

HIST 1350
The History of Western Civilization to 1500
September-December 2017
M/W/F 1:30 – 2:20 pm

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Welcome to this introductory course on the history of Western Civilization. This class is a critical exploration of the history of some of the events, people, and themes that make up the idea of the “West” in the premodern period. In lectures, discussions, and workshops, we will trace the rise of the West across several millenia. We will also work on skills you will need in any humanities class at university, including critical reading and effective writing.

Because this class is smaller than most introductory courses, we will be able to work together quite intensively. That benefit comes with some important responsibilities for you. In almost every class meeting I will expect you to contribute, for instance discussing a concept with one or two others in the class, writing a short response to a reading or lecture point, or participating in a small group analysis of some assigned readings. By coming to every class and participating actively you will emerge from the term with stronger reading and writing skills.

Course expectations

You can expect me to

- learn your name as quickly as possible and use it often in class
- answer emails within 24 hours on weekdays (I don’t usually respond on weekends)
- be regularly available to you during my office hours and by appointment at other times
- keep you informed about what’s coming up through in-class announcements and emails sent to your myumanitoba address
- endeavour to mark and return all of your written work within 1-2 weeks

I will expect you to

- attend class regularly, arrive on time and stay in the room during class time
- turn off your internet connection if you are using a laptop (I will check this in class)
- hand in your assignments to me on the due dates identified on the syllabus
- use your own words and do your own work in all assignments and on the exam
- call me Prof. Cossar or Dr. Cossar. Mrs. Cossar is my mom. ☺

B. Academic Integrity

Doing your own work is essential to your success at university and beyond. There are real penalties for not doing so. We will discuss plagiarism, inappropriate collaboration and academic misconduct generally in more depth during our first class meetings. In the meantime, please take note of the very serious penalties for plagiarism in the Faculty of Arts:

*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.

Required Course Texts (available for purchase at the bookstore)

Ernst Gombrich, *A Little History of the World* (Yale 2008)

Richard Hoffmann, *An Environmental History of Medieval Europe* (Cambridge, 2014) ISBN 9780521700375

Joinville and Villehardouin, *Chronicles of the Crusades* (Penguin, 2008)

Assignments and Evaluation

Since this is a course that meets the University Senate's W requirement, students must pass the requirement for written English in order to pass the course. That means you must hand in all essays and must receive a passing mark on those assignments.

I. Formal written assignments. Worth a total of 40% of your final mark.

A. September 27: a 1000 word critical analysis of the Gombrich text. I will distribute a question about the text in class on September 20. Worth 10% of your final mark.

B. October 18:

1) 1250 words of notes on a theme from Villehardouin's *Chronicle* of the Fourth Crusade. We will discuss and practise note taking in class. 8%

2) A 250 word preliminary statement describing the essay you will write on this source. 2% (total for both = 10%)

C. November 22: a 2000-word essay on a theme or topic from Villehardouin's *Chronicle*, based on your notes and your preliminary statement. We will discuss topics in class. 20%

All late submissions must be cleared with me first, or they will not be accepted. I also reserve the right to deduct 2% per day from late work. All written materials must be printed using a standard 12-point font such as Times New Roman and clearly marked with your name, student number, and the word count of the work. Please submit a paper copy to me and an electronic copy in .docx form to the UM Learn site.

II. Weekly writing and discussion work. Worth a total of 30% of your final mark.

- A. Most weeks from October 4 until December 8 we will read and discuss selections from the Hoffmann text. Please bring the text to class with you (with the assigned reading completed) for each discussion. The day after the discussion you will hand in a brief summary and analysis (c. 250 words) of the main focus of that week's reading. Each written assignment must be handed in at the beginning of the class following our discussion. That is, the first assignment will be due on October 11, and weekly from then on. Due dates are noted on the readings table that follows. Each one is worth 4% of your final mark. Total = 24%
- B. Class participation in Friday discussions: 6% of your final mark.

Uncollected term work will become the property of the Faculty of Arts and will be subject to confidential destruction.

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.

Final Exam. Worth 30% of your final mark.

The exam will consist of historical identification questions, analysis of primary sources, and an essay. It will draw on everything we cover in the course, including our reading and discussions of primary sources, textbook readings, and lectures. We will create the exam together during class discussion.

Evaluative feedback will be provided by the Voluntary Withdrawal date, November 17, 2017.

Topics for class meetings

Date	Lecture topic(s)	Readings	To remember
September 8	Introductions	Syllabus	
Sept 11-15	Mesopotamia, Assyria, and the Etruscans		
Sept 18-22	Greece		Q on Gombrich handed out Wed. 20 th
Sept 25-29	Roman republic		Assignment due Wed. 27 th
Oct 2-4	Roman empire	Hoffmann reading 1, pp 1-20 (discussions on Fridays)	BREAK no classes Oct 5/6 Hoffmann discussions begin Oct 4
Oct 11-13	Society of late antiquity	Hoffmann reading 2, pp 21-50	No class T-giving Oct 9; Hoffmann summary 1 due Oct 11
Oct 16-20	Religious change to 1000	No Hoffmann this week	Notes due Wed 18 th

Oct 23-27	Early medieval society	Hoffmann reading 3, pp 51-71	Hoffmann summary 2 due Oct 23
Oct 30-Nov 3	Medieval Empire	Hoffmann reading 4, pp 71-84	Hoffmann summary 3 due Oct 30
Nov 6-10	Europe at the turn of the first Millenium	Hoffmann reading 5, pp 85-94	Hoffmann summary 4 due Nov 6
Nov 15-17	Economy and society in the Middle Ages		Hoffmann summary 5 due Nov 15 No class Nov 13 (Remembrance day observed)
Nov 20-24	Religion in the Middle Ages		No Hoffmann reading this week Paper due Nov 22
Nov 27-Dec 1	The Later Middle Ages	Hoffmann reading 6 342-370	
Dec 4-8	To 1500 and beyond		Hoffmann summary 6 due Dec 4

Marking Rubric
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 Paper #1

The following criteria will guide my evaluation of your first assignment on the Gombrich text.

Criteria	Outstanding	Very good	Good	Adequate	Emerging	Incomplete
Evidence that writer has read widely in the text.						
Summary of content succinct and clear.						
Well-structured thesis.						
Writing is clear and free from errors.						
Citations present using appropriate form.						

Marking Rubric
 HIST 1350
 Primary source essay

The following criteria will guide my evaluation of your essay on Villehardouin.

Criteria	Outstanding	Very good	Good	Adequate	Emerging	Incomplete
Evidence that writer has read widely in the assigned text.						
Effective selection of examples.						
Summary of content succinct and clear.						
Well-structured thesis.						
Writing is clear and free from errors.						
Citations use appropriate form.						

Numerical range of letter grades in this class

A+: 88-100%

A: 80-87%

B+: 75-79%

B: 70-74%

C+: 65-69%

C: 60-64%

D: 50-59%

F: Below 50%

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 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/).

The History department will also make a writing tutor available exclusively to History students. I'll give you more information about that in class.

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 and tailored just for you. They are available on the Libraries page at this link:

<http://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/content.php?pid=219304>

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 facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/422932261087799/> or emailing umhisau@gmail.com.