History 1000
Early Western Civilization
Fall 2015

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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
Additional study material can be found on-line, see my website for a hot link 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, and Medieval Europe. We will examine the strengths and weaknesses of these civilizations and show how they continue to influence our world today. This course meets the following IVCC General Education Goals:

Goal #1: To apply analytical and problem solving skills to personal, social and professional issues and situations.

Goal #3: To develop an awareness of the contributions made to civilization by the diverse cultures of the world.

Goal #6: To understand what it means to act ethically and responsibly as an individual in one's career and as a member of society.

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 its 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 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 three exams, not 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%). The final is similar to the earlier three exams except it will also include an essay question based on the Weisner Text and will be worth 150 points. The final is not comprehensive. There will be four quizzes, each worth 25 points. For Section One, the dates of the exams are tentatively set for September 11th, October 12th, November 13th, and December 11th. For Section Two, the dates of the exams are tentatively set for September 10th, October 8th, November 10th, and December 10th (note: dates are subject to change). The quizzes will have a combination of short answer-identification; fill in the blank and matching questions. 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 read the chapter for the context of that chapter's historical focus. Get in the habit of rewriting your class notes by adding material from the textbook. This will help cement the material in your mind much more firmly than if you just underlined the text. This may seem like a lot of work, but doing so will familiarize you with the material. The on-line 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: Up to 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. You will be turning in these papers by e-mail. It is your responsibility to make sure that I have received your paper. 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 the Learning Commons in LRC-D is a good source for help!

Evaluation: There will be up to 775 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 an adult; it is ultimately your decision if you will 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. 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. Students have the ability to initiate a withdrawal from this class. By completing the form in the Records Office or through the form located within WebAdvisor, the student is authorizing IVCC to remove him/her from the course. Entering the student ID number serves as the student’s electronic signature. IVCC has the right to rescind a withdrawal in cases of academic dishonesty or at the instructor’s discretion. Students should be aware of the impact of a withdrawal on full-time status for insurance purposes and for financial aid. It is highly recommended that students meet with their instructor or with a counselor before withdrawing from a class to discuss if a withdrawal is the best course of action for that particular student.

More detailed information is available at www.ivcc.edu/admissions and selecting the menu item for Withdrawals on the left side of the page. THE DEADLINE FOR WITHDRAWAL IS November 4th.

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 for Learning and Student Development. In most cases I disqualify the exam, quiz or paper for any course credit; you will receive zero points for that assignment, quiz, or test.

Additional Information: If you are a student with a documented cognitive, physical, or psychiatric disability, then you may be eligible for special services. Please see Tina Hardy (815-224-0284). For more
information--or stop by the Disability Services Office, C-211.

All students are responsible for checking their IVCC email. All electronic college correspondence will only be sent to the IVCC email. For information on accessing this account, go to http://www.ivcc.edu/studenthelpdesk.aspx?id=16712. Please note that I will only respond to an e-mail that comes from your IVCC e-mail account.

**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, such as but not limited to, texting, surfing the web, or talking, that disrupt the class should be avoided and constant disruptions will lead to removal from the class.

**Topics and reading assignments (all readings are in Spielvogel and the papers are from Wiesner):**

- **Week One:** Introduction and River Valley Civilizations of Mesopotamia and Egypt (Chapter 1)
- **Week Two:** The River Valley Civilizations of Mesopotamia and Egypt (cont)
- **Week Three:** The Hebrews (Chapter Two)
- **Week Four:** First Paper Assignment: *Polytheism and Monotheism in the Fertile Crescent*
  The Early Greeks (pp. 54-60)
- **Week Five:** Archaic Greece (pp. 60-68)
- **Week Six:** Classical Greece (pp. 68-87)
- **Week Seven:** Classical Greece continued (pp. 68-87)
- **Week Eight:** Second Paper Assignment: *Ideal and Reality of Classical Athens*
  Alexander the Great and the Hellenistic Kingdoms (Chapter Four)
- **Week Nine:** Early Rome (pp. 113-116)
- **Week Ten:** The Roman Republic (pp. 116-145)
- **Week Eleven:** The Roman Empire (pp. 147-170)
- **Week Twelve:** Christianity

- **Week Thirteen:** Fall of Rome and the Beginning of the Middle Ages (Chapter 7)
- **Week Fourteen:** Third Paper: *Life in a Medieval University*
- **Week Fifteen:** The Early Middle Ages (Chapter 8)
- **Week Sixteen:** The High Middle Ages (Chapter 10)

Note: This is an ideal outline—*I reserve the right to fall behind, eliminate some of the assignments, and move the dates of exams!* Additional course information may be posted on my website.