

WESTERN CIVILIZATION I

HIST A101-602 – Fall 2011

***Please read this syllabus carefully and let me know if you have any questions.
Otherwise, I will assume you have read and understand the syllabus.***

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This course is an introduction to Western history from the Neolithic Age to the mid-seventeenth century. The period was incredibly vibrant, with many of the conflicts of these centuries continuing to resonate within contemporary Western societies and, in some cases, far beyond. We will be examining some of the major themes and events of Western intellectual, political, economic, and social life over this period. A major focus of this course will be the interplay between religion, law and society.

The three main goals of this course are:

1. To introduce the major events and chronological sequence of ancient and medieval Western history.
2. To introduce the major issues and themes of this history, and the debates over them as seen through the eyes of the participants themselves and by historians seeking to understand the past. To this end, you will be reading a large number of primary and secondary works.
3. To introduce the basic techniques of the historical profession, especially those needed for analyzing both primary and secondary material. Most of these techniques will be useful to you in whatever major you are pursuing at UAA.

READINGS

All books are available at the UAA Bookstore. I have also provided the ISBNs for those who desire to purchase them elsewhere.

It is the student's responsibility to acquire all textbooks.

TEXTS: Kishlansky et al., *Civilization in the West, volume I* (ISBN: 978-0-205-66472-6)
[referred to below as "Kishlansky"]
Plato, *The Trial and Death of Socrates* (ISBN: 978-0-486-27066-1)
Snorri Sturluson, *King Harald's Saga* (ISBN: 978-0-14-044183-3)
Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince* (ISBN: 978-0-486-27274-0)
Bullock and Weiner, *The Little Seagull Handbook* (ISBN: 978-0-393-91151-0)

BLACKBOARD: Most daily readings are available through the class Blackboard site; assume that any readings not listed above are available through Blackboard unless noted otherwise. You will want to have a copy (electronic or print) out for reference during class discussions. If you are not familiar with Blackboard, tutorials are available at <http://classes.uaa.alaska.edu/>.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1) This course requires the fulfillment of all class assignments and participation in class activities. Key to fulfilling these requirements is regular class attendance and turning in assignments on time.

You should expect 50-75 pages of reading per week. All readings should be completed by the day listed on the syllabus.

All overdue assignments will be penalized 1 letter grade per day (including weekends and holidays). *It is your responsibility to contact me about any missed absences or conflicts.*

No Incomplete grades will be given except under extremely unusual circumstances.

2) ***Cheating and plagiarism (including the usage of another's work without citation) will be handled with the greatest possible severity. Penalties can include a zero on the assignment, reference to the Student Affairs Office, and an automatic failure in the course.***

It is your responsibility to understand the provisions of the *Student Code of Conduct for Student Rights, Freedoms, and Responsibilities*, particularly the "Academic Honesty" section.

3) Active participation in class discussions is a requirement for this course. ***Please note that we will be discussing topics of a mature and/or controversial nature; I expect everyone to adhere to common standards of courtesy and decorum.*** For class discussions, you will need to come to class having read all assignments listed on the syllabus for that day and prepared to discuss the issues they raise; bring the readings and your notes to class with you each day. The textbook readings will provide background information for discussion topics, assist you in establishing a basic chronology, and help place the additional readings in their historical context.

4) Pop quizzes may be given throughout the semester. These will be short quizzes drawn from the day's readings, and will be given at the beginning of class. **There will be no make-up pop quizzes.**

5) Writing is an important component of the course, and essential to an active life as a citizen. Three written papers are required. These will be graded on both content (accuracy, argument and evidence) and writing (grammar, syntax, clarity, structure and style).

All citations for this class will need to follow the Chicago format. The format is covered in *The Little Seagull Handbook*, pages 170-204.

6) E-Mail Policy: I will be checking e-mail daily, but I am not necessarily online constantly. Please do not expect immediate replies. ***Note, however, I will not accept papers through e-mail or file attachment.*** There will also be a Blackboard site where I will be posting items of interest to the entire class (including information on extra-credit opportunities). You will want to check Blackboard regularly.

7) Extra-Credit: Throughout the semester, there might be some talks of interest to our class. I will post these on the Blackboard site as extra credit opportunities. Generally, you will be asked to attend the talk and do a brief write-up. Events and instructions will be posted on Blackboard as appropriate.

