Syllabus – HIS 151-003
Western Civilization I
Spring 2020

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Office: LAN 313
Office Hours: MW 1-2:30, TR 2:00-4:30 pm
Department: History
Meeting time and place: TR 12:30-1:45, Ferguson 474

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
     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.
     o If for any reason you need to add yourself manually, you can use the following community look-up key: 7004c36f-b582-446a-94e7-ba5b3240de87

**C. Course Requirements**

- **Attendance (5%)**
  - This portion of your grade is “all or nothing.” **4 or more unexcused absences will result in a 0** for this grade category. See “Attendance” under course policies.
- **Weekly Online Discussion Participation on Packback (10%)**
  - 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.
  - In addition, each week you will post one open-ended, opinion-based question of your own and respond to two of your peer’s questions. There is no minimum curiosity score for your own questions or responses to 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.
- **3 Map Quizzes (15%) – 5% each**
  - Study maps and key locations are available on Brightspace. You will have a term bank on the quiz, so you do not need to memorize spelling.
- **5 Unit Exams (70%) – lowest dropped**
  - **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 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. Grading Scale**

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

**E. 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 three non-penalized unexcused absences.
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. 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/

f. 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.

F. Course Calendar
Unit 1: Origins of Western Civilization
Week 1 (1/16): Neolithic Revolution
   Making p. 4-8
Week 2 (1/21, 1/23): Bronze-Age Mesopotamia, Egypt, & the Aegean
   Making p. 8-35
   >Thurs 1/23: Map Quiz 1
Week 3 (1/28): Iron-Age Near East
   Making p. 42-50
Exam 1 (Thurs 1/30)

Unit 2: Ancient Greece
Week 4 (2/4, 2/6): Archaic Greece; Athens & Sparta
   Making p. 50-73
Week 5 (2/11, 2/13): Persian Wars; Athenian Empire; Peloponnesian War
   Making p. 78-85, 90-99, 104-107
Week 6 (2/18): Macedon & the Hellenistic World
   Making p. 114-125, 131-138
Exam 2 (Thurs 2/20)

Unit 3: Rise of Rome
Week 7 (2/25, 2/27): Early Rome; Rome & the Mediterranean
   Making p. 143-160
   >Thurs 2/27: Map Quiz 2
Week 8 (3/3, 3/5): Late Republic; Early Principate
   Making p. 160-169, 175-187
   — Spring Break 3/7-3/15 —
Week 9 (3/17): High Roman Empire; 3rd-Century Crisis
   Making p. 188-193, 202-205, 211-216
Exam 3 (Thurs 3/19)

Unit 4: Late Antiquity
Week 10 (3/24, 3/26): Christianity & Rome; Imperial Christian & Monasticism
   Making p. 193-201, 217-228
Week 11 (3/31, 4/2): Fate of Western Rome; Byzantium & Early Islam
   Making p. 229-262, 285-289
Week 12 (4/7): Barbarian Kingdoms; Carolingian Empire
   Making p. 262-274, 289-295
   > Thurs 4/9: No Class – Easter Holiday
Exam 4 (Tues 4/14)

Unit 5: Medieval Europe
Week 13 (4/16): Transformation of Europe
   Making p. 297-309, 338-341
Week 14 (4/21, 4/23): Church Reform & Crusades; High Medieval Europe
Making p. 321-337, 348-351, 368-374, 380-385
>Tues 4/21: Map Quiz 3
Week 15 (4/28, 4/30): Fourteenth-Century Crisis; End of the Middle Ages
Making p. 397-404, 410-428, 442-453
Exam 5 (Thurs 5/7): 10:45-1:15