

Fall 2011

HIST 110.02 – Western Civilization I

MWF 11:10 – 12:00

HSS 317

Office Hours: M 10-11; W 2-4 or by appt.

Web Page: <http://bss.sfsu.edu/jrodriguez/> (select HIST 110 under “Courses”)

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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/or region. As a result of covering so much material, you are expected to keep up with the readings as 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.**

Goals

Gain an understanding of Western Civilization

Gain an understanding of how historians work and how they use sources

Learn how to craft and support a historical argument

Required Books

Textbook

Frank Kidner, et al. *Making Europe: People, Politics, and Culture* Vol. I to 1790 (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2009)

Primary Sources

Andrew George, trans. *The Epic of Gilgamesh: The Babylonian Epic Poem and Other Texts in Akkadian and Sumerian* (Penguin, 2000)

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

Seamus Heaney, *Beowulf: A New Verse Translation* (W. Norton, 2001)

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

Assignments

Two Midterms and One Final Exam (not cumulative): All will follow the same format, 15 Multiple-choice questions / 15 identifications and an essay. Do not be late for exams. You will not be allowed to start the exam if another student has already finished. Do not miss exams. Making up an exam is a lot of extra work for me, so there has to be a very good reason on your part (severe illness, death in the family, wrongful incarceration, etc.)

4 Quizzes on the Primary Source Readings. You will be quizzed on the primary sources, 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, written excuse for being absent. If you do not have a valid excuse, there will be a 20% penalty. You have one week from the date the quiz was given to turn in the summary.

Grade Breakdown

Quizzes on Primary Sources: 20% (5% each)

First Exam: 25%

Second Exam: 25%

Final Exam: 30%

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).

Disability Statement Policy

Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor. The Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC) is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. The DPRC is located in the Student Service Building and can be reached by telephone (voice/TTY 415-338-2472) or by email (dprc@sfsu.edu).

Weekly Readings and Assignments

Week 1 (8/24 – 8/26)

The Origins of Civilization

Kidner et al., xvii-xxi, 4-11

Week 2 (8/29 – 9/2)

Egypt and Mesopotamia

Kidner et al., 11-31

9/2: NO CLASS

Week 3 (9/5 – 9/9)

Ancient Near East Civilizations

Kidner et al., 32-51

9/5: NO CLASS / LABOR DAY

9/7: Quiz and Class Discussion on *The Epic of Gilgamesh*

Week 4 (9/12 – 9/16)

Persia and Early Greece

Kidner et al., 51-80

Week 5 (9/19 – 9/23)

Hellenistic Greece

Kidner et al., 80-102

Week 6 (9/27 – 10/1)

Greek Life

Kidner et al., 102-113

9/30: FIRST EXAM (Covers all lectures up to 9/28 and chs. 1-4)

Week 7 (10/3 – 10/7)

Rome: From Republic to Empire

Kidner et al., 114-145

10/6: Quiz and Class Discussion on *The Twelve Caesars* (sections on Augustus, Gaius (Caligula) and Nero.)

Week 8 (10/10 – 10/14)

The Fall of the Roman Empire and the Rise of Christianity

Kidner et al., 145-181

182-203

Week 9 (10/17 – 10/21)

The Heirs of Rome – Byzantium and Islam

Kidner, et al. 182-233

Week 10 (10/24 – 10/28)

The Heirs of Rome – Germanic Europe

Kidner et al. 234-248

10/26: Quiz and Class Discussion on *Beowulf* (read the whole poem).

Week 11 (10/31 – 11/4)

Decline and Recovery

Kidner et al., 249-261

11/4: SECOND EXAM (Covers lectures between 10/3 & 11/2 and chs. 5-9)

Week 12 (11/7 – 11/11)

Church Reform and Crusades

Kidner et al. 262-277

Week 13 (11/14 – 11/18)

The Rise of the States and Medieval Culture

Kidner et al. 277-291

Week 14 (11/21 – 11/25)

No Class – Fall Recess

Week 15 (11/28 – 12/2)

The Medieval World in Crisis

Kidner et al. 292-321

Week 16 (12/5 – 12/9)

Renaissance

Kidner et al. 322-342

12/7: Quiz and Class Discussion on the Decameron, Introduction; I: 1, 2; II: 3, 9; III: 1, 2, 10; IV: 5; VI: 7, 10; VII: 2; VIII: 1; IX: 3

Week 17 (12/12 – 12/14)

12/14: FINAL EXAM IN HSS 317 10:45 – 1:15 (Covers lectures between 11/7 and 12/12 and chs. 9-12)

IMPORTANT DEADLINES FOR FALL SEMESTER 2011

Last day to add classes with a permit number: Sept. 6

Last day to drop classes: Sept. 6

Last day to late add classes by exception: Sept. 20

Applications for graduation due: Sept. 23

Last day to request CR/NC grading option: Oct. 18

Withdrawal after drop deadline: Sept. 7-Nov. 15

Withdrawal ONLY for "serious and compelling reasons" (documentation required):

Nov. 16 - Dec. 12