History 121:
Western Civilization to 1715
Fall, 1998

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Office Hours: MWF, 9:00--10:00 Office Phone: 843-3586
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(or by appointment)

This course will examine some major crises in the history and development of the western world from its beginnings to the end of the Reformation. Throughout the course students will be urged to follow patterns of continuity, to identify causes of change, and to draw their own conclusions about the roots of western culture.

Required Text:

Spielvogel, Jackson J. *Western Civilization*, vol. 1: *To 1715*. 3rd ed. St. Paul: West Publishing Company, 1997.

Assorted internet texts. See <http://orb.rhodes.edu>

Course Requirements:

Because of the size of this class, most classes will be conducted in lecture format, but they may also involve a more general discussion of the assigned topic. I am always willing to be interrupted by intelligent questions. All students will be expected to contribute to class discussion sessions and to demonstrate that they have read assigned materials. I also strongly recommend that you make arrangements to come in to see me in my office at least once during the semester, preferably early in the year. I can do a better job of guiding the class if I know you as individuals and have a chance to explore your personal interests and concerns. If our schedules conflict, I will be happy to set up appointments for times before or after my regular hours.

Members of the class should familiarize themselves with the resources available to them in the computer lab. I will communicate with the class via a

distribution list and will expect everyone to check e-mail frequently. Additional reading assignments may be assigned from World Wide Web sites, such as ORB (http://orb.rhodes.edu) or other library collections. My folder on the Academic Volume contains copies of this syllabus, writing guidelines, and other helpful tips. Take time to discover what is available and use it to your own advantage.

Writing Assignments: Each student will submit eight short (1-page) papers reacting to quotations taken from the readings. Instructions for these appear under the appropriate dates in the syllabus.

There will be two exams during the semester: a midterm and a final exam that will cover the entire course. All exams will be in essay format, and students will be expected to include material gathered from assigned reading and from lecture and discussion sessions. Essays will be graded on both content and composition.

Late papers will be accepted, but the grade will drop three points for every 24 hours, including weekends and holidays. Make-up exams will NOT be permitted, except in cases of true emergencies (such as hospitalization, death of a parent, etc.) or for conflicting college-scheduled activities (Mock Trial, inter-collegiate sports, etc.). All such absences must be verified by the dean's office, health center, or sponsoring faculty member. If you have to ask whether an excuse is valid, it probably isn't.

Attendance is mandatory; if you must miss class because of illness, please notify me immediately, either by phone or by e-mail. Final grades will reflect both participation and attendance. You may assume that your final grade in this class will be no higher than the percentage of classes you attend. (This class meets 42 times. If you miss 5 classes, your attendance is 88%, which would be a B+.) Assuming that your attendance is regular, final grades will be based on the following scale:

Eight short papers	40%	(5% apiece)
Midterm	20%	
Final Exam	30%	
Participation	10%	

DATE:	**TOPIC:**	**ASSIGNMENTS:**
W, 8/26	Introduction to Course: The Nature of History	

F, 8/28

Introduction to the use of e-mail, Netscape and other computer resources.

M, 8/31

The Hostile World of the Mesopotamian Valley

Chap. 1

W, 9/2

The Optimism of Egypt

F, 9/4

The Hebrews and Monotheism

Paper due: How does the Code of Hammurabi (p. 19) compare with the laws of Exodus (p. 42)?

Chap. 2

M, 9/7

Labor Day; no classes

W, 9/9

Minoans and Mycenaeans

Chap. 3

F, 9/11

Greek Renaissance and the Idea of the Polis

M, 9/14

Athens and Sparta: The Peloponnesian War

W, 9/16

Alexander the Great and the Drive for World Empire

Paper due: Are Hellenistic women (p. 118) really more powerful than they were in fifth-century Athens (p. 101)?

Chap. 4

F, 9/18

The Etruscans and the Founding of Rome

Chap. 5

M, 9/21

The Expansion of Rome: From City to State

W, 9/23

A Century of Revolution

F, 9/25

The Augustan Settlement

Chap. 6

Paper due: Can you identify any exaggerations or “half-truths” in Augustus’s *Res Gestae* (p. 174)?

M, 9/28

The Problems of Empire

W, 9/30

The Crisis of the Third Century

F, 10/2

The Legalization of Christianity

M, 10/5

Monasticism

Chap. 7

W, 10/7

Barbarian Migrations

Paper due: Why do the two descriptions of Huns (p. 216) differ so greatly? What does that tell you about the meaning of the term “barbarian”?

F, 10/9

The Spread of Islam

M. 10/12

MIDTERM EXAM

W, 10/14

Charlemagne

Chap. 8

F, 10/16

The Viking Invasions

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W, 10/21

Ties of Dependency

F, 10/23

Life on the Manor

Chap. 9

M, 10/26

The Reform of Christianity

W. 10/28

Investiture Controversy

Paper due: Compare the Dictates of Pope Gregory (p. 287) with his treatment of Henry IV at Canossa (p. 289). Do you see him as a reformer or a despot? Explain why.

F, 10/30

Papal Monarchy

M, 11/2

Towns and Traders

Chap. 10

W, 11/4

National Monarchies

F, 11/6

Crusades

Chap. 11

M, 11/9

Crusades

Paper due: How does the ideal of Pope Urban's Crusade (p. 245) compare to the reality of the French behavior in the Holy Land(pp. 348, 249, 353)?

W. 11/11

The Twelfth-Century Renaissance

F, 11/13

The Black Death

Chap. 12

M, 11/16

NO CLASS; USE DAY TO CATCH UP ON READING.

W, 11/18

The Hundred Years' War

F, 11/20

The Renaissance in Italy

Chap. 13

Paper due: Do Machiavelli (p. 427) and Mirandola (p. 432) agree about the nature of the “Renaissance Man”?

M, 11/23

Expansion of the World

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M, 11/30

The Crisis of the Church

W, 12/2

Martin Luther

Chap. 14

F, 12/4

John Calvin

M, 12/7

The Catholic Response

Compare the Zwingli/Luther debate over the Lord's Supper (p. 472) with the rules laid out by Ignatius Loyola (p. 485). How do you define the difference between Protestant and Catholic approaches illustrated here?

W, 12/9

The Transformation of Europe

Chap. 15

T, 12/15

FINAL EXAM FOR “D” HOUR CLASSES, 8:30 A.M.