

History 100: Western Civilization Part I (Origins of the West)

Fall Semester, 2017

John Abbott

Office: Rm. 1015 University Hall

Email: jabbot1@uic.edu

Office Hours: M & W, 10:00-10:50am (or by appointment)

Course Description: a broad historical survey of human events prior to 1648, History 100 stresses the diversity & interaction of peoples and cultures in the making of Western Civilization. As we work our way across the lands of Mesopotamia, the Mediterranean world and northern Europe, we will devote particular attention to the evolving relations between government and religion, and the conflicting claims of reason and faith, in our story. In charting this journey, we will rely on our textbook (Noble) for the overall storyline and context. But the heart of this course lies in our critical engagement with the documentary record provided by your sourcebook (Perry).

Course Readings

Thomas Noble et al, *Western Civilization: Beyond Boundaries, Vol. I* (Cengage Advantage Books, Seventh Edition, 2013; isbn 9781133610137)

Marvin Perry, *Sources of the Western Tradition: From Ancient Times to the Enlightenment, Vol. I* (Ninth edition, 2013; isbn 9781133935254)

*Note: both books are **required** reading; while you are free to pursue the most cost-effective options available in procuring them, you must have them in hand **no later** than the end of week one.*

Course Requirements

- a) Three examinations, each covering the materials covered during the preceding five weeks. Each exam will usually consist of one longer essay question (40 points), five paragraph-length identifications (10 points each), and ten multiple choice questions (one point each).
- b) Weekly response papers (eleven in all), based upon readings from your Perry sourcebook. Guidelines for these will be provided every week at Blackboard
- c) Classroom participation. Discussion is vitally important to this course, most of all when addressing the primary materials in Perry's *Sources*. We expect you to be prepared to discuss and raise questions about the assigned readings, especially in your weekly discussion sections.

Your final grade will be determined on the following basis:

Three exams	60%
Response papers	20%
Classroom participation	20%

Course Policies

I expect you to make it to class and one time; attendance will be kept! More than three unexcused absences over the semester will cut into your final grade. Incompletes to be considered only where the student has completed all the work up to the final exam, but cannot take the final for a valid reason. *Plagiarism* in any form will lead to a failing grade. Make no mistake: copying other students' work, recycling materials (phrases as well as paragraphs) from the internet, or using other people's words without citation will be punished to the fullest extent of university policy.

Course Schedule

(note: * denotes Perry readings that will be discussed in class that day)

Week 1 **Getting Started**

- M Class Introductory: Where and What is Western Civilization?
- W On the Edge of History: Migrations & Innovations. Reading: Noble, 1-10
- F Discussion Sections: Geography, Climate, and the Agricultural Revolution

Week 2 **Cradles of Civilization**

- M **No Class** (Labor Day)
- W Ancient Mesopotamia. Noble, pp. 10-16
- F Gods, Dreams and Law. Perry, pp. 3-10 (*Gilgamesh, *Hammurabi). **Response papers due**

Week 3 **Early Empires**

- M The Nile and Egypt. Noble, 16-26; Perry, 10-16 (*Hymns, *Guidelines)
- W An Age of Empires: Hittites, Assyrians, Persians. Noble, 27-39
- F Empire building: Coercion, Inclusion and Terror. Perry, 16-22 (*Tiglathpileser, *Cyrus & Darius, *Personification, *Atrahasis). **Response papers due**

Week 4 **Faith and Reason**

- M One God or Many? Hebrew Ethical Monotheism. Noble, 39-51; Perry, 25-28 (*Genesis)
- W Coming of the Greeks. Noble, 52-61; Perry, 49-51 (*Hippocrates, *Thucydides)
- F What God Wills: Hebrew Law and Justice. Perry, 29-39 (*Exodus, *Leviticus, *Deuteronomy, *Amos and *Isaiah). **Response papers due**

Week 5 **City-States and Civilization: the Greeks**

- M Age of the Polis. Noble, 61-73; 84-88; Perry, 62-64 (*Thucydides/Pericles)
- W Athenian imperialism in crisis. Noble, 73-80; Perry, 70-75 (*Thucydides/Melian Dialogue/Corcyra)
- F Some philosophers you should know. Noble, 80-84; Perry, 75-89 (*Socrates, *Plato, *Aristotle). **Response papers due**

