Syllabus – HIS 151-003
Western Civilization I
Autumn 2019

Professor: Dr. Samuel Sutherland
Email: sutherlas@sfasu.edu
Office: LAN 313
Office Hours: MW 10:00-12:30 and by appointment
Department: History
Meeting time and place: MW 2:30-3:45, Ferguson 472

A. Course Description
   Political, social, economic, and cultural history of the West from prehistoric times to the
   Reformation.

B. Texts and Materials
   • Required: Access to the Packback Questions platform for online discussion participation
     o You should automatically receive an email from holla@packback.co to your
       university email account inviting you to finish registration by resetting your
       password. If you have not received that message, email me and let me for
       instructions on how to manually add yourself.
   • Recommended: Lynn Hunt, Thomas R. Martin, Barbara H. Rosenwein, Bonnie G. Smith.

C. Course Requirements
   • Attendance (5%)
     o This portion of your grade is “all or nothing.” Students with 3 or fewer unexcused
       absences will achieve full credit, while those with 4 or more will receive no
       credit. See “Attendance” under course policies.
   • Weekly Online Discussion Participation on Packback (10%)
     o Every week you will post at least one open-ended and thought-provoking
       question related to that week’s course content to the Packback Questions
       platform and respond to two questions posted by your fellow students. For this
       portion of the grade, I will assess the quality of your participation across the
       semester holistically (including whether you met the minimum requirements for
       regular participation).
       o The deadline for weekly submissions is 11:59 pm (CST) on Sunday. Please post
         your initial question no later than Friday so other students have a chance to
         respond.
   • 3 Map Quizzes (15%) – 5% each
     o Study maps and key locations are available on Brightspace. You will have a terms
       bank on the quiz, so you do not need to memorize spelling.
• Critical Analysis Essay (10%)
  o You will have two potential essay options (with two different due dates):
    ▪ Option 1: Women in Early Christianity (due 10/30)
    ▪ Option 2: The First Crusade (due 11/22)
  o For each option, I will provide an extended packet of primary source documents
    and an essay prompt with detailed instructions on Brightspace.
• 5 Unit Exams (60%) – 15% each (lowest dropped)
  o Your lowest exam will be dropped, so only your four best exam scores will count
    toward your final grade.
  o These exams are non-cumulative, so I will only test you directly on material
    covered since the last exam.
  o The exam will be a mixture of multiple choice and essay questions. Multiple
    choice questions will address one or more of the posted Key Terms for each unit,
    and I will provide a number of possible essay questions on the Key Terms sheet
    as well.

D. Course Calendar

**Unit 1: Origins of Western Civilization**

Week 1 (8/26, 8/28): Neolithic Revolution & Bronze-Age Mesopotamia
  *Making* p. 4-15
Week 2 (9/2, 9/4): Bronze-Age Egypt & Aegean; Iron-Age Near East
  *Making* p. 15-36, 42-50
  >Wed 9/4: Map Quiz 1
Exam 1 (Mon 9/9)

**Unit 2: Ancient Greece**

Week 3 (9/11): Archaic Greece
  *Making* p. 50-63
Week 4 (9/16, 9/18): Athens & Sparta; Persian Wars; Athenian Empire
  *Making* p. 64-74, 78-81
Week 5 (9/23, 9/25): Peloponnesian War & Aftermath; Macedon & the Hellenistic World
  *Making* p. 81-108, 114-139
Exam 2 (Mon 9/30)

**Unit 3: Rise of Rome**

Week 6 (10/2): Early Rome
  *Making* p. 143-156
Week 7 (10/7, 10/9): Rome & the Mediterranean; Fall of the Republic
  *Making* p. 156-178
  >Mon 10/7: Map Quiz 2
Week 8 (10/14): Early & High Roman Empire
  *Making* p. 184-193, 202-216
Exam 3 (Wed 10/16)
Unit 4: Late Antiquity
Week 9 (10/21, 10/23): Christianity & Rome; Imperial Christian & Monasticism
Making p. 193-201, 217-228
Week 10 (10/28, 10/30): Fate of Western Rome; Byzantium & Early Islam
Making p. 229-262, 285-289
>Wed 10/30: Critical Analysis Essay due for Option 1
Week 11 (11/4): Barbarian Kingdoms; Carolingian Empire
Making p. 262-274, 289-297
Exam 4 (Wed 11/8)

