

History 1300: Roots of the Western Experience (Autumn, 2018)

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 Office Hours: Mondays, 12:15- 1:30, & by appointment

Objectives: This course constitutes an overview of the culture of the West (including Europe) from its origins to the early sixteenth century. It also provides an introduction to the study of history and to the reading of primary documents.

Required Readings (link to UConn Bookstore: <https://tinyurl.com/F18-8207-HIST-1300-001>)

- 1) Anthony Grafton and David A. Bell, *The West: A New History*, vol. 1 (New York: Norton, 2018). Abbreviated below as "Grafton."
- 2) *Selected Readings*: purchase at the UConn 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 (15% each); and (c) a final examination (35%). 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 Cell phones*: 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 is strictly prohibited.

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.

8) **On not returning after leaving a class session:** If you should leave the classroom mid-session, for whatever reason (to answer a phone call, to go to the restroom, etc.), you may not return. To have people coming and going during a lecture or discussion is distracting and unfair to one’s fellow students and, indeed, to the instructors.

9) **Trigger Warnings:** In keeping with AAUP policy, we do not issue trigger warnings. For further details see <https://www.aaup.org/report/trigger-warnings>. See also <https://provost.uchicago.edu/sites/default/files/documents/reports/FOECommitteeReport.pdf> (by the Committee on Freedom of Expression, University of Chicago)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Readings</i>
Aug. 27 (M)	Early Civilization in the Fertile Crescent	
Aug. 29 (W)	Ancient Egypt & the Near East	Grafton, 2–31
<i>Discussion:</i>	Two flood narratives	SR II & III (Gen. 6–9)
<i>[Sep. 3: Labor Day; Class will not meet]</i>		
Sep. 5 (W)	The Emergence of Greece (lecture by Ms. Vitale)	Grafton, 32–42
<i>Discussion:</i>	Monotheism & Judaism	SR III (Gen. 1-5, 21)
Sep. 10 (M)	Athenian Democracy: Origins & Practice	Grafton, 47–49
Sep. 12 (W)	Greeks vs. Persians: War & Aftermath	Grafton, 49–53
<i>Discussion:</i>	Herodotus on the Battle of Salamis	SR I

Sep. 17 (M)	Peloponnesian War & its Aftermath	53–56
Sep. 19 (W)	The “Golden Age” of Athens	Grafton, 56–74
<i>Discussion:</i>	Thucydides on Cultural Decline	SR IV
Sep. 24 (M)	First Midterm Examination	
Sep. 26 (W)	Presocratics, Sophists, & Plato	Grafton, 77–79
<i>Discussion:</i>	Plato’s <i>Republic</i>	SR V
Oct. 1 (M)	Aristotle	Grafton, 80
Oct. 3 (W)	The Hellenistic World	Grafton, 80–106
<i>Discussion:</i>	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>	SR VI
Oct. 8 (M)	The Roman Republic	Grafton, 109–44
Oct. 10 (W)	The Roman Empire I	Grafton, 147–57; SR VIII
<i>Discussion:</i>	Cicero & Seneca on the Good Life	SR VII
Oct. 15 (M)	The Rise of Christianity	Grafton, 157–74
Oct. 17 (W)	Second Midterm Examination	
<i>Discussion:</i>	The Gospel According to Mark	SR IX
Oct. 22 (M)	The Roman Empire II	Grafton, 181–9, 200–2, 206–7
Oct. 24 (W)	Religion in the Later Roman Empire	Grafton, 189–200, 203–8
<i>Discussion:</i>	Augustine	SR X
Oct. 29 (M)	Rise & Fall of the Carolingians	Grafton, 211–46
Oct. 31 (W)	Economic & Political Revival	Grafton, 249–72, 287–92, 296–98; SR XI
<i>Discussion:</i>	Dhuoda’s advice to her son	SR XII

Nov. 5 (M)	The Church & Religious Thought	Grafton, 272–84, 303–15
Nov. 7 (W)	The Medieval World in Crisis & the Early Italian Renaissance	Grafton, 292–94, 315–22, 356–61
<i>Discussion:</i>	Bruni on Florence's Historic Role	SR XIII
Nov. 12 (M)	Third Midterm Examination	
Nov. 14 (W)	Renaissance in the 15 th Century	Grafton, 325–65
<i>Discussion:</i>	Valla on the Donation of Constantine	SR XIV
<i>[Thanksgiving Recess]</i>		
Nov. 26 (M)	Crisis & Creativity during the Italian Wars, 1494–1530	Grafton, 367–68, 391–92
Nov. 28 (W)	The Ascendancy of Northern & Western Europe	----
<i>Discussion:</i>	Historians' Perspectives on Decline: Machiavelli and Giovo	SR XV–XVI
Dec. 3 (M)	Humanism & Reformation	Grafton, 371–88; SR XVII
Dec. 5 (W)	Christendom & Europe Reconceived	----
<i>Discussion:</i>	Erasmus; Review for exam	SR XVIII

Date & Time TBA: Final Examination

Final exam week for Fall 2018 takes place from Monday, December 10th through Sunday, December 16, 2018. Students are required to be available for their exam during the stated time. If you have a conflict with this time, you must visit the Dean of Students Office to discuss the possibility of rescheduling this exam.

Please note that vacations, previously purchased tickets or reservations, social events, misreading the exam schedule and over-sleeping are not viable excuses for missing a final exam. If you think that your situation warrants permission to reschedule, please contact the Dean of Students Office with any questions. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.