

HIS 101

Western Civilization I Spring 2009

Instructor: Tracey Trenam, Ph.D.

ONLINE ONLY

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday; please contact me by WebCT email for an appointment
692B Westview
Phone: 339-6216
Help Desk: 339-6380

Texts:

Donal Kagan, et al, The Western Heritage, Vol I, ISBN 0-13-219719-7

Candace Gregory, Documents of Western Civilization, ISBN 0495030104

Class Description: Explores a number of events, peoples, groups, ideas, institutions, and trends that have shaped Western Civilization from the prehistoric era to 1650. Reflects the multiple perspectives of gender, class, religion, and ethnic groups. Focuses on developing, practicing, and strengthening the skills historians use while constructing knowledge in this discipline.

Objectives/Competencies

This course is one of the Statewide Guaranteed Transfer courses. GT-HI1. 3 credits. [See this link for more details on objectives.](#) For this course to be guaranteed transfer to a state university in Colorado, students must demonstrate competence in critical thinking and written communication and reading .

Student Responsibilities/Course Requirements:

Note: You should expect to spend as much time working on this course as you would on any course; that is three hours for every credit, or a minimum 9 hours a week for an average (C) grade). This means over an hour of homework per day to pass the class!

1. *Summary of weight of grades:* Weekly discussions 60%, 1500 points total; Research Paper (includes drafts and discussions on paper): 40%, 1000 points total; Opportunities for extra credit: 5%.
2. **Summary of grades: 100-90% of total points possible ' A; 80-89% ' B; 70-79'C; 60-69'D; 0-59'F**

Policies:

Attendance

- Students are required to "attend" class by logging in at least two times per week. Students who fail to submit assignments or log in for one calendar week shall be reported to Aims Admissions and Records failure to attend. Students who cease to attend are expected to withdraw from the course either online or by filling out a form with Admissions and Records; failure to do so may result in the receipt of an F on their record.

Assignments

--no Internet sources are permitted unless they are PRIMARY sources. A primary source is

one written by an eyewitness to events

--Late written work (Subject, Thesis, Bibliography): Assignments may be accepted late, as follows:

- i. Submitted by the due date: full credit
- ii. Submitted up to 1 week late: 90% possible credit
- iii. Submitted more than one week late: ½ possible credit
- iv. Assignment which receive less than an A will of course credited less than the maximum.

--Primary Discussions may be submitted up to three days late, with a loss of five points per day

--Follow up to discussions may be submitted late IF the discussions are still open. If the discussions are closed, no more submissions may be made.

--Assignments submitted in an inappropriate manner (i.e. by email rather than to the papers page) will have one letter grade deducted. That grade may be made up if the assignment is submitted correctly by the due date.

--If you do not submit the final paper, the maximum grade you can earn is a C (even if you have submitted the bibliography and other preliminary work)

Technical difficulties

WebCT is prone to technical malfunctions. It is YOUR responsibility to plan ahead and get your work in on time.

--If your computer or ISP are not in good working order, you must do your work at a college computer. Computer labs will not allow you to stay late, so make sure you know the closing time of the lab closest to you.

--assignments cannot be extended for any reason except for **Aims server** malfunction. Tracey is notified of server malfunctions; such an error will affect the entire class and the entire class will be allowed to makeup any missed assignments

--If you cannot do an assignment on time, do talk to me about it. Depending on the circumstances, I may allow you to do extra credit to make it up. Extra credit is not the same as full credit, so make sure you plan to do you assignments early so any technical troubles can be cured before the deadline.

Plagiarism

--All plagiarism or falsification, including plagiarism on exams, will result in a 0 for that ENTIRE assignment. and the minimum deduction of a letter grade from your semester grade. For example, if you plagiarize one essay from your homework, you will receive a 0 on that assignment, and a letter grade deducted from your total for the semester. Plagiarism rules extend to extra credit – if you submit a plagiarized work for extra credit, not only will you receive no credit for that work, 10 points will be deducted from your semester

--If you believe you have falsely been accused of plagiarism, you should submit all your study and work notes to your instructor for evaluation grade.

--Repeated instances of plagiarism will result in an F for the quarter.

Plagiarism includes:

- i. all instances of copying text from another source, internet or print, without giving credit to the true author with proper citation;
- ii. paraphrasing other authors without proper citation;
- iii. using the arguments of other authors without proper citation;
- iv. Substituting the work of others for your own ideas, EVEN IF YOU TELL THE READER YOU DID IT with a footnote or bibliography. It is not sufficient to answer any question on an exam, or complete any paper, simply by quoting others.
- v. THE MAJORITY OF ALL EXAM ANSWERS, PAPERS, AND EXERCISES MUST BE THE WORK AND WORDS OF THE STUDENT; a good rule of thumb is, 90% of the essays must be your own words. No quote should be more than two lines long, and

students must use their own words to comment on all quotes or paraphrases.

vi. Attempting to submit plagiarized work for any assignment (including extra credit) will result in an automatic deduction of a grade from your semester work; all plagiarized work will receive a 0.

Falsified work includes invented notes, quotes or anything else that is not honest and above board.

Webct Discussions Rules:

1. All postings will be graded on Mondays (Primary discussions are by Thursday midnight at the latest; comments are due on Sunday). I will deduct five points for every 24 hours late a posting is made.
2. "Quote" all previous messages (don't just "Reply") so that your correspondents can more easily follow the thread of discussion;
3. No profanity or rudeness is allowed. You may be critical, but not personal. You may not insult an entire group of people (like union members or radicals or conservatives or religious people) -- you must discuss specifics about people in the past and use evidence to support your points.
4. Please keep private things private; if you want to know about your grade, for example, communicate with the instructor via email.
5. Each week is tallied separately. You may not post 8 week's worth of contributions in a single week! Remember that extra credit is always available if you have unforeseen circumstances.

