

History 1300: Roots of the Western Experience (Autumn, 2015)

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Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1:00–3:00pm, & by appointment

Objectives: This course constitutes an overview of European culture from its origins to the early sixteenth century. In addition, it provides an introduction to the study of history and to the reading of primary documents.

Required Readings

1) Brian Levack et al., *The West: Encounters and Transformations*, vol. A, 4th edition. Be sure to get this edition, copyright 2014. Abbreviated below as “Levack.”

2) *Selected Readings*: buy it at the Coop Bookstore. Abbreviated below as “SR.”

Student Responsibilities

1) Class attendance: Please note that you are responsible for all material presented in lecture as well as for obtaining any handouts (e.g., outlines) distributed there. Regular attendance is strongly recommended. If you miss a class or classes, it is **not** the instructors’ job to brief you on what took place or to provide you with previous handouts.

2) Evaluation: The course grade will be based upon the following: (a) effective preparation for and participation in discussion sections (20%); (b) three midterm examinations (10%, 10%, and 20%); and (c) a final examination (40%). Students will be held accountable for all reading assignments and all material covered in class meetings. For best comprehension, do the reading **before** the class for which it is assigned. Students **must** take the final exam in its assigned time slot.

***** There will be no grading curve or “extra credit.” Plan accordingly to meet your obligations for the course.**

3) *Academic Misconduct*: See http://www.community.uconn.edu/student_code.html, Appendix “A.”

4) *Policy on Cellphones*: The use of cell phones, including for text messaging, is prohibited in this class. Please turn cell phones completely off, including vibration

setting, and put them away. It is disturbing to the entire class – and disrespectful to the instructor – when students get up during class to receive phone calls or when they are text-messaging during lecture. If you have a particular emergency, please inform the instructor before class that you are expecting a call, set the phone to “vibrate,” and quietly leave the room before responding to the call.

5) **Laptop Use:** Strictly prohibited. Recent research has shown that even for those students who resist the temptation to multitask when taking notes, the use of laptops “results in shallower processing.” See Pam A. Mueller and Daniel M. Oppenheimer, “The Pen is Mightier than the Keyboard: Advantages of Longhand Over Laptop Note Taking,” *Psychological Science* 25:6 (June 2014): 1159-1168. Students with a documented medical need for using a laptop in class may do so in the front row.

6) **Recording Devices:** Students who either need or wish to record the lectures are asked to submit a request in writing to the instructor via email, stating their reasons for doing so. This applies only to audio recording. Video recording will not be permitted under any circumstances.

7) **Responses to E-mails:** It is a privilege rather than a right to receive rapid responses to queries sent via email. Emails sent Wednesday evening through Sunday may not be answered until Monday.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Readings</i>
Aug. 31 (M)	Early Civilization in the Fertile Crescent	Levack, 1–28
Sep. 2 (W)	Ancient Egypt	Levack, 29–55
<i>Discussion:</i>	Herodotus on Cultural Difference	SR I
Sep. 7 (M)	Class will not meet. (Labor Day)	
Sep. 9 (W)	The Hebrews and Judaism	Levack, 55–77
<i>Discussion:</i>	The Hebrew Scriptures, <i>Genesis</i>	SR II & III
Sep. 14 (M)	The Origins of Democracy in Athens	Levack, 78–86
Sep. 16 (W)	The Greco-Persian Wars	Levack, 87–93

<i>Discussion:</i>	preparation for first exam	
Sep. 21 (M)	First Midterm Examination	
Sep. 23 (W)	Golden-Age Athens	Levack, 93–110
<i>Discussion:</i>	Thucydides on Cultural Decline	SR IV
Sep. 28 (M)	The Peloponnesian War	-----
Sep. 30 (W)	Presocratics, Sophists, & Plato	-----
<i>Discussion:</i>	Plato's <i>Republic</i>	SR V
Oct. 5 (M)	Aristotle	-----
Oct. 7 (W)	The Hellenistic World	Levack, 111–37
<i>Discussion:</i>	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>	SR VI
Oct. 12 (M)	The Roman Republic	Levack, 138–68
Oct. 14 (W)	Second Midterm Examination	
<i>Discussion:</i>	Cicero & Seneca on the Good Life	SR VII
Oct. 19 (M)	Augustus & Early Roman Empire	Levack, 169–200; SR VIII (Suetonius)
Oct. 21 (W)	The Rise of Christianity	-----
<i>Discussion:</i>	The Gospel According to Mark	SR IX
Oct. 26 (M)	Why did Rome fall? (if it fell)	Levack, 201–31
Oct. 28 (W)	Late Antiquity	-----
<i>Discussion:</i>	Augustine	SR X
Nov. 2 (M)	Byzantium, Islam, & the Latin West	Levack, 232–95; SR XI (Crusades)
Nov. 4 (W)	The High Middle Ages	Levack, 296–327

<i>Discussion:</i>	Monasticism	SR XII
Nov. 9 (M)	Crises of the Fourteenth Century	Levack, 328-51
Nov. 11 (W)	Third Midterm Examination	
<i>Discussion:</i>	Boccaccio on the Plague	SR XIII
Nov. 16 (M)	The Papacy & Christendom in Crisis, 1300-1500	Levack, 351-61
Nov. 18 (W)	The Early Italian Renaissance	-----
<i>Discussion:</i>	Dante, Petrarch, and Allegory	SR XIV-XV
[Nov. 23 & Nov. 25: Thanksgiving Break; classes will not meet]		
Nov. 30 (M)	Valla & Historical Consciousness	-----
Dec. 2 (W)	The Crisis of Italy and the Ascendancy of the North	-----
<i>Discussion:</i>	Humanists and Historical Perspective: Valla and Giovio	SR XVI-XVII
Dec. 7 (M)	Erasmus, Luther, and Reformation	SR XVIII
Dec. 9 (W)	From Christendom to Europe	-----
<i>Discussion:</i>	Review in Preparation for Exam	
Dec. 16 (W)	Final Examination (10:30-12:30) (preliminary schedule)	