

H113 Western Civilization to 1500
Spring 2005
Tuesday, Thursday
12:00-1:15 p.m. (KT 146)
1:30-2:45 p.m. (KT 146)

Office Hours: T – 10:50-11:50 a.m. and 3:00-4:15 p.m. and R – 10:50-11:50
Office: CM201 (481-6696)
History Office: 481-6686

Required Texts

McKay, Hill and Buckler, *A History of Western Society*, vol. 1 (7th ed.)
Bring the text to class each day.

[Study Guide No. 1](#)

[Study Guide No. 2](#)

[Study Guide No. 3](#)

[Study Guide No. 4](#)

[Essay](#)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: OBJECTIVES OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL IN HISTORY

Knowledge of History

If you complete History H113 successfully, you will have learned about the early background of Modern Western Civilization through reading, discussion, analysis, and film; you will know something about (1) the geographical setting and (2) the historical development of western political and governmental organization from the city-states of antiquity to the absolutist and constitutional nation-states of early modern times; about (3) the role of religion in early western societies and (4) the place of education and ideas in the formation of cultural values and in the transmission of those values to later ages; about (5) the social role of women, rural workers, priests, nobles, and urban dwellers in ancient and medieval history; about how (6) the higher arts reflect the setting and values of the society in which they were created and, thus, about how they become an immediate and vital contact with earlier societies separated from the modern age by time. Finally, a student who successfully completes this course will comprehend (7) how the study of history can help to understand the world more fully, to acknowledge its debt to past developments, to visualize its potential, to understand and accept human diversity.

Skill in History

As the Core Curriculum is presently construed, H113, Western Civilization to 1500, partially fulfills the requirements of Area III: The Individual, Culture and Society. Academic objectives of historical knowledge and skill, acquired in this course, H113, correspond to several objectives of General Education. On completion of H113, students might be able: to speak and write more precisely, clearly, and accurately about history; to read, listen actively, reason empirically, and formulate and assess arguments about historical topics more successfully; and to compare and evaluate historical arguments from diverse sources more objectively.

In addition, students will be able to understand the nature and differences of individuals, institutions, cultures and societies during the course of Western Historical development. They should also be able to explain how modern scholars and students know about social and behavioral patterns in past cultures, how scholars and students gather information, formulate and analyze theories about the past, and apply that information in written and oral communication. To a lesser degree, students will be able to understand how historians collect, analyze, and quantify historical information in order to understand important social and economic subjects in history.

Grading and Attendance Policy

In order to assess how students have acquired both knowledge of history and skills in historical analysis, a student's grade will be determined in the following way:

Grading System

One short, out-of-class essay	20%
Four exams	60% (Three highest grades are computed)
Seven true-false quizzes	20%
Attendance (see below)	

Essay

The out-of-class essay is assigned in a separate instruction sheet, linked to this syllabus. The essay is to be turned in on the date due, 3 February, as stated in the syllabus. A late essay is lowered one full letter grade up to the end of the eighth week of classes, 3 March. After that date, a late essay is lowered two full letter grades.

Exams

On the day of the three, 30-minute multiple-choice exams during the semester, and the last exam of similar length during the Final Examination Week, **attendance is required with one exception noted below**. A student may be excused from the announced exam only by arrangement made well in advance of the examination day, normally at least one week's time; the cause must be a medical or family emergency. Each exam will contain 25 multiple-choice questions. The study guide for each exam, linked to this syllabus, offers all the exam questions in an interrogative format. Students who earn either an A or A- grade on the three exams during the semester are excused from the exam during Final Examination Week. All three grades will be computed as A. All other students ***must take all four exams***. Only the highest three grades will be computed into the Exam Grade.

Unannounced quizzes

During the semester eight unannounced quizzes will be given over the reading assigned in one of the eleven chapters in the text. Each quiz will contain ten, *simple*, true-false statements about the contents of one chapter in the text, and will be given only after the discussion of the chapter has begun in class. The eight quizzes total 80 points, but the grading scale for the quiz grade will be set at 70 points. That means each student has 80 points to make one 70-point grade. The quiz can be given at any time during the class period and, only by arrangements made well in advance, can there be a make-up quiz. In most situations, **there are no make-up quizzes**.

Attendance

No grade is given directly for attendance. However, attendance is taken every day class meets, and class cuts are limited to four absences during the semester. After four unexcused absences, the course grade for the semester is lowered one full letter grade, for example, from a B to C. Students, who have perfect attendance or one cut, will have their semester course grade average raised one-half a decimal in a grading scale based on 12: an A+ is 12, an F is 0. Thus, a B- is 7, a C is 5, and so on beginning with D-, equaling one. A hypothetical semester average might be a 6.3 after computing all grades: essay, exams, quiz grade. Perfect or nearly perfect attendance would turn that average into a 6.8. The final course grade would rise from a C to a B.

A student, who misses class for a legitimate emergency due to health, family, or other unforeseen crises, may have the unexcused absence removed from the attendance sheet within *two weeks* of the absence. The student must discuss the matter with the class professor before or after the class meeting and provide suitable documentation about the absence, locate the attendance sheet for the day missed, sign and date the sheet on the date of correction. Two weeks after an unexcused absence marks the last chance to adjust the attendance records for that absence.

Make-up Exam Policy

Students, who miss an exam, for whatever reason, can make up the missed exam within six days of the exam date; the penalty for missing the exam without excuse is one full letter grade. After six days, the penalty is two full letter grades. The academic course ends with the exam during Final Examination Week.

All assigned work—the essay, exams, and quiz grade—must be completed to pass this course.

Missing one or more quizzes will mean that the quiz grade may be lower than expected. But a student will have a quiz grade. However, the essay and exams must be completed by everyone, save those few who earn three A grades on the semester exams and are exempted from the Final Examination Week exam. No recording devices are permitted in the classroom without special permission.

Assignments, essay and exam dates should be approximately follow this outline.

11-18 January The Legacy of Greece	<i>History</i> , 52-91 (Chapter 3)
20-25 January Hellenistic Diffusion	<i>History</i> , 92-121 (Chapter 4)
27 January-1 February The Rise of Rome	<i>History</i> , 122-149 (Chapter 5)
3 February	Essay Due in Class at Meeting Time
8 February	NO CLASS MEETING
3, 10, 15 February	<i>History</i> , 150-189 (Chapter 6)

The Pax Romana	
15 February	Exam I (covering Chapters 3, 4, 5)
17-24 February The Making of Europe	<i>History</i> , 190-233 (Chapter 7)
25 February-1 March The Carolingian World	<i>History</i> , 234-263 (Chapter 8)
3 March	Exam II (cover Chapters 6, 7, 8)
Spring Break	
15-22 March Revival, Recovery, Reform and Expansion	<i>History</i> , 264-293 (Chapter 9)
24-29 March Life in Christian Europe	<i>History</i> , 294-329 (Chapter 10)
31 March-7 April Creativity and Vitality of the High Middle Ages	<i>History</i> , 330-376 (Chapter 11)
12 April	NO CLASS MEETING
14-19 April The Crisis of the Later Middle Ages	<i>History</i> , 378-413 Chapter 12)
19 April	Exam III (covering Chapters 9,10,11)
21-28 April Renaissance	<i>History</i> , 414-453 (Chapter 13)
3 May, 1:00 p.m. (12 noon class, KT146) 5 May, 2:00 p.m. (1:30 class, KT146)	Exam IV (covering Chapters 12,13)