The instructor will delete any entries in violation of these rules and the author will not receive credit for those entries

Aims Institutional Policies

--From the Aims Standards of Conduct: "Aims Community College students are expected to practice academic honesty and to refrain from any form of cheating [and] plagiarism...Breaches of academic honesty will be considered misconduct and may result in disciplinary action."

Students with disabilities

Any student with a disability must request accommodations by contacting Supplemental Services during the first week of classes.

a document from Supplemental Services must be presented to the instructor before special accommodations can be granted

It is not enough to tell the instructor orally of a disability – you must ALSO present a document from supplemental services.

Incompletes:

Only students who have completed 75% of the coursework are eligible for an incomplete; incompletes will be given at the discretion of the instructor

Withdrawal (W grade)

It is an Aims policy that you may receive a W only if you withdraw by the 7th week of the semester. YOU must withdraw yourself from the class by the withdrawal date (see

schedule) by going to Admissions and Records and filling out the appropriate form. Tracey will not withdraw you by email or by phone message. People who simply stop turning in work will receive the cumulative grade they earned (usually an F) for any work submitted for the semester.

Tuition policy:

Aims now requires that students pay 25% of their tuition BEFORE the start of the semester. Students who have not paid may be dropped from the course.

Assessment:

Assessment is an important part of the educational process. You, your instructor, and the college need to know how well you have achieved the objectives of your coursework. Your instructor uses graded assignments and participation as assessments of content acquisition in any course. You also use those assessments to determine your success in the course. The college has other needs in terms of assessing your work. The college needs to look at the acquisition and application of skills that are taught across the curriculum, rather than in any particular course. This means that a college-wide process of assessment of student work also takes place on a regular schedule.

In this course, an assignment chosen by your instructor will be assessed by a team of outside readers looking at some of those other skills. This is intended to assist the college in developing methods for students to better acquire and apply those specific skills. This process does not affect your grade in the course. Copies of student assignments are collected, names and identifying marks are removed; they are then copied and submitted to a process of blind review of a specific skill set (writing, reading, critical thinking, etc.) The results of this assessment process will be used by the college to design methods for creating better opportunities to acquire and apply these skills.

If there is any reason you prefer not to have your assignments submitted for this college-wide assessment process, please let your instructor know in writing within two weeks of receiving this statement.

If you have any further questions, comments, or concerns about the college-wide assessment process, please contact the faculty coordinator of assessment, Ellen Swieter, at 970-339-6522 or at ellen.swieter@aims.edu.

Policies applying to the instructor:

1. Timely correspondence:

-- I will return all emails (and respond to all discussion messages) within 24 hours EXCEPT ON WEEKENDS. any email submitted between 4:00 p.m. Friday and 8:00 am Monday may have to wait until Monday afternoon for my answer. I generally will not grade papers or drafts on weekends. I DO sometimes answer weekend mail, but I urge you to contact me by Friday morning with urgent questions you have for the weekend.

--If you have not heard from me within 24 hours or on Monday, please contact me again, as your message may have been misplaced

2. Timely grading:

I will have all grading done within five working days of submission. Work submitted late will be graded late.

--If you have not received a grade within five working days of submission, please contact me, as your work may have been misplaced.

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Schedule

Monday, February 9 Class begins

Thursday, February 12 Discussion 1: What you want to learn. 300 word essay due on Discussions page

Sunday, February 15 Comment on discussion of another in your group due

Thursday, February 19 Discussion 2: The Foundations of Western Civ, Chapter 1

Sunday, February 22 Comment on discussion of another in your group due

Monday, February 23 Write about your topic on the Discussions board

Wednesday, February 25 comment on topic of another

Thursday, February 26 Discussion 3: Greece. Chapters 2-3

Sunday, March 1 Comment on discussion of another in your group due

Thursday, March 5 Discussion 4 Rome, Chapters 4-5

Sunday, March 8 Submit draft bibliography on your topic to the discussions board

Comment on discussion of another in your group due

Monday, March 9 Post your draft bibliography on Discussions page

Wednesday, March 11 Comment on the bibliography of another

Thursday, March 12 Discussion 5: The Fall of Rome and rise of Islam, Chapter 6

Sunday, March 15 Comment on discussion of another in your group due

Monday, March 16 Spring Break begins

Monday, March 23 Submit paragraph on how the class is going to discussion board

Wednesday, March 25 comment on the class eval of another

Thursday, March 26 Discussion 6: Middle Ages chapters 7-8

Sunday, March 29 Comment on discussion of another in your group due

Monday, March 30 submit draft thesis to discussion board

Wednesday, April 1 Comment on thesis of another

Thursday, April 2 Discussion 7: Renaissance, read chapter 10

Sunday, April 5 Comment on discussion of another in your group due

Thursday, April 9 Discussion 8: Reformation and war, chapters 11-12

Friday, April 10 Last day to withdraw with a W grade

Sunday, April 12 Comment on discussion of another in your group due

Monday, April 13 Final thesis and bibliography due on Papers page

Thursday, April 16 Discussion 9: Absolutism and Science, chapters 13-14

Sunday, April 19 Comment on discussion of another in your group due

Monday, April 20 No more reading -- work on your paper

Thursday, April 23 Discussion 10: Draft of Paper due on Discussions Page

Sunday, April 26 -Comment on discussion of another in your group due

Thursday, April 30 Discussion 11, Wrap up Discussion

Friday, May 1 Extra credit, make up due

Thursday, May 7 Papers due