

University of Manitoba
Syllabus
Course: HIST 1350 History of Western Civilization to 1500
Spring/Summer 2021
Class time: Monday to Thursday (12:30-1:45)
Instructor: Dr. Lloyd Penner
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Course Description

This course is a survey of the history of Western Civilization from ancient times to 1500 C.E. The emphasis will be on the contributions of Sumer, Egypt, Judaism, Greece, Rome, Christianity, Germanic peoples and Medieval Europe. The main purpose of the course is to develop an appreciation of and a critical understanding of the ideas, people and movements which have shaped the western world.

Text

There is no required text. However, if a student wishes to have a text the student should contact the instructor who will recommend a text.

Methods of Instruction

Lectures, two research essays, take-home final exam

Assignments:

1. First Research Essay: 30% (Due: Thursday, May 27)
2. Second Research Essay: 30% (Due: Monday, June 14)
3. Take Home Exam: 40 marks (Thursday, June 17; Due: Thursday, June 24)
(The exam consists of 3 major essay questions)

Letter/Number Grade Range

A+ 92-100, A 83-91, B+ 78-82, B 70-77, C+ 66-69, C 60-65, D 50-59, F 0-49

Main Course Topics

(Note that not all topics may be covered.)

Early Human History
Sumerian Civilization
Ancient Egypt
Ancient Judaism
Rise of Greek Civilization
Classical and Hellenistic Greece

Era of the Roman Republic
Roman Empire and the rise of Christianity
Early Middle Ages
Rise of Islam and the Eastern Roman Empire
High Middle Ages
Crises of the Later Middle Ages
The Early Renaissance

General Instructions:

This course will be taught using Zoom. Students will need to be familiar with this platform. The course lectures will not be recorded so students need to be online at the specified time. Classes are scheduled for Monday to Thursday, May 10-June 17. The course syllabus, lecture outlines and assignments will be made available on UMLearn. Essays should be submitted to UMLearn. Overdue essays will be penalized 2% per day including weekends. The voluntary withdrawal date is June 8.

Students who are unable to meet a course requirement due to medical circumstances are currently not required to submit medical notes. However, students are required to contact their instructor or academic advisor by email to inform of the missed work and to make arrangements for extensions, deferrals, or make-up assignments. Please follow these guidelines if you are unable to meet an academic requirement for your courses.

- Contact your instructor for term work such as a class, quiz, midterm/test, assignment, lab;
- Contact an advisor in your faculty/college/school of registration for a missed final exam (scheduled in the final examination period);
- Inform your instructor/advisor as soon as possible do not delay. Note for final exams, students must contact within 48 hours of the date of the final exam; and
- Email your instructor/advisor from a U of M email address, and include your full name, student number, course number, and academic work that was missed.

Evaluation of term work will be provided by the voluntary withdrawal date of June 8.

“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.”

Grade Appeals

Students have 10 working days after receiving a grade to appeal it. They should appeal grades received on term work as the term proceeds rather than waiting until the final grade for the course is posted which would only enable the student to appeal the final exam grade.

Faculty Regulation on Unreturned Term Work

Four months from the end of the final examination period, unclaimed student work from that term will become property of the Faculty of Arts and be destroyed according to FIPPA guidelines and using confidential measures for disposal.

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 web page (http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/).

All of the above services can also be accessed under the heading of Student Resources on the Student Affairs website: <http://umanitoba.ca/student/studentlife/index.html>.

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, tailored just for you! They are available on the Libraries page at this link: <http://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/history>. Students who need research assistance can also schedule an appointment with a librarian through the website.

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 twitter account @UMH_Undergrad, our instagram account @UMHISA_Undergrad, or emailing umhisau@gmail.com .

Academic Honesty

The university's regulations on academic honesty are found in the section on “Academic Integrity” of the General Academic Regulations in the online Academic Calendar, and Catalog. 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.

Research Essay Instructions

Students will research and write two analytical essays (1500-2000 words) on topics chosen from a list provided by the instructor. The essay must make a thesis/argument (i.e. have a point of view). Students must use a least 7 sources of which at least 3 must be books. Encyclopedias do not qualify as a source although students may read them to obtain general background information. Internet sources must be written and signed by a historian. No more than 8 students can sign up for a topic. Late papers will be penalized 2% for each day they are handed in late (including weekends) unless the student provides a medical certificate.

Guidelines for Essay Writing

Students must provide between 15 and 30 citations (footnotes, endnotes or in text). Note that in the case of a book or journal article the exact page or pages used must be included in the citation. Quote only when paraphrasing would lose the meaning and impact of the original text. The essay should have no more than 8 quotations. For quotes longer than 3 lines you must leave a line and indent both margins followed by another empty line. For this type of indented block quote, do not use quotation marks. If words are omitted, they must be indicated by dots in square brackets. Always cite (reference, document) all information and interpretations that are not general knowledge (not just quotes). Otherwise, this is considered plagiarism. Essays must include a bibliography listing sources using the proper format. Students are encouraged to consult with the instructor via e-mail.

Papers must be printed in 12 point font and double-spaced. Provide a title page that includes your name, student number, course number, name and date. Number your pages. Be sure to write a rough draft, proof-read, revise and edit carefully for sentence structure, clarity, verb tense and spelling. Avoid passive verbs such as “it is said” or “it was thought”. Be specific and avoid wordy and flowery sentences.

First Essay Topics

1. Both the early Sumerians and the Egyptians created a system of writing. Compare a) the origins b) how they changed over time and c) the topics they wrote about. Discuss both similarities and differences.
2. Both the early Sumerians and Egyptians developed very elaborate religious beliefs. Compare a) their main Gods c) how they were organized and c) religion’s impact on everyday life. Discuss both similarities and differences.
3. The Egyptians are known for their large temples and pyramids but their visual arts are equally significant. What were the characteristics of Egyptian visual art (pictures, statues etc.) and what does this tell us about their values and lifestyle? Refer to specific examples.
4. What are the origins of monotheism (the belief in one God) according to historians?
5. Greek visual arts were a reflection of fundamental Greek values. Demonstrate this with reference to specific works of art.
6. Contrary to general opinion, Athenian democracy was not very democratic. Begin with a discussion of how Athenian democracy developed. Then describe how it worked. Finally, explain and analyze its weaknesses.
7. Compare the philosophical ideas of a) Socrates b) Plato and c) Aristotle discussing both similarities and differences.
8. Why were the Greeks able to resist the attempts of the Persians to conquer them but were unable to resist the Romans later on?
9. Compare early Greek art and sculpture with Hellenistic art and sculpture. Also, provide possible reasons for the differences. Include specific examples.
10. The Romans are known for many things including their military. Why and how did the Roman military become so powerful in the period of the Republic which ended in 27 B.C.E. Illustrate with specific battles and wars.
11. The Romans developed a republican form of government. How well did it work? What were its strengths and weaknesses which eventually led to its decline in the first century B.C.E?
12. Rome conquered the Greeks militarily but the Greeks conquered the Romans culturally. Prove this statement. Include examples.