

Western Civilization I

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This course charts the beginnings of Western Civilization which is the root of much of our own culture. The course begins with early Greek society and traces the evolution of law, government and culture through the Romans, followed by the influences of the Orient, the Dark Ages, Middle Ages and finally to the Renaissance. This course will cover approximately 2500 years of material in one semester, so it's important that students complete the reading and homeworks on a timely basis. In learning about these early civilizations students will also develop their skills in geography, economics, government, philosophy, urban planning and art, while also expanding their vocabulary, logic and writing skills.

Text book: World History: Perspectives on the Past; Krieger, Neill and Reynolds

Grading Policy:

There will be several homework assignments and writing projects in addition to group and in class activities. Generally you will have at least 2 days to complete a homework assignment, however, there may be some cases where homework is assigned and due the next day. Homeworks are a significant part of your grades, if you write complete legible answers you will receive a 10 (check +). Approximately every six homeworks assigned will count as one test grade. You are expected to prepare your homeworks alone. **If you choose to work on an assignment with a classmate you will have to do additional questions and each persons name should be on the homework turned in. If you fail to note such on the homework you will receive a xerox zero or the grade will be divided by the number of participants. COPYING HOMEWORK IS CHEATING!** Similarly there will be both announced and unannounced quizzes and at the end of each major unit a test. In addition, you will have at least 2 papers this semester, each of which will be approximately 2 to 3 typed pages in length, each paper will count as a test grade. Lastly, there will be in-class group projects which will count towards your grade and you will also receive a grade (minimum of 10% of your quarter grade) for classroom participation/behavior.

Absence on the day of a test:

If you miss a day, you are expected to independently request what assignments you may have missed. Likewise, if you are absent on the day of a test you are expected to take the test the day you return, this should be either during your lunch period or before or after school. **Makeup tests will not be given during class time.** For each day that you delay completing the test or handing in an assignment you will receive the loss of one full grade on that paper/test for the first day and 1/3rd of a grade for each day thereafter. Once returned to the other students late homeworks will not be accepted.

Tardiness/Missed Classes without authorization.

Consistent with the school policy, three (3) tardies (if you are more than 10 minutes late your lateness will be deemed an unexcused absence) equal an unexcused absence and Three (3) unexcused absences will result in your failing the course. One unexcused absence will result in a loss of 3 points from your average; a second will result in a loss of 10 points to your average. Please be on time. If you miss a test you are expected to complete the test during your free period or lunch the next day. **If you are asked to leave the class for being disruptive, that missed class will then be deemed an unexcused absence.**

Classroom Behavior

In general the behavior expected of you in class is to come in timely, sit at your desk, be prepared with paper and writing utensil, and treat everyone with respect. If you have a question, raise your hand. Please do not work on other school work in class, and refrain from talking with friends while class is in session. **If you are asked to leave the room due to behavior issues, that absence from class will constitute an unexcused absence.**

2009 Addendum- PDAs- MP3s/Cellphones and other electronic equipment. Please store all electronic equipment including headphones/earbuds prior to the beginning of class. Cellphones should be off, if your phone unexpectedly rings during class simply turn it off. If this is a regular problem than the phone will be confiscated. If you are found to be using your electronic equipment during class, you will be given an unexcused absence for the day (see above) and the electronic equipment will be taken from you, a parent or guardian can come in to collect the device.

I. Ancient Greece

- A. Early Greeks
 - 1. Myceneans, Minoans and the Dark Age
 - 2. Greek Gods and Religion in Greece
 - 3. Geography of Greece
- B. City State civilizations
 - 1. Sparta
 - 2. Athens
 - 3. Development of Law and Democracy
 - 4. Persian Wars
- C. Golden Age of Greece
 - 1. Peloponnesian Wars
- D. Alexander the Great and Hellenism

II. Roman Republic

- A. Pax Romana and Pax Americana- comparison of the role of Rome at its height with modern day America
- B. Early Rome
 - 1. Etruscans, Latins and Greeks
 - 2. Development of the City of Rome
 - 3. Cincinnatus
- C. Roman Government and Culture
 - 1. Development of the Republic
 - 2. Twelve Tables and Law
 - 3. Culture in Early Rome
- D. Expansion of the Empire
 - 1. Carthaginian Wars
 - 2. Movement East
 - 3. Increase in power of the military
- E. Last Century of the Roman Republic
 - 1. Decline of the Republic
 - 2. Caesar

III. Roman Empire

- A. Rise of Caesar Augustus
 - 1. Golden Age of Rome
- B. Problems of the New Emperors; the Good, the Bad and the Ugly (and the “mad”)
- C. Culture in the early Empire
- D. Roman influence throughout Europe, Asia and Africa
 - 1. Colonization
- E. Split of the Western and Eastern Empire
 - 1. Decline of Rome
 - 2. Development of Constantinople
- F. Religion in Rome
 - 1. Background on Religions existing in the Empire other than Christianity
- G. Christianity- The Rise of the Jesus Movement
 - 1. Beginnings of Christianity
 - 2. Influence of Paul and the Spread of Christianity
 - 3. The Movement of Christianity towards Rome as its Center
- H. Final Fall of Rome and the Western Empire

IV. The Eastern Roman Empire/Byzantine Empire and the effects of Islam on Europe

- A. Remnants of the Earlier Empire
 - 1. Justinian
- B. Development of an independent Eastern Christian Church
- C. Spread of Islam
- D. Response of Europe

V. Dark Ages

- A. Fall of Western Europe, law and justice

VI. Middle Ages

A. Early Middle Ages

- 1. Charlemagne- Carolingian Empire
- 2. Vikings

B. Middle Ages

- 1. Norman Invasion
- 2. The Manor, Lord and Castle
- 3. The Roman Catholic Church
- 4. Crusades

C. Later Middle Ages

- 1. Rise of Culture in the 13th Century, influence of Islam and the Eastern Roman Empire on Western Society
- 2. Plague

VII. Early Nation States

- A. Development of England as a United Nation
- B. 100 Year War and France
- C. Isabella, Ferdinand and Spain
- D. Italy and the City-State

VIII. Renaissance

A. Rome and Florence

- 1. Architecture and the new role of the Artist
 - a. Brunelleschi, Donatello, Michelangelo, DaVinci
- 2. Philosophy and Poetry
 - a. Petrarch, Machiavelli

B. Rise of Commercialism

- 1. Venice

C. Late Renaissance

- 1. Spread of Renaissance Art to Northern Europe
 - a. Durer and Eck

D. Religion and the Renaissance

- 1. The Church and Dissent
- 2. The Inquisition

