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

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**Instructor:**

Dr. Paul Jenkins

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**Office Hours:**

Tuesday, 12:00-1:00 pm, or by appointment

**Time:**

M/W/F: 8:30-9:20 am

**Location:**

137 Isbister

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a broad introduction to a dynamic and foundational period in the history of the West, from its roots in the Middle East and North Africa to the striking rise and expansion of Europe during the Renaissance. At its heart it is a story shaped by deep and on-going interactions and cultural exchanges between the diverse peoples, cultures, and civilizations of those regions. Thus, you will become acquainted with not only the distinctive contours 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. 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, Marry Wiesner-Hanks, *Understanding Western Society: A Brief History, Volume 1: From Antiquity to Enlightenment*.

*Egil's Saga*, trans. Bernard Scudder (Penguin Classics, 2005).

### ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

**Participation and Scholarly Contribution (20%):** This portion of your grade is a cumulative one comprised of your participation in class discussions, as well as the way

you engage with the course material and help drive the wider class discussion in productive and thoughtful ways.

***Egil's Saga* Essay Assignment, 1500 words, due October 5<sup>th</sup> (20%):** This assignment is based on *Egil's Saga*, trans. B Scudder. Detailed explanation of this assignment will be provided in class.

**Research Essay, 1500-2000 words, due November 23<sup>rd</sup> (30%):** Students are free to choose to research and write on any topic covered in this course, or they may select from a list of topics. Either way, all students must have their topics approved by me, by **November 1<sup>st</sup>**. A list of essay topics and detailed instructions for this assignment will be provided in class.

In addition to handing in a hard-copy of all written assignments, students are required to submit a copy of the paper electronically through UM Learn (as a word document). The file name for the document should be as follows: SURNAME Given name Assign # HIST 1360 A01.

#### **Grade scale:**

A+	85-100%, Outstanding	C+	65-69%, Satisfactory
A	80-84%, Excellent	C	60-64%, Adequate
B+	75-79%, Very Good	D	50-59%, Marginal
B	70-74%, Good	F	49% or below, Failing

**Final Exam, (30%), Date and location TBA.**

#### **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

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 last date for Voluntary Withdrawal is **November 19, 2018**.

The essay assignments and format of the 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.**

**A Note on Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:** 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.

**Grade Appeals:** Students who wish to appeal a grade given for term work must do so within 10 working days after the grade for the term work has been made available to them.

**A Note on Technology:** Technology can be a powerful tool, but it can also be distracting. I allow the use of computers to take notes during class, though studies show that this practice actually tends to hinder success for both users and nearby peers, lowering their marks by as much as a full letter grade.

Obviously, use of a Laptop or Tablet is not license to surf the Internet or chat with your friends on social media. Also, cell phones, iPods, and other such personal devices must be turned off or silenced and stowed for the duration of the class.

**Faculty regulation on Unreturned Term Work:** Uncollected term work will become the property of the Faculty of Arts and will be subject to confidential destruction.

## STUDENT RESOURCES

### Academic Resources

You have access to several important resources to help you navigate your classes and university life more generally. There are writing tutors available to help you with your essays through the Academic Learning Centre (ALC): <http://umanitoba.ca/student/academiclearning/>. The History department will also make a writing tutor available exclusively to History students in the department on one day a week. More information about scheduling, etc., TBA.

The ALC page also has resources to help you with study skills, organization, as well as assistance for students using English as an Additional Language (EAL). Other issues, including accessibility services, workshops, and tips about academic integrity are addressed at the Student Advocacy Services webpage ([http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student\\_advocacy/](http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/)).

All of the above services can also be accessed under the heading of Student Resources on the Student Affairs website: <http://umanitoba.ca/student/studentlife/index.html>.

History students can also take advantage of the huge range of academic materials (including primary and secondary sources, as well as pages to help with writing and referencing) made

available by the History subject librarian, tailored just for you! They are available on the Libraries page at this link: <http://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/history>. Students who need research assistance can also schedule an appointment with a librarian through the website.

### **Student Counseling Centre**

Contact SCC if you are concerned about any aspect of your mental health, including anxiety, stress, or depression, or for help with relationships or other life concerns. SCC offers crisis services as well as counseling. <http://umanitoba.ca/student/counselling/index.html>

### **Student Support Case Management**

Contact the Student Support Case Management team if you are concerned about yourself or another student and don't know where to turn. SSCM helps connect students with on and off campus resources, provides safety planning, and offers other supports, including consultation, educational workshops, and referral to the STATIS threat assessment team. <http://umanitoba.ca/student/case-manager/index.html>

### **University Health Service**

Contact UHS for any medical concerns, including mental health problems. UHS offers a full range of medical services to students, including psychiatric consultation. <http://umanitoba.ca/student/health/>

### **Student Advocacy**

Contact Student Advocacy if you want to know more about your rights and responsibilities as a student, have questions about policies and procedures, and/or want support in dealing with academic or discipline concerns. <http://umanitoba.ca/student/advocacy>

### **UM History Student Association (UMHiSA)**

UMHiSA is a history undergraduate student run organization that seeks to establish a sense of community for students studying all facets of history, and provide support for them in their academic career. Students interested in fun times, spirited debate, new opportunities, a community of like-minded students, or all of the above, check out UMHiSA on our instagram account [www.instagram.com/umhisa\\_undergrad/](http://www.instagram.com/umhisa_undergrad/) or emailing [umhisau@gmail.com](mailto:umhisau@gmail.com).

## **KEY DATES**

### **Fall Term Start & End Date**

September 5 to December 7, 2018

### **Last Day to Register**

September 19, 2018

### **Thanksgiving**

October 8, 2018 – University Closed

### **(In lieu of) Remembrance Day**

November 12, 2018 – University Closed

### **Fall Break**

November 13-16, 2018

### **VW Date Fall 2018**

November 19, 2018

### **December Exam Period**

December 10 to 21, 2018

## **LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE**

Introduction: Why Western Civ. Still Matters

1 - After the Ice: Hominids, Environment, and the Rise of Civilization

Readings: WS, Ch. 1

Begin reading *Egil's Saga*

2 - Pagan Religion & The Children of Israel

Readings: WS, Ch. 2.

*ES*

3 - Greek Thought and Politics

Readings: WS, Ch. 3.

*ES*

4 - The Hellenistic Age

Readings: WS, Ch. 4.

*ES*

- 5 - The Rise of Rome  
Readings: *WS*, Ch. 5.  
*ES*
- 6 - Christianity and Empire  
Readings: *WS*, Ch. 6.  
*ES*
- 7 – Violence and Belief in Late Antiquity  
Readings: *WS*, Ch. 7.  
*ES*
- 8 - Heirs of Rome: Byzantium, Islam, and Latin Europe  
Readings: *WS*, Ch. 8.  
*ES*
- 9 - State, Church, and the Medieval Order  
Readings: *WS*, Ch. 9.
- 10 - Life in the Middle Ages  
Readings: *WS*, Ch. 10.
- 11 - Vitality and Renewal in the Middle Ages  
Readings: *WS*, Ch. 11.
- 12 - The Later Middle Ages  
Readings: *WS*, Ch. 12.
- 13 – The Renaissance  
Readings: *WS*, Ch. 13.