HISTORY 1350 W

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION TO 1500 (3 credits: Intercession, 2015)

Dr. K. B. Koth
Office: FA 455
Karl.Koth@umanitoba.ca

Venue: Tier 403
Time: Mon-Fri, 8:30-10:30

Office Hours: Mon. 10:45—12:00 or by appointment

Course Description:

This course presents a survey of the major periods of Western Civilization from the beginning of civilization to 1500, including:

1) The Ancient World …………………………………… 3000-31 BCE
2) The Roman Empire its Decline and Aftermath……... 31 BCE-750 CE
3) The Early Middle Ages…………………………… 750 CE-1000 CE
4) The High Middle Ages…………………………… 1000 CE-1270 CE
5) The Later Middle Ages and the Renaissance…….. 1270 CE-1500 CE

In the case of each period or society studied, our goal will be to trace the origins and development of our own common culture, and, as well, understand the following:

1) What is history and why is it valuable?
2) What is civilization?
3) The major beliefs, customs and values of the peoples studied;
4) How these beliefs relate to the distribution of wealth and power, and how they are expressed in political institutions, ideologies, art, and other cultural activities;
5) Questions of social, sexual, economic and other kinds of justice, and the various forms of resistance to oppression.

Historiography: (“History” moving along.)

To introduce the discipline of History, we shall discuss the use of the term “Dark Ages,” hitherto used to signify the period of the Middle Ages. The origins and reasons for this usage will be examined, as well as the arguments for its revision. The modern interpretation is that the Dark Ages were comparatively “Light,” in the sense of providing continuity rather than rupture.
See, Johannes Fried, (translated from the German by Peter Lewis), *The Middle Ages*, (Belknap Press, 2015).

Reviewed by James W. Vice on Amazon.com, 27 Jan, 2015:

“The author, a retired professor at the University of Frankfurt, Germany, aims to show that what has long been called “the Middle Ages” and frequently portrayed as a thousand years of darkness between the classical world of the Greeks and Romans and the brilliant rebirth of culture and intellect in the Renaissance was in fact a period of seminal intellectual, scientific, artistic, institutional, and managerial growth.”


**Evaluation:**

| Essay #1 | 25% | Mon. 11th May |
| Essay #2 | 35% | Wed. 20th May |
| Final exam | 40% | Fri. 29th May |

**Total** 100%

**Required Textbooks** (available at the UM Bookstore):
   by Jackson J. Spielvogel (Author)
   Publisher: Wadsworth Publishing; 9 edition (Jan. 1 2014)
   Language: English
   ISBN-10: 128543658X

   However, there are many options for a text. The cheapest one is to search *Western Civilization*, in Amazon.com, and order a used copy of *Western Civilization to 1500*. There you might find books under $25.00, thus saving about $100.00.


**Essays:** These will be of a minimum of 6-8 pages, a minimum of 1500 words each. These essays will be analytical in nature. The first essay will be evaluated and returned prior to the **Voluntary Withdrawal date of May 21st, 2015**.

**Late Papers:** Late papers will be accepted only under the most exceptional circumstances, and will be heavily penalized.

**Foot/end noting and Bibliographies:** You must use the Chicago style contained in Turabian, Kate L., *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, (Chicago: University of Chicago Press). An excellent summary of these styles, as well as an aid to writing term papers and essays, is in Rampolla’s book (see above).
**Plagiarism:** If you are not aware of the regulations concerning Plagiarism, cheating and impersonation, consult the U of M’s Online Calendar, the section on ‘Academic Integrity’ in the General Academic Regulations and the Faculty of Arts regulation (online at http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student/student_responsibilities.html) which reads:

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.

**Final Exam** (May 29, 9 – 11 am, 401 Tier Building):

There will be a two-hour comprehensive examination. The format of the exam will be discussed in class.

**Voluntary Withdrawal Date:** May 21st. – Evaluative feedback will be provided before this date.

**Letter Grade equivalents:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Equivalent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>80-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>75-79</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>70-74</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<td>F</td>
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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.

