

History 1000  
Early Western Civilization  
Fall 2009

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Office Hours: M-W-F 9:00-9:50  
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M & W 2:00-3:00  
And by Appointment

(Note: Office hours may be cancelled due to campus meetings)

**Texts:** *Western Civilization*, Vol 1 by Jackson Spielvogel  
*Discovering the Western Past*, Vol 1 by Merry Weisner

**Study Guide:** *Study Guide for Western Civilization*, Vol 2

Additional study material can be found on-line, see my website to a hot link the to the Spielvogel Companion site.

**Introduction:** This course will examine the major civilizations of the ancient and the medieval West prior to 1350. Some of the civilizations surveyed include: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome, Medieval Europe, and the Islamic world. We will examine the strengths and weaknesses of these civilizations and show how they continue to influence our world today. This course meets the college's General Education Goals 1,3, and 6.

**Learning Objectives:** By the end of the semester you should be able to understand:

- How the foundation for the modern West can be found in it's past
- How the earliest civilizations in Mesopotamia and Egypt developed
- The political and cultural contributions of Greece and Rome
- The development of Classical Thought and the origins of Western Philosophy
- The development of the Judeo-Christian tradition
- The Medieval World, including Medieval Christianity
- The development of Islam

**The Course:** This course will be primarily a lecture course, supplemented with readings from the text book, and short papers based on Weisner's book. Tests and quizzes will be given at regular intervals.

**Tests & Quizzes:** There will be four exams, including a final. Each exam will be worth 100 pts and made up of three distinct parts: short answer-identification (50%), multiple choice (45%), and a map (5%). There will be four quizzes, each worth 25 points. The quizzes will have a combination of short answer-identification, fill in the blank and matching questions. The dates of the exams are tentatively set for Section 1 : Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, & Dec. 14; for Section 2: Sept 17<sup>th</sup>, Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>, Nov 10<sup>th</sup>, and Dec 10<sup>th</sup>; and for Section 3: Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, & Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> (note: dates are subject to change). Quizzes will be announced one class period in advance.

**Text Book and Study Guide:** I do not base my lectures on the text. Instead, think of the text as a supplement to the classroom meetings. It will help you "fill in the blanks" from what you learn in class. You should be reading the chapter that corresponds with the current lectures. It has an excellent Table of Contents and Index—use them to help you study and prepare for exams. Rather than launching off reading each chapter from beginning to end, it may be helpful to first look at the chapter by reading the headings and subheadings of each section of the text. Also read the captions and examine the charts, graphs, maps, and pictures. Then using the list of terms in the Identify section of the Study Guide, locate (using the book's index if necessary) each of the terms. Read those related paragraphs and/or pages, while taking notes on the who, what, when, where, and historical significance. In other words, research each term, using a notecard for each. This will help cement the material in your mind much more firmly than if you just underlined the text. After doing that, then read the chapter for the context of that chapter's historical focus. This may seem like a lot of work, but doing so will familiarize you with the material. The study guide is another important resource for preparing for exams. Students who complete the study guide score much higher on exams than those who do not use it.

**Short Papers:** Three papers, each between four and five typed pages will be required for completion of the course. These papers will be an opportunity for you to actually *do* history, as each assignment in Weisner is an investigation of a particular historical problem. More specific instructions for these assignments will be handed out separately.

Each paper will be worth 75 points. Failure to complete all of the paper assignments will cause you to fail the course, period. If you are concerned about these writing assignments, the college's Writing Center, located in LRC-D is a good source for help!

**Spellvogel Companion Website:** This is a good place to go for additional study material. There is a link to the Companion Website on my website (see above).

**Evaluation:** There are 725 points possible from the exams, quizzes, and assignments. Your final grade will be based on a standard 10% scale.

**Make-up Policy:** My best advice is not to miss an exam or quiz. If you must miss one, you **must** notify me in advance or on the day of the exam in order to make it up. You must have a valid excuse to be granted a make-up. Excuses like family vacation, concerts, ball games, etc, are not acceptable excuses. Ultimately, I alone will determine if you will be allowed to make up a missed exam or quiz. Late papers will be accepted until those papers turned in on time are graded and returned, but two points will be deducted for each day it is late! After I have returned the papers, late papers will not be accepted.

**Extra Credit:** There is no extra credit

**Note:** This is not an easy class! Most of you will have to spend time outside of class preparing. Do not think you can ignore studying until the night before the exam and still earn an A or a B!

**Class Attendance:** The key to a good grade is regular attendance. Much of the information presented in class may not be covered in the textbooks. That being said, you are all adults and it is ultimately your decision to attend class or not. I will be passing around an attendance sheet for administrative purposes only. If you arrive late, you will not receive extra time for a quiz or a test. Because of the possibility of a major flu epidemic this fall, please do not come to class if you feel ill. Although I do not give out my notes, talk to me about what you missed once you are better. There is no need for you to contact me if you miss class, unless there was a quiz or test on the day you missed. I reserve the right to withdraw students as non-attenders. Otherwise, if you want to withdraw from this class, you must contact me first. ***THE DEADLINE FOR WITHDRAWAL IS November 6th!***

**Academic Honesty:** Academic honesty is required at all times. The student is required to do his or her own work. Academic dishonesty, such as cheating on exams and plagiarism (using another person's ideas or words in your writing) will not be tolerated. For a further description of Academic dishonesty, see the College Catalog or the Student Handbook. I have the power to act within my own jurisdiction to determine the penalty for academic dishonesty. Also the case may be referred to the Department Dean and the Vice President of Academic Affairs. In most cases I disqualify the exam, quiz or paper for any course credit i.e. if you cheat you will receive zero points for that assignment, quiz, or test.

**Basic Assumptions:** This is a college class and I assume that all of you will read the text, know how to read the text for knowledge, know how to take notes in class, and how to study. If you do not know how to do these things, it is your responsibility to contact me to learn about options offered through the Academic Achievement Center in LRC-B. You are also expected to behave as adults during class. Cell phones are to be turned off, or, if you are an EMT or first responder, set on vibrate. Activities that disrupt the class should be avoided and constant disruptions will lead to removal from the class.

#### **Topics and reading assignments:**

The Course will be divided into four parts. While there will be no specific daily reading assignments, it is expected that you will be reading the chapters in the textbook that correspond with what we are discussing in class.

Part I: The origins of Civilization and the Judeo-Christian tradition  
Read Chapters One and Two

Part II: Greek Civilization  
Read Chapters Three and Four

Part III: The Roman World and the origins of Christianity  
Read Chapters Five, Six, and Seven

Part IV: The Medieval World  
Read Chapters Eight, Nine, Ten, and Eleven

Note: This is an ideal outline—I reserve the right to fall behind, eliminate some of the assignments, and move the dates of exams!