

NorthWest Arkansas Community College
Honors Western Civilization I, Ancient to 1650

Instructor: **Dr. Chris Huggard, BH 2008, phone: 619-4270, chuggard@nwacc.edu**

Office Hours: MW 10:30-Noon, 1:30-3pm, and Tues. Noon-1:30, Th1-3:00pm, and by appointment

Course Text: Brian Levack, et. al., *The West: Encounters & Transformations*, volume I, (a la carte version—for ringed notebook), available in the NWACC bookstore

Course

Description: A survey of the history of **Western Civilization** and a cursory glance at Asia and Africa from ancient times to 1650. Emphasis will be placed on the social, political, religious, and environmental developments.

Course

Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student should:

1. Understand the major historical themes of the Ancient, Medieval, Renaissance, and Reformation periods.
2. Be able to use the academic skills:
 - a. of critical thinking (analysis, synthesis, evaluation)
 - b. of communication (listening, reading, writing, discussion)
 - c. of lifelong learning (curiosity, initiative, openness, research)
3. Be aware of cultural diversity:
 - a. students will gain exposure to diverse ethical, political, economic, historical, and social perspectives in history.
 - b. students will learn about various religious viewpoints concerning the history of western civilization.
4. Be able to write a well-thought-out essay after being given ample background materials and facts from readings and class discussions.
5. Think critically about the past, present, and future of Western Civilization.

Course

Requirements: Students are expected to attend class and read the assigned readings in the text and to take the exams. Class participation is strongly encouraged. Attendance is essential.

Exams: **There will be two exams: a midterm and a final for this class. The Final is Tues., Dec. 12, 10:30am-12:30pm.** Each exam is worth 100 points for a total of 200 points.

Make-up

Exams: Students are encouraged to make it to all the exams. Make-ups are not given unless there is a legitimate excuse. **All make-ups to be taken in the BH testing center on Mon., Dec. 4.**

Short Essays/

Commentaries: You will be required to write a 3-5 page paper on 3 of the 5 discussion topics based on a set of questions for each topic. Each paper will be valued at 75 points. The essays or commentaries will be due one week after the discussion (e.g., Topic #1 paper will be due September 14; Topic #2, September 26; Topic #3, October 31; Topic #4, November 14; Topic #5, December 5). A penalty of 5 points per weekday will be subtracted from late papers. You will be required to write on 2 of the first 3 topics and on 1 of the last 2 topics.

Attendance

Policy: **You are required to attend all classes. You will receive 20 points at the end of the semester if you miss three or fewer classes. If you miss 4 or more classes, you will lose all 20 points which will still be calculated in the final grade. Coming late to class is considered rude; therefore, if you are late three times (5 minutes or more), you will be given an absence.** This policy rewards the responsible students who attend and participate on a regular basis.

Grading: 90% to 100% = 400-445 pts. = A (2 exams=200 pts., 3 papers=225 [75 pts. ea.],
80% to 89% = 356-399 pts. = B attendance=20 pts., Total possible 445 pts)
70% to 79% = 312-355 pts. = C
60% to 69% = 267-313 pts. = D
Below 60% = 268/less pts. = F

Grievance

Procedure: Consult the *NWACC Student Handbook* regarding proper steps concerning grievances against other students or professors. The first step should be to bring the complaint to Dr. Huggard. If this step does not satisfactorily resolve the problem, the student should contact, Judy Tobler (BH 2010), Dept. Chair for the Social Sciences Department.

Important

Dates: Last day to drop with a “W”—November 17
Thanksgiving Break—November 22-25
Last class day—Tuesday, December 5
FINAL EXAMINATION—Tuesday, Dec. 12, 10:30am-12:30pm

Bad Weather

Policy: For official NWACC closings call NWACC at 619-4377

Building Rules: Eating and drinking are not allowed in the building. Smoking must be done at designated sites on campus.

Discussion Dates

for Topical

Readings: Topic #1, Discussion: September 7, Ancient Thinkers of the West versus the East: Philosophy, Religion, and Governance through the eyes of Zoroaster, Buddha, Confucius, and Plato (assigned readings and websites—see website list)

Topic #2: Discussion: September 19, The Ancient Greeks and Sexuality (see website list)

Topic #3: Discussion: October 24, Mary Magdalene, Thomas, & the Gnostics
(assigned readings and websites—see website list)

Topic #4: Discussion: November 7, Muslims & the West in the Early Middle Ages, Henri Pirenne's Thesis & Some Responses (assigned readings and websites—see website list)

Topic #5: Discussion: November 28, Humanism & Protestantism: Desiderius Erasmus & Martin Luther (assigned readings and websites--see website list)

Unit Outline:

I. THE FIRST CIVILIZATIONS

- A. Human Development
- B. Primitive Societies
- C. Mesopotamia & Egypt
- D. The Hebrews

II. THE GREEKS

- A. Aegean Civilization
- B. Hellenic Culture and Society
- C. Political Systems in Greece
- D. Greek Thought & Ideas

III. THE ROMANS

- A. Rome to 590 BC
- B. The Early Republic at home and abroad
- C. The Late Republic
- D. The Empire

IV. EXAMINATION I

V. JUDAISM & CHRISTIANITY

- A. The Jews
- B. The Decline of Rome
- C. Jesus Christ & the early Christians
- D. The Rise & Triumph of Christianity

VI. OTHER GREAT RELIGIONS/PHILOSOPHIES OF THE WORLD

- A. Hinduism
- B. Buddhism
- C. Confucianism
- D. Taoism
- C. Islam or Muslim Culture

- VII. THE EARLY MIDDLE AGES IN WESTERN EUROPE
 - A. The Franks under the Merovingians and Carolingians
 - B. Feudalism and Manorialism

VIII. EXAMINATION II

- IX. CHURCH & STATE
 - A. The Roman Catholic Church & the Papacy
 - B. Monastic Life
 - C. The Investiture Controversy

- X. THE LATE MIDDLE AGES, THE STATE, & THE POPE
 - A. The Modern British Monarchs (Royalty)
 - B. The French Monarchs
 - C. The Papacy, Power, & the Crusades
 - D. The Rise of the Cities

- XI. THE DECLINE OF THE MEDIEVAL CHURCH
 - A. The Decline of the Roman Catholic Church
 - B. France & Britain in Conflict
 - C. Germany, Italy, & Spain
 - D. Medieval Culture

- XII. THE RENAISSANCE
 - A. The Northern Italian Renaissance
 - B. Humanism & Art
 - C. The Northern European Renaissance

- XIII. THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION
 - A. Martin Luther Breaks with the Roman Catholic Church
 - B. Henry VIII creates the Anglican Church
 - C. John Calvin in Geneva, Switzerland
 - D. The Catholic Counter Reformation

- XIV. EXPLORATION & EXPANSION
 - A. Christopher Columbus & the Iberian Golden Age
 - B. Portuguese Voyages
 - C. The Dutch, British, & French Explorers

- XV. THE GREAT POWERS IN CONFLICT
 - A. Nation States & Warfare
 - B. The Thirty Years War, 1618-1648
 - C. Divine-Right Monarchy

XVI. FINAL EXAMINATION, Tuesday, Dec. 12, 10:30am-12:30pm