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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date (Intercession dates to be added)</th>
<th>Lecture Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>Course introduction; Civilization and Ancient Near East</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ancient Near East</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Peoples and Empires</td>
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<tr>
<td>7, 8, 11</td>
<td>Civilization of the Greeks; Hellenistic Greece</td>
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<td>12-14</td>
<td>The Roman Republic; Imperial Rome</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Emergence of the Mediaeval World</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td><strong>Victoria Day: No Classes</strong></td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>The Early Middle Ages</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>The High Middle Ages</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>The Rise of Kingdoms and the Growth of Church Power</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>The Later Middle Ages</td>
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<tr>
<td>25-26</td>
<td>The Renaissance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Revision/discussion of final exam</td>
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(dates are subject to adjustments)

| 29 | Final Exam 9:00-11:00 |

**Term Essays:**

**DOs**

1. In an essay of **1500 words minimum (6-8 pages)**, consider the topic/question by constructing your own thesis, and attempt to address it coherently.

2. It is essential that you choose and limit your theme carefully in terms of chronology and content, and present your point of view (**your thesis**) clearly to the reader (**me**) somewhere at the beginning of your essay. The rest of the essay will consist of your laying out an argument in support of your thesis. These two essays fulfill your **University Writing Requirement**, and should be viewed as a very serious undertaking.

3. **In order to substantiate your argument you need to consult at least FIVE different sources, (primary sources, books, academic articles, newspapers, etc)**

   These must be acknowledged in a bibliography, **and properly foot/end-noted throughout your paper, using the Chicago style**. This format may be most easily accessed in Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing History*, (Boston, New York: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 1998), or Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, (Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 1973).

4. It goes without saying that merely depending on the thesis of one of your sources will not be acceptable. I would suggest that you use your sources first for gathering evidence,
facts. From these you will construct your own thesis and argument, and avoid falling into the “dependency” trap.

5. Give a computer generated word count at the end of your essay.

6. Your essay will therefore consist of a title page, text which includes foot- or endnotes, numbered pages, and a bibliography.

7. DO clarify your thesis statement with me before you begin writing.

DON’Ts
1. **Do NOT** use the Internet, especially sources such as WIKIPEDIA. You may use the Internet to access and download academic journal articles through EBSCO (JSTOR) or other such sites.
2. Also, **DO NOT** use your text, my class notes, or any book you may have read for another course.
3. Do not leave spaces between paragraphs, and do not use sub-headings. Double space.

Essay #1 Topics. Choose ONE—due date. May 11, 2015

1. How and why did urbanization, the invention of writing, and political centralization first develop in the resource-poor area of Mesopotamia?
2. What cultural developments allowed people to secure food, organize society, and overcome hostile environments before the rise of the first cities?
3. How did the Corinthian, Spartan and Athenian cultures differ, and why did these city states evolve in such different directions?
4. What was the Hebrew people’s covenant with *Yahweh*? How did this help build a society quite different from the societies around it?
5. What do the gods, myths, and art of the Greek people reveal about their lives?
6. Why did Athens become Greece’s greatest power in the wake of the Persian wars?
7. What does the Peloponnesian War reveal about weaknesses and divisions in Greek culture?
8. What factors made possible the expansion of Rome from a collection of villages into a power that ultimately ruled the Mediterranean area well into the fifth century?

Essay #2 Topics. Choose ONE—due date: May 20, 2015

1. How and why did the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth replace other major religious expressions in the entire Roman world?
2. What were the reasons behind the attraction of monasticism, and why did it take so many different forms?
3. Account for Charlemagne’s achievements in the Germano-Romanic world.
4. In what ways did life in the urban world of the High Middle Ages pose a threat to the values and priorities of aristocrats and churchmen?
5. How did disease transform social relations in fourteenth-century Europe?
6. How did the vernacular literature of Dante, Chaucer, and Christine de Pisan represent a departure from previous literary traditions?
7. What is humanism, and why was the study of languages so important to the humanists?
8. What outcomes obtained from the global exploration and conquests of the Portuguese and the Spanish?
9. Account for the reasons why the period of the Middle Ages was, for many years, considered “Dark.”