

Course Syllabus – Fall 2013 Early Western Civilization

The College at Southwestern
HIS 1103-B, Th 6:15 – 9:00 pm, Room S-116

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Catalog Description

A study of the history and philosophy of western civilization from antiquity to the rise of Christianity.

Course Objectives

- To gain knowledge of the main events, ideas and persons that have shaped western civilization from antiquity to the rise of Christianity and assess their significance.
- To develop the skill of applying history to contemporary ideas and issues
- To understand how the biblical record and western civilization are related and be able to outline the relationship between revelation and historical records.
- Appreciation of God's providence in the overall pattern of history.

Required Texts

- Susan Wise Bauer. *The History of the Ancient World: From the Earliest Accounts to the Fall of Rome* -- isbn. 039305974X
- Anthony Kenny. *Ancient Philosophy: A New History of Western Philosophy, Volume 1* – isbn. 0198752725
- Paul L. Maier. *Josephus: The Essential Works* – isbn. 082543260X

Recommended Texts

A good historically oriented study Bible is strongly recommended. Two of the better ones are the ESV Study Bible and the NIV Archaeological Study Bible.

Blackboard

Blackboard and SWBTS student email will be used for class communications. Students should check both Blackboard and student email *daily* for possible communications from the instructor.

Assignments

Grades will be determined based upon completion of three exams, a timeline project and class participation.

- **Examination #1 (25%)** - This exam will be conducted via Blackboard so please be sure to have a good internet connection available on the day of the exam. I encourage you to use the latest version of the Firefox web browser when taking this test and when navigating the Blackboard interface. Tests will include geography questions.
- **Examination #2 (25%)** - This exam will be conducted via Blackboard so please be sure to have a good internet connection available on the day of the exam. I encourage you to use the latest version of the Firefox web browser when taking this test and when navigating the Blackboard interface.
- **Final Exam: (25%)** - The date and time for the final exam may not coincide with normal class days and times. You must make yourself available to take the final exam at the scheduled time during finals week. No alternative times or venues for the exam will be offered.
- **Timeline Project (15%):** A timeline combining the main events from the Hebrew Bible with the material from our textbooks. The timeline should include at least thirty-five items from the Hebrew Bible and thirty-five items from our textbooks. This project is NOT about *compiling* a list of data, it is about creatively *communicating* the information in a manner that captures the attention of the audience. The project can take many forms and students are encouraged to use creativity in its creation (examples: board game, music, poetry, website, map, art, PowerPoint presentation, etc.). (10%)
- **Participation (10%):** All students are expected to attend class, be punctual, and participate appropriately in classroom discussion. To engage in classroom discussion of the assigned reading it is imperative that all reading assignments be conducted in a timely fashion. Be prepared or we may have to resort to the scenario found at the following url; <http://www.kevinstilley.com/a-warning-for-my-students/>.

“This is what I have tried to do for students in insisting that they come to class regularly, after having carefully read the text. The student who does not do this work himself is unteachable. No teacher can really help him.” (James V. Schall, in A Students Guide to Liberal Learning)

- Attendance will be recorded at the beginning of all class sessions, and again after the break. Absences or tardiness will adversely affect your grade. Absences in excess of three (nights) /six (sessions) will result in an automatic failure of the class.

- Students are free to record the class.
- Guests are welcome, but please notify the instructor in advance.
- Laptops, iPhones, and similar devices may NOT be used during class as their usefulness is far outweighed by their ability to create a distraction and contribute to the cultural habit of inattentiveness.
- If you become drowsy you may stand at the back or the side of the room until you can resume your seat without falling asleep.

Grades

Grades will be determined by the following scale: 100-98 (A+); 97-93 = A; 92-90 (A-); 89-88(B+); 87-83 (B); 82-80 (B-); 79-78 (C+); 77-73 (C); 72-70 (C-); 69-68 (D+); 67-63 (D); 62-60 (D-); Below 60 = F.

“When a man is busy at study, the Evil Impulse whispers to him: Why tarryest thou here. Go and join the men who flirt with pretty women.” - Talmud, Zohar, ii, 265b

Tentative Schedule

August 22 – (1) Introduction to Course - Discussion of Syllabus, (2) What Is History and Why Should It Be Important to Christians?

August 29 – (1) Pre-history & Genesis 1-11, (2) Sumer & Akkad (Mesopotamia) – The Cradle of Civilization

September 5 – (1) Egypt – The First Empire, (2) The Patriarchal Period

September 12 – (1) Moses, Canaan, & The Hittites, Battle of Kadesh, (2) The United and Divided Kingdom of Israel

September 19 – (1) Assyria, Babylon, the Medes & The Persians, (2) Review for First Exam; the first exam is on Blackboard and can be taken any time between September 20 – September 24.

September 26 – (1) Meanwhile in Greece...” - The Minoans, Mycenaeans and Trojan War, (2) Greek Mythology & Religion

October 3 – No Class / Fall Break

October 10 – (1) The Persian Wars - History Channel Video: The 300, (2) The Birth of Democracy

October 17 – (1) The Peloponnesian Wars & Alexander the Great,, (2) Pre-Socratic Philosophy

October 24 – (1) The Humanistic Philosophers: Socrates, Sophists, Plato, & Aristotle, (2) Hellenistic & Early Roman Philosophy.

October 31 – Second Exam

November 7 – (1) Romulus to Hannibal, (2) The Roman Republic

November 14 – Timeline Project Due. (1) Roman Empire & The Roman Provincial System, (2) Six Flags Over Israel

November 21 – (1) The Jewish War, Destruction of the Temple & The Fall of Masada, (2) Review for Final Exam

November 28 – No Class / Thanksgiving

December 6 – 11 – Final Exams – The final exam is conducted in the classroom. The date and time for the final exam has not yet been published and may not coincide with normal class days and times. You must make yourself available to take the final exam at the scheduled time during finals week. No alternative times or venues for the exam will be offered.