Week 6 **Philosophers and Kings: the Hellenistic World**

- M **First Exam**
- W Alexander the Great and the world he made. Noble, 90-104
- F Hellenistic culture. Noble, 104-16; Perry, 90-96 (*Plutarch, *Philo, *Epicurus). **No response papers this week**

Week 7 **Patricians and Plebeians: the Roman Republic**

- M Republican Rome. Noble, 118-32; Perry, 98-100 (*Polybius)
- W Hannibal's Revenge: the Republic in Crisis. Noble, 132-48; Perry, 112-15 (*Diodorus)
- F "All eyes watched for imperial commands": the Imperial system. Noble, 150-56; Perry, 123-25; 128-32; 137-38 (*Sallust, *Augustus, *Tacitus; *Seneca); **Response papers due**

Week 8 **Emperors and Empire**

- M The *Pax Romana*. Noble, 156-64; Perry, 145-52 (*Pliny/Trajan, *Aristides, *Tacitus)
- W The Historical Jesus and His Followers. Noble, 166-75; Perry, 164-67 (*Mark, *Matthew)
- F Early Christianity. Perry, 171-76; 183-84 (*Tertullian, *Clement, *Augustine, *Persecutions, *Paul on Women). **Response papers due**

Week 9 Rome's Decline, Christianity's Rise

- M Imperial Crises. Noble, 165-66; 177-84; Perry 153-54 (*Dio Cassius, *Petition)
W Fragmentation, East and West. Noble, 191-207; Perry, 155-60 (*Marcellinus, *Salvian)
F Sex, Sin and Salvation: Christianity's triumph in a fallen world. Noble, 184-91; Perry, 160-62; 179-83; 190-93 (*Jerome, *Gregory, *Lactantius, *Justin Martyr, *Benedict, *Augustine). Additional reading at Blackboard: Clement of Alexandria's *Christ the Educator*. **Response papers due**

Week 10 New Worlds Stirring

- M Muhammad and the Origins of Islam. Noble, 209-16
W Charlemagne and the Origins of Europe. Noble, 222-33
F Muhammad & Charlemagne. Perry 199-208 (*Qu'ran, *Avicenna); 209-16 (*Bede, *Einhard, *Martin of Braga, *Cassiodorus, *Einhard). **Response papers due**

Week 11 Warriors, Emperors & Popes

- M **Second Exam** (covering weeks six through ten)
W Sorting Out Church and State, Noble, 245-52; Perry, 234-36 (*Gregory VII, *Innocent III)
F The Crusades. Noble, 264-70; Perry, 236-40 (*Robert the Monk, *William of Tyre, *James of Vitry). **No response papers this week**

Week 12 High Middle Ages

- M A Society of Orders. Noble, 233-38; 240-45; 273-80; Perry, 222-25 (*Bishop Adalbero, *Glaber, *William)
W Town and Gown: Rise of the Universities. Noble, 286-301
F Medieval Scholasticism. Perry, 246-56 (*Abelard, *Aquinas, *Chaucer, *Letters, *Wandering Scholar). **Short quiz in lieu of response papers**

Week 13 Crisis and Conflict

- M Population, Plague and Rebellion. Noble, 303-08; 316-27; Perry, 278-82 (*Venette, *Froissart)
W Jews and Christians. Noble, 280-82; Perry, 254-59 (*Albert of Aix-la-Chapelle, *Innocent III, *Ritual Murder Libel, *Philip II Augustus)
F **Thanksgiving Holiday (no class)**

Week 14 Recovery and Renewal

- M Rise of the Territorial State. Noble, 252-64; 308-16; Perry, 276-77 (*Magna Carta)
W Italy and its Renaissance. Noble, 340-59; Perry, 287-88 (*Innocent III)
F What was new about the Renaissance? Perry, 297-307 (*Petrarch, *Bruni, *Vergerius, *de Medici, *Mirandola). **Response papers due.**

Week 15 New Horizons

- M Age of Exploration. Noble, 374-402; Perry, 353-62 (*Díaz, *Lopez, *Las Casas)
W Protestant Reformation. Noble, 404-24. Perry, 324-26 (*Luther)
F Review and Discussion: So What is Western Civilization, Anyway? **Final response papers due**

Final Exam (covers weeks eleven through fifteen)