GRADING

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|----------------------------------|------|----------------------------|
| • CLASS PARTICIPATION/QUIZZES | 15% | |
| • MAP TEST | 10% | (Given 12 September) |
| • ACADEMIC INTEGRITY TUTORIAL | 5% | (Complete by 22 September) |
| • SCAVENGER HUNT ASSIGNMENT | 20% | (Due 4 October) |
| • SHORT ESSAY (5-6 pages) | 25% | (Due 8 November) |
| • <u>FINAL PAPER (5-6 pages)</u> | 30% | (Due 15 December) |
| | 100% | |

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Week 1: Agricultural and Urban Revolutions

Tuesday, 30 Aug. Course Introduction

Thursday, 1 Sep. Kishlansky, Chapter 1
Hammurabi, selections from the *Code of Hammurabi*

Week 2: The Ethnic Empires

Tuesday, 6 Sep. **LABOR DAY HOLIDAY: No Class**

Thursday, 8 Sep. Selections from the *Book of Deuteronomy* and the *Book of Judges*

Week 3: Greece and the Peloponnesian War

Tuesday, 12 Sep. **MAP QUIZ** (beginning of class)
Kishlansky, chap. 2

Thursday, 14 Sep. Kishlansky, chap. 3 (pages 57-72 only)
Thucydides, “Pericles’ Funeral Oration” and “Melian Dialogue”

Week 4: The Glory that was Greece

Tuesday, 20 Sep. Plato, “The Apology,” in *The Trial and Death of Socrates*

Thursday, 22 Sep. **Academic Integrity Tutorial Due at beginning of Class**
LIBRARY INSTRUCTION SESSION
Course meets in Library 309

Week 5: From Democracy to Hellenistic Monarchy

Tuesday, 27 Sep. Kishlansky, chap. 3 (pages 71-81)
Plato, “Crito,” in *The Trial and Death of Socrates*

Thursday, 29 Sep. Aristotle, selections from *Politics*

Week 6: Roman Republic and Revolution

Tuesday, 4 Oct. **SCAVENGER HUNT DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS**
Kishlansky, chap. 4

Thursday, 6 Oct. Kishlansky, chap. 5 (pages 105-114 only)
Julius Caesar, selections from *Civil Wars*

Week 7: The Roman Empire and its Discontents

Tuesday, 11 Oct. Kishlansky, chap. 5 (remainder)
Paul of Tarsus, selections from *Epistle to the Romans*

Thursday, 13 Oct. Kishlansky, chap. 6

Week 8: The Rise of Christianity

Tuesday, 18 Oct. Edward Gibbon, “The Victory of Christianity”

Thursday, 20 Oct. Sulpicius Severus, “Life of Martin of Tours”

Week 9: From Empire to Feudalism

Tuesday, 25 Oct. Kishlansky, chap. 7
Selections from the *Qu’ran*

Thursday, 27 Oct. Kishlansky, chap. 8

Week 10: The Feudal World

Tuesday, 1 Nov. Kishlansky, chap. 9

Thursday, 3 Nov. *King Harald’s Saga* [entire]

Week 11: Experiences of Late Feudalism

Tuesday, 8 Nov. **SHORT PAPER # 1 DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS**
In-class discussion of the Crusades

Thursday, 10 Nov. Kishlansky, chap. 10

Week 12: The Renaissance

Tuesday, 15 Nov. Kishlansky, chap. 11

Thursday, 17 Nov. Machiavelli, *The Prince* (pages 1-39)

Week 13: The Collapse of the Commonwealth

Tuesday, 22 Nov. Machiavelli, *The Prince* (remainder)

Thursday, 24 Nov. **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY: No Class**

Week 14: The Collapse of the Christian Commonwealth

Tuesday, 29 Nov. Kishlansky, chap. 13

Thursday, 1 Dec. Martin Luther, selections from *Appeal to the Christian Nobility*
Selection from “Statement of Grievances” of the Diet of Worms

Week 15: Europe and a Changing World

Tuesday, 6 Dec. Kishlansky, chaps. 14 & 15

Thursday, 8 Dec. Kishlansky, chap. 12

***FINAL PAPER DUE AT 9:45am THURSDAY, 15 December 2011 IN ADM147B
(end of final exam period for this class)***