

HIST 110-01 Spring 2007

Western Civilization

MWF 1:10-2:00 HSS 317

Prof. Megan Williams

Office hours: SCI 267B, W 2:10-6:00 pm or by appointment

Contact information: e-mail, [mhw@sfsu.edu](mailto:mhw@sfsu.edu) (please do not leave messages on my office phone)

This course is a survey of Western Civilization from about 7,000,000 BC to 1500 AD. In other words we are going to be covering a lot of territory and time, which means that we will not be able to devote large blocks of time to every single historical era, issue, and region. As a result of covering so much material, you are expected to keep up with the readings when they are assigned. This will help you better understand the lectures and get more out of the course. The readings will supplement class lectures, but not replace them. You will not be able to pass the exams by simply reading the books. You must show up for class.

#### Required Books

##### Textbook

Lynn Hunt et al., eds., *The Making of the West: Peoples and Cultures. A Concise History. Volume 1.* (Bedford/St. Martin's, 2007)

##### Primary Sources

Suetonius, *The Twelve Caesars* trans. by Robert Graves (Penguin, 1991)

Giovanni Boccaccio, *The Decameron* trans. by G.H. McWilliam (Penguin, 1996)

#### Grades

Class Participation: 5%

Two Quizzes: 10% (5% each)

Midterm: 40%

Final Exam: 45%

#### Class Participation

Class participation makes up 5% of your grade. It is measured mostly by your comments on the days that we have class discussions. A small part of the participation grade will come from asking questions during lecture and attendance. I expect everyone to show up having read the assignments and ready to speak up. If you are fatally shy or believe that you cannot make useful comments, now is the time to get over it. Do not risk your grade by not speaking up.

#### Quizzes

You will be quizzed on the two primary source readings, which you should have read by the day that we discuss them in class. If you miss a quiz you can make it up by writing a three-page summary of the reading. There will be no penalty if you have a valid excuse for being absent. If you do not have a valid excuse, there will be a 20% penalty. The summary must be turned in by the class after which it was discussed.

## Exams

There will be one midterm and a final. They will not be cumulative and both will follow the same format. Each will include 5 identifications and one essay. I will provide the essay questions in advance for you to prepare before the test. Do not be late for exams. You will not be allowed to start exams if another student has already finished and left. Missed exams can only be made up in case of a documented emergency.

## Escape Clause

This syllabus and schedule are subject to change in the event of unforeseen circumstances. If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to check on announcements made while you were absent.

## Cheating and Plagiarism

Cheating is the actual or attempted practice of fraudulent or deceptive acts for the purpose of improving one's grade or obtaining course credit; such acts also include assisting another to do so. Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating which consists of the misuse of the published and/or unpublished works of others by misrepresenting the material so used as one's own work. It includes "borrowing" ideas and quotations from books, articles, and websites. If you're not sure about something, double check with me. Ignorance of what constitutes plagiarism is not a defense against it. Cheating and/or plagiarism will result in a 0 in the assignment and could result in expulsion from the University. For more on the University's policy regarding cheating and plagiarism, refer to the University Catalog (Policies and Regulations).

## Lectures and Readings

### Week 1:

#### Lecture topics:

Class introduction

Human origins

Neolithic/Agricultural Revolution

#### Reading:

Hunt (pp. 3-14)

### Week 2:

#### Lecture topics:

Mesopotamia, Egypt, Hittites

Ancient Near Eastern empires (Neo-Assyria, Babylonia)

Crete and Mycenae

Dark Age and Archaic Greece

Persian Wars and Athenian Empire

#### Reading:

Hunt pp.15-58

Week 3:

Lecture topics:

Athenian democracy

Classical Athenian civilization

Peloponnesian War

Greek philosophy

Alexander the Great

Hellenistic World

Reading:

Hunt pp. 59-128

Week 4:

Lecture topics:

Origins of Rome

Roman Republic

Roman Culture

Roman Imperialism

End of the Republic

Reading: Hunt pp. 129-170

Week 5:

Roman Empire

Friday: quiz and class discussion on Suetonius, *The Twelve Caesar*

Reading: Hunt pp. 171-212, Suetonius, *The Twelve Caesars*, lives of Augustus and Gaius (Caligula)

Week 6:

Lecture topics:

Late Antiquity

Fall of the Western Roman Empire

Survival of the East

Christian Origins

Reading: Hunt pp. 213-258

Week 7:

Lecture topics:  
Byzantium to 750  
Iconoclasm  
Islamic origins and conquests  
Francia  
Merovingians  
Visigothic Spain  
Ostrogothic Italy

Reading: Hunt pp. 259-294

Week 8:  
Monday: Midterm exam

Lecture topics:  
Byzantium, 750-1050  
Abbasids  
Islamic World

Reading: Hunt pp. 295-308

Week 9:

Lecture topics:  
Carolingians  
Anglo-Saxons  
Early Medieval Culture  
Vikings  
Ottonians  
Central Europe

Reading: Hunt pp. 309-338

Week 10:

Lecture topics:  
Commercial Revolution  
Gregorian Reform and the Investiture Conflict, 1073–1085  
Early Crusades and Crusader States  
Jews in Medieval Europe

Reading: Hunt pp. 339-357

Week 11:

Lecture topics:

Monarchies  
Macedonian Dynasty  
Benedictines and Cistercians

Reading: Hunt pp. 358-384

Week 12:

Lecture topics:  
Northern Crusades  
Sack of Constantinople  
Reconquista  
Mongol invasions  
France and England, 1200-1340

Reading: Hunt pp. 385-401

Week 13:

Medieval papacy  
Italian Communes  
Scholasticism  
Gothic art

Reading: Hunt pp. 402-424

Week 14:

Lecture topics:  
Black Death  
Hundred Years' War  
Ottomans  
Inquisition  
Reconquista (2)

Hunt pp. 425-447

Week 15:

Lecture topics:  
Renaissance culture  
Friday:  
Quiz and class discussion on Boccaccio, *The Decameron*

Reading: Hunt pp. 448-462, Boccaccio, *The Decameron*, I: 1, 2; II: 3, 9; III: 1, 2, 10; IV: 5; VI: 7, 10; VII: 2; VIII: 1; IX: 3.

Week 16:

Lecture topics:

Europe enters the world

Reading: Hunt pp. 463-472

Final Exam