 on the assignment in question.

Completion of all assignments: You must complete all assignments to receive a passing grade in this class. Students who do not complete one or more of the assignments will not pass, even if their mathematical average is above 60%. Please note that this requirement includes 3-page responses to missed films.

ADDITIONAL POLICY MATTERS:

- 1) All the assignments are required, even if you are taking the course pass-fail.

- 2) You are responsible for meeting all registration deadlines (for dropping the course, for instance) on your own.
- 3) The reading schedule will likely change as I tailor the course to our needs. I will post any changes conspicuously on the web page, and I will announce them in class. You are responsible for the material in lectures, including announced changes in assignments, films and slides, and discussions.
- 4) Make-up exams are available to students who have a health or other emergency. If you are ill, you must call my office and talk to me (or, if I do not answer, leave a message with the receptionist) *before* the test. Makeup exams, if properly cleared prior to the test date, do not count against the attendance policy. Please do not make life difficult for either of us by waiting until after the test to call and tell me that you were sick.

A note on e-mail: e-mail is an excellent way to get in contact with me for any reason EXCEPT arranging to take a make-up exam. Call me instead.

I encourage you to come to my office hours and talk to me about the class material. I am here to help.

Detailed Syllabus and Readings Schedule:

Week 1

January 7 Introduction

Perry, Introduction (xx-xxxii)

If you've not taken 101 or 105, you should probably read Perry, Chapter 8 over the weekend (Transition to the Modern Age), 212-241

Week 2

January 12 Film: "The Return of Martin Guerre"

Screened in ten Hoor room 125, 2:00-4:00 or 7:00-9:00 (your choice)

January 14 The Early Modern State, Absolutism

Perry, Chapter 9 (Political and Economic Transformation), 244-276

Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan (1651)

Week 3

January 19 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

January 21 The Impact of the Scientific and Commercial Revolutions

Perry, Chapter 9 (Intellectual Transformation: The Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment), 278-310 (read the whole chapter now and refer back to it as necessary)

John Locke, The Second Treatise of Government (1690)

Rene Descartes, Discourse on Method (1637)

Week 4

January 26 Early Enlightenment

David Hume, unpublished essays ("Of the Immortality of the Soul" and "On Suicide") and "Of Miracles," from An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding (1748)

January 28 The Enlightenment

Jean Jacques Rousseau, The Social Contract (1762)

Immanuel Kant, What is Enlightenment? (1784)

Week 5

February 2

Mary Wollstonecraft, Vindication of the Rights of Woman (1790), Intro, Letter to Talleyrand, Chapter 1, 2, 3

February 4

Mary Wollstonecraft, Vindication of the Rights of Woman (1790), Chapter 12, 13

Week 6

February 9 The French Revolution

Perry, Chapter 11 (The Era of the French Revolution), 316-348

Documents on the French Revolution: What is the Third Estate?, Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen

Edmund Burke, Reflections on the Revolution in France (1790)

First Mid-term Exam distributed

February 11 – no class meeting – work on exams

Week 7

February 16 Film: Amadeus

First Mid-Term due

February 18 The Industrial Revolution

Perry, Chapter 12 (The Industrial Revolution), 349-366

Charles Fourier, selections from The Utopian Vision of Charles Fourier, Beecher and Bienvenu, eds.

Week 8

February 23 Romanticism and Early 19th-century thought

Perry, Chapter 13 (Thought and Culture in the Early Nineteenth Century), 368-385

G.F.W Hegel, Introduction to the Philosophy of History

February 25 Nationalism and National Unification

Perry, Chapter 14 (Surge of Liberalism and Nationalism: Revolution, Counterrevolution, and Unification), 388-412

Joseph Mazzini, The Duties of Man

Week 9

March 1 The Emergence of Late-19th century thought

Perry, Chapter 15 (Thought and Culture in the Mid-Nineteenth Century), 414-432

Charles Darwin, selections from The Descent of Man

March 3 Marxism

Karl Marx, The Communist Manifesto (**skip section 3!!!**)

Karl Marx, “Das Kapital,” selections from v. 1 (Chapters 26 and 27)

Week 10

March 8 late-19th c. society

Perry, Chapter 16 (Europe in the Late Nineteenth Century), 435-457

Peter Kropotkin, selections from Conquest of Bread

March 10 Imperialism

Perry, Chapter 16 (Europe in the Late Nineteenth Century), 457-471

Rudyard Kipling, "The White Man's Burden"
William Henry Furness III, "A Visit to a Head-Hunter of Borneo"
John Stuart Mill, "On Colonies and Colonization"
Moshweshewe, "Letter to Sir George Grey"
Capt. F. D. Lugard, "The Rise of Our East African Empire"
The Earl of Cromer, "Why Britain Acquired Egypt in 1882"
George Orwell, "Shooting an Elephant"
Sir Monier Monier-Williams, "Camp Life in India"
The Atlantic Monthly, December, 1857, "The Indian Revolt"
Dadabhai Naoroji, "The Benefits of British Rule"
Mountstuart Elphinstone, "Indian Customs and Manners"

Week 11

March 15 Modernity

Perry, Chapter 17 (Modern Consciousness), 474-497

Friedrich Nietzsche – selections from "The Gay Science" (extraordinarily difficult, please read it twice!)

Second Mid-term distributed

March 17 No class meeting – work on mid-term

Week 12

March 22 Film: Metropolis (Fritz Lang, 1927)

Mid-Terms due

March 24 WWI

Perry, Chapter 18 (WWI: The West in Despair), 502-538

Max Weber, The Protestant Ethic

Dukheim, Suicide (1897) ?

SPRING BREAK – MARCH 29-April 2

Week 13

April 5 USSR

Perry, Chapter 19 (The Era of Totalitarianism), 541-554 (on the USSR)

Vladimir Lenin, State and Revolution

Leon Trotsky, Stalinism and Bolshevism

April 7 Fascism and Nazi Germany

Perry, Chapter 19 (The Era of Totalitarianism), 554-576 (on Facism)

Benito Mussolini, "Political and Social Doctrine"

Adolf Hitler, Mein Kampf

Week 14

April 12

Perry, Chapter 19 (The Era of Totalitarianism), 576-590

Sigmund Freud, Civilization and its Discontents (Ch. 3, 4, 5 (38 pages) and Conclusion 106-112 only)

April 14 WWII and The Holocaust

Perry, Chapter 20 (World War II), 595-616

Christopher Browning, "One Day in Jozefow," from The Path to Genocide

Victor Klemperer, "The Klemperer Diaries," excerpts from The New Yorker

Frankel Man's search for meaning – George suggests that it goes well with Freud

Week 15

April 19 Perry, Chapter 21 (The West in a Global Age), 620-635

Simone de Beauvoir, The Second Sex

Robert Amsel, "Back to our Future? A Walk on the Wild Side of Stonewall"

The Black Panther Party Platform (October 1966)

April 21

Neil Postman, Amusing Ourselves to Death

Marshall McLuhan, Understanding Media

Herbert Marcuse, One-Dimensional Man or a set of published lectures

Noam Chomsky – intro to manufacturing consent

Week 16

April 26

Perry, Chapter 21 (The West in a Global Age), 635-655 (on the cold war)

Vaclav Havel, Living in Truth or essay on the end of modernism

April 28

Perry, Chapter 21 (The West in a Global Age), 655-667

Michel Foucault, "What is Enlightenment," "What is an Author," and

"Power/Knowledge"

final exam distributed

Final Exam: Due Wednesday, May 5, at 2:00 p.m.