Syllabus 1.0 – HIST 2311-002  
Western Civilization I  
Fall 2020

Professor: Dr. Samuel Sutherland  
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Office: LAN 313  
Office Hours: MW 10-12:30  
Department: History  
Meeting time and place: MW 2:30-3:45, Liberal Arts North 102

A. Course Description

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

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.

B. Texts and Materials

- **Required**: Access to the Packback Questions platform for online discussion participation  
  - You should receive an email from holla@packback.co to your university email account inviting you to finish registration by resetting your password.  
  - If for any reason you need to add yourself manually, you can use the following community look-up key: e0abe698-6a60-4238-a0d4-a2f74a880fc1
C. Course Requirements

- Weekly Online Discussion Participation on Packback (15%)
  - First, every week you will respond thoughtfully to a question I post on Packback. Your post **must achieve a minimum curiosity score of 50** to count for credit. For this portion of the grade, I will assess the quality and consistency of your participation across the semester holistically.
  - Second, each week you will post one open-ended, opinion-based question of your own pertaining to the material covered that week. There is no minimum curiosity score for your own questions or responses to your peers’ questions.
  - Third, you must respond to two of your peers’ questions.
  - The deadline for weekly submissions is 11:59 pm (CST) on Friday. Please post your own question at least 24 hours in advance of this deadline to allow your peers time to respond.

- 5 Unit Exams (70%)
  - **Your lowest exam will be dropped**, so only your four best exam scores will count toward your final grade.
  - These exams are **non-cumulative**; each will test you only on material covered since the previous exam.
  - The first four exams 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. The fifth exam will be structured differently to accommodate an online format (and, should campus close earlier than expected, the format of other exams may have to be adjusted as well).

- Final Project (15%)
  - You will develop a research question that must receive my approval. After incorporating my feedback to hone your research question, you conduct your own research to provide the best answer to that question possible.
  - While online sources are acceptable, I expect you to use only reputable sources, including peer-reviewed publications by historians wherever possible.
  - After completing your research, you will write a 1500-2000 word essay (not including bibliography; double-spaced, Times or Calibri size 12 font; MS Word or PDF) answering your research question.
  - Your first paragraph should include both a statement of the question and a thesis succinctly stating your answer.
  - All sources must be cited appropriately using **footnotes**, including page numbers for books and articles and URLs for reputable online sources. Note that repeating the ideas or specific evidence of a source without citation is **plagiarism**, even if you do not use any of the same words, so be sure everything is cited. Simply put, a reader should never think that someone else’s work is your own. You should also include a works cited page (which will not count toward your word count).
  - 20% of your grade will be lost for every day late.
D. Grading Scale

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59.9% &amp; below</td>
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E. Course Policies

a. Attendance: This is a “face-to-face” or in-person course and regular attendance is expected. On account of the ongoing pandemic, however, I recognize that students may need to self-isolate. Students who provide advanced notice will be allowed to Zoom into class lectures remotely. With adequate medical documentation of a need to quarantine, students may request to complete exams in an alternative online format.

*Note: Masks (cloth face coverings) must be worn over the nose and mouth at all times in this class and appropriate physical distancing must be observed. Students not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be asked to leave the class. All incidents of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Students who are reported for multiple infractions of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing may be subject to disciplinary actions.

b. Laptops & Cell phones: 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.

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](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/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/)

f. **Explanation of credit hours awarded for course:** HIS 2311 (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.

F. **Course Calendar**

**Unit 1: Origins of Western Civilization**
- Week 1 (8/24, 8/26): Neolithic Revolution & Bronze-Age Mesopotamia  
  *Making* p. 4-15
- Week 2 (8/31, 9/2): Bronze-Age Egypt & Aegean; Iron-Age Near East  
  *Making* p. 15-36, 42-50

Exam 1 (Mon 9/7)

**Unit 2: Ancient Greece**
- Week 3 (9/9): Archaic Greece  
  *Making* p. 50-63
- Week 4 (9/14, 9/16): Athens & Sparta; Persian Wars; Athenian Empire  
  *Making* p. 64-74, 78-81
- Week 5 (9/21, 9/23): Peloponnesian War & Aftermath; Macedon & the Hellenistic World  
  *Making* p. 81-108, 114-139

Exam 2 (Mon 9/28)

**Unit 3: Rise of Rome**
- Week 6 (9/30): Early Rome  
  *Making* p. 143-156
- Week 7 (10/5, 10/7): Rome & the Mediterranean; Fall of the Republic  
  *Making* p. 156-178
- Week 8 (10/12): Early & High Roman Empire  
  *Making* p. 184-193, 202-216

Exam 3 (Wed 10/14)
Unit 4: Late Antiquity

Week 9 (10/19, 10/21): Christianity & Rome; Imperial Christian & Monasticism
Making p. 193-201, 217-228

Week 10 (10/26, 10/28): Fate of Western Rome; Byzantium & Early Islam
Making p. 229-262, 285-289

Week 11 (11/2): Barbarian Kingdoms; Carolingian Empire
Making p. 262-274, 289-297

Exam 4 (Wed 11/4)

Unit 5: Medieval Europe

Week 12 (11/9, 11/11): Transformation of Europe; Church Reform & Crusades
Making p. 297-309, 321-341

Week 13 (11/16, 11/18): Religion & Society in the High Middle Ages
Making p. 348-363, 368-386, 390-403

> Honed research question due on D2L by Fri 11/20

— Thanksgiving Break —

Week 15 (11/30, 12/2): Fourteenth-Century Crisis; End of the Middle Ages
*Note: These lectures will be pre-recorded and posted to Brightspace.
Making p. 410-428, 442-446

> Final papers due on D2L by Fri 12/4

Exam 5 (Mon 12/7): 1:30-3:00 pm (online)
*Note: If you will be taking another exam at this time, you may show me your schedule and request an alternative exam time as long as you notify at least one week in advance.