

**Department of History,
University of Manitoba
Fall 2012
Hist. 1350 W (A02)**

**INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF
WESTERN CIVILIZATION, TO 1500**

Instructor: Dr. Paul Jenkins

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Office Hours: Tuesday 10-11:00 am, or by appointment.

Time: Tues./Thurs., 1:00-2:15 pm

Location: 244 University College

Course Description:

This course provides a broad introduction to a dynamic and foundational period in the history of the West, from its roots in North Africa and the Middle East to the striking rise and expansion of Europe during the Renaissance. This is a story shaped by deep and ongoing interactions and cultural exchanges between the various peoples and civilizations of these regions. You will become acquainted with not only the uniqueness and importance of Western Civilization, but also the crucial role non-western influences played in determining its shape and character. This course provides a foundation for further study in Ancient, Medieval, and Early Modern history, and will introduce you to the ways in which historians think and work. Through the combination of lectures, readings, discussions, and written assignments you will also develop valuable critical, analytical, and writing skills.

Readings: The assigned readings are an essential part of this course. They are intended to complement the lectures and written assignments, as well as help you develop critical reading skills. On examinations you are responsible for all the material covered in the readings and lectures. The required books are available in the University Book Store.

Books:

John McKay, Bennett Hill, John Buckler, Clare Crowston, Merry Wiesner-Hanks, *Understanding Western Society: A Brief History, Volume 1: From Antiquity to Enlightenment*.

Homer, *The Odyssey*.

Assignments and Evaluation:

Participation and Class Assignments, (5%)

This portion of your grade is a cumulative one made by your participation in informal class discussions, as well as a number of short and similarly informal assignments designed to help you master course material, while also developing valuable analytical and writing skills. They will be periodically assigned throughout the semester. Five percent might seem insignificant, but it can make a real difference. It is an easy way to boost your mark.

Library Assignment, (5%), due in class **October 10**

Scholarly journals are a major resource used by historians. Journal articles are a type of “secondary source” that often contain the latest findings, interpretive arguments, and theses advanced by historians. Like “primary sources” there is a knack to reading them effectively. Find three recent articles (published in the last 5 years) from a scholarly journal on any topic dealt with in this course. All three articles must be on the same topic. Compile these articles into a bibliography in the Chicago Style. Format matters. Improper format will be penalized.

See http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html for guidance.

Next, select **one** of your three articles, read it, and briefly outline (approximately 500 words) the author’s argument.

You can find articles through the “Databases A-Z” link, under the “Find” tab on the University Library’s main page. If you have any problems do not hesitate to ask for help from the library staff, a classmate, or myself.

Odyssey Essay (1,500 words), (20%), due in class **October 24**

Anyone who studies narrative accounts of the ancient world will quickly discover how difficult it is to clearly distinguish between poetry and history in the age’s representations of the past. In this assignment you will be asked to examine the value of Homer’s *Odyssey* as an historical source.

Mid-term, (20%), in class on **November 7**

This exam will be comprised of a combination of short answer, map questions, and shorter essay style questions.

Short Research Essay (1,500 words), (20%), due in class **November 28**

This assignment can be on any topic covered in this course. Your essay must draw on both primary and secondary sources and present a clear, well-organized, and persuasive analysis of the topic. All sources must be cited properly using footnotes or endnotes and listed in a formal bibliography. Your essay will be evaluated on the strength of its research, analysis, and composition. Spelling, grammar, cogency and style will all be taken into consideration. So too, will the format of your citations and bibliography.

Final Examination held during University Exam Period, (30%), **TBA**.

Students are responsible for completing assignments on time. Extensions will only be granted 48 hours prior to the due date, except in exceptional circumstances. Late papers will be penalized 2% per day, including weekends. No allowance will be given for technical difficulties. Back up your work often.

The Voluntary Withdrawal Date for this course is November 13, evaluative feedback will be given before this date.

The format of the in-term test and final examination will be clearly explained in class. Since this is a course that meets the University Senate's "W" requirement, students must complete all essay assignments with a passing grade to pass the course.

If you wish to appeal a grade given for term work you must do so within 10 working days after the term work has been made available to them. Uncollected term work will become the property of the Faculty of Arts and will be subject to confidential destruction.

Grade Scale:

A+	90-100%, Exceptional	C+	65-69%, Satisfactory
A	80-90%, Excellent	C	60-64%, Adequate
B+	75-79%, Very Good	D	50-59%, Marginal
B	70-74%, Good	F	49% or below, Failing

A note on plagiarism: The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism on a written assignment is a grade of F on the paper and a final grade of F (DISC) (for Disciplinary Action) for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as purchase of an essay and repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five (5) years from registration in courses taught in a particular department/program in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty. The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism or to other experts for authentication.

The common penalty in Arts for academic dishonesty on a test or examination is F for the paper, F (DISC) for the course, and a one-year suspension from courses acceptable for credit in the Faculty. For more serious acts of academic dishonesty on a test or examination, such as repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department or program in Arts or from all courses taught in or accepted for credit by this Faculty.

A note on technology: Technology can be a powerful tool, but it can also be distracting. I welcome the use of computers to take notes during class. However, this is not license to surf the Internet or chat with your friends on Facebook or similar social media. Also, cell phones, iPods, and other such personal devices must be turned off or silenced for the duration of the class.

Lecture Themes and Reading Schedule

Introduction: "The West and the Rest" Debate & Why Western Civ. Still Matters

1 - After the Ice: Humans, Climate Change, and the Rise of Civilization

Readings: Mortimer J. Adler and Charles Van Doren, *How to Read a Book: The Classic Guide to Intelligent Reading*, pp. 3-20.

WS, Ch. 1

2 - Pagan Religion & The Children of Israel: A New View of God and the Individual

Readings: WS, Ch. 2.

3 - Greek Thought and Politics: City States and Democracy, Myth and History, Reason and Philosophy.

Readings: WS, Ch. 3.

Begin Homer, *The Odyssey*.

4 - The Hellenistic Age

Readings: WS, Ch. 4.

The Odyssey.

5 - The Rise of Rome

Readings: WS, Ch. 5.

The Odyssey.

6 - Christianity and Empire

Readings: WS, Ch. 6.

The Odyssey.

7 - Christianity and the Late Antique World

Readings: WS, Ch. 7.

The Odyssey.

9 - Heirs of Rome: Byzantium, Islam, and Latin Europe

Readings: WS, Ch. 8.

The Odyssey.

10 - State, Church, and the Medieval Order

Readings: WS, Ch. 9.

The Odyssey.

11 - Life in the Middle Ages

Readings: WS, Ch. 10.

12 - Vitality and Renewal in the Middle Ages

Readings: WS, Ch. 11.

* Begin work on research question and thesis statement.

13 - The Later Middle Ages

Readings: WS, Ch. 12.

14 - The Renaissance

Readings: WS, Ch. 13.