Unit 5: Medieval Europe
Week 12 (11/11, 11/13): Transformation of Europe; Church Reform & Crusades
Making p. 297-309, 321-341
>Wed 11/13: Map Quiz 3
Week 13 (11/18, 11/22): Religion & Society in the High Middle Ages
Making p. 348-363, 368-386, 390-403
>Wed 11/22: Critical Analysis Essay due for Option 2
— Thanksgiving Break —
Week 15 (12/2, 12/6): Fourteenth-Century Crisis; End of the Middle Ages
Making p. 410-428, 442-446
Exam 5 (Fri 12/13): 10:45-1:15 pm

E. Grading Scale
A 90-100%
B 80-89.9%
C 70-79.9%
D 60-69.9%
F 59.9% & below

F. Course Policies
a. Attendance: Attendance is required and will be taken daily. Students with 3 or fewer unexcused absences will receive full credit in this portion of their grade, while students with 4 or more unexcused absences will receive a 0 in the attendance portion of their grade. At my discretion, an absence may be excused in case of a documented medical emergency or if I am notified of an academically legitimate reason in advance. Non-emergency conflicts and routine illnesses are to be covered by the two non-penalized unexcused absences.

b. Laptops and Personal Electronic Devices: It is expected that laptops will be used only for immediately relevant course purposes, and that cell phones and other personal electronic devices will be kept on silent and put away during class. Extended use of cell phones during class may be counted as an absence for that day.
c. Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism. Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/4.1-student-academic-dishonesty.pdf

d. Withheld Grades (Semester Grades Policy, A-54): Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

e. Students with Disabilities: To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/

G. Bureaucratic Stuff

Program Learning Outcomes: This is a general education core curriculum course and no specific program learning outcomes for this major are addressed in this course.

Student Learning Outcomes: HIS 151 is part of the university’s Core Curriculum and as such strives toward both the general goals of the core and the specific objectives for classes designated for inclusion in the Language, Philosophy, and Culture Foundational Component Area as defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Courses in this Foundational Component Area of the Core focus on the ideas, values, beliefs, and other aspects of culture that express and affect human experience. Courses involve the
exploration of ideas that foster aesthetic and intellectual creation in order to understand the human condition across cultures. In addition to learning the above, students in HIS 151 will demonstrate the more general ability to:

- Think critically, which includes the ability to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information about this period of history.
- Communicate effectively by developing and expressing ideas through written communication.
- Gain intercultural competence, a knowledge of civic responsibility, and an awareness of past human engagements in regional, national, and global communities.
- Understand the role that personal responsibility has played throughout history and gain the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to the making of ethical decisions.

Instruction on these topics will begin in the first week of the course and continue throughout all subsequent weeks. The critical analysis essay will serve to assess the success of student acquisition of these skills.

**Explanation of credit hours awarded for course:** HIS 151 (Western Civilization I) meets for 150 minutes each week for 15 weeks and also meets for a 2-hour final examination. Students typically have weekly reading assignments from a combination of textbooks, primary document collections, and supplemental materials (biographies, historical novels, memoirs, etc.). Typical sections of the course require students to take 2-3 exams per semester, in addition to the final exam. Many also require students to take quizzes. Course instructors are required to hold regular scheduled office hours to make themselves available to consult with students as needed. Combined, studying for quizzes/exams, doing the required reading, completing writing assignments, and consulting with course instructors average two hours of work outside the classroom for every hour spent in the classroom.

*I reserve the right to emend this syllabus to enhance student learning*