

## Western Civilization I

David Cherry

Wilson Hall 2-155; [dcherry@montana.edu](mailto:dcherry@montana.edu); 406-994-5205

Office hours: Tuesday 12:30-2:00; Thursday, 9:00-10:30

### Textbook

J. P. McKay, B. D. Hill, and J. Buckler, *A History of Western Society*. Volume A: *From Antiquity to 1500*, 10th ed. (2011)

### Historical documents (all are available at the course website)

The Code of Hammurabi

The Epic of Gilgamesh (selections)

The Old Testament, Exodus, 1-24

Xenophon, *Constitution of the Lacedaemonians*

Plato, *The Apology of Socrates*

‘Alexander the Great’ (Arrian, Diodorus of Sicily)

The Twelve Tables

Accomplishments of the Deified Augustus

Caesar, *Gallic War*, and Tacitus, *On Germany*

The Law Code of the Salian Franks

The Koran, *The Cow* (selections)

Magna Carta

### Introduction

My purpose is to introduce you to some of the major themes in the history of western civilization, from its origins in Mesopotamia (Iraq), roughly 9,000 years ago, to the time of the Renaissance. You’ll be reading, and writing about, some of the most important documents in the history of the western world. The idea is that you’ll learn history best by doing it. My goals are to help you to develop your ability to read critically, to ask good questions, and to make sense of historical problems independently.

### Contacting me

If you send me a message at the course website, I’ll reply within 24 hours (often sooner). If you want to talk to me (about an assignment, etc.), you’re welcome to call me, or, if you’re on campus, stop by, during the office hours listed above.

### Help with the course website

If, at any time, you experience problems with the course website – access, uploading files, etc. – contact the D2L support staff at [ecat@montana.edu](mailto:ecat@montana.edu) or 406-994-6550.

### Lectures

All of the course lectures are recorded, and are available at the course website, under “Content” . When you click on a link, the recording should open in whatever web browser you have installed on your computer. If you have problems opening the lectures, please let me know.

## Assignments

### Reading

You're responsible for doing all of the reading indicated below in the schedule. Before reading the historical documents, you should review the reading questions at the course website. To access the documents, and the reading questions, click the "Content" link on the toolbar below the course title, then click, for example, "The Code of Hammurabi" (if necessary, click the "+" symbol next to "Historical documents" to reveal the next rows). You'll be given the option of opening the document (it's in PDF) or saving it to your hard drive; I recommend you save it. If the document doesn't appear when you click on it, it's because your browser is set to block the downloading of files to your computer; click on the toolbar that reads, "To help protect your security, Internet Explorer blocked this site from downloading files to your computer. Click here for options...", then select "Download file...". It's possible you may be returned to the homepage at that point; if you navigate back to the document you were trying to open, and try again, it should open.

The documents are *the heart of the course*. If you don't keep up with the reading, you're unlikely to do well in the class.

### Reading questions (12) – 30%

There is a set of reading questions for each of the 12 historical documents that you've been assigned to read. The questions are available, from the first day of class, at the course website (to locate them, see the instructions above, under "Reading"). If you choose, you can work ahead. You may submit your answers at any time prior to the deadlines indicated below in the schedule. Your answers should be 150-200 words. Please use correct grammar, spelling, etc.

Your answers will be evaluated on the basis of how carefully and thoughtfully they engage the reading questions. Each will be scored on a scale from 0-10. Generally, you should expect scores ranging from 6 to 10 (6 = D-; 6.5 = D; 7 = C-; 7.5 = C; 8 = B-; 8.5 = B; 9 = A-; 9.5 or 10 = A). Scores of 9 and 9.5 will be reserved for answers that thoughtfully address the questions and provide support for your interpretations by including specific references to the documents (for example, "Code of Hammurabi, section 28"). A score of 10 will be awarded only to answers that show original or creative thinking.

Your 10 best scores on the reading questions will each count 3% toward your final grade. If you choose to submit 11 answers, I will drop your lowest score; if you choose to submit all 12 answers, I will drop your lowest 2 scores.

### *Submitting your work*

To submit your answers, click on the "Discussions" link in the toolbar below the course title, then on the appropriate topic link, for example, "The Code of Hammurabi", then on "Compose". A new window will open. I recommend you enter a Subject heading (e.g., "Jolie - Hammurabi"). Type your answer into the message window, or paste it in from a word processing document. **DO NOT** submit your answer as an attachment, by clicking the "Add a File" button (if you do, your score will be recorded as zero, because attachments aren't linked to the grade sheet). When you're all done, click "Post".

### *Discussion*

Unfortunately, it is pretty much impossible to replicate online the give and take of a classroom discussion. I do, however, encourage you to read and to comment on other students' answers, and to exchange ideas with each other.

### Quizzes (7) – 30%

There will be 7 quizzes. Each will count 5% toward your final grade. At the end of the semester, I will drop your lowest score. Alternatively, you can choose not to do one of the quizzes, in which case the 6 you do complete will all be counted towards your final grade.

Each quiz will be available at the course website for approximately 48 hours, from 12:01 am to 11:45 pm, on the dates indicated below. You will have 20 minutes to complete each quiz. Each will ask you 20 multiple-choice questions based on the assigned reading.

So that you're familiar with how the quizzes are laid out, and with the quiz-taking process, I recommend that you take the 5-question practice quiz before you take quiz 1. The practice quiz will be available January 14. You can do it more than once.

To access the quizzes, click the "Quizzes" link in the toolbar below the course title.

Quiz 1. Monday-Tuesday, **January 28-29**. On the assigned reading: *A History of Western Society*, pages 2-30, 33-6; The Code of Hammurabi; The Epic of Gilgamesh (selections).

Quiz 2. Monday-Tuesday, **February 11-12**. On the assigned reading: *A History of Western Society*, pgs. 36-52, 58-83; The Old Testament, Exodus, 1-24; Xenophon, *Constitution of the Lacedaemonians*.

Quiz 3. Monday-Tuesday, **February 25-26**. On the assigned reading: *A History of Western Society*, pgs. 83-7, 90-115; 'Alexander the Great' (Arrian, Diodorus of Sicily); Plato, *The Apology of Socrates*.

Quiz 4. Monday-Tuesday, **March 18-19**. On the assigned reading: *A History of Western Society*, pgs. 118-42, 144-63; The Accomplishments of the Deified Augustus; The Twelve Tables.

Quiz 5. Monday-Tuesday, **April 1-2**. On the assigned reading: *A History of Western Society*, pgs. 163-71, 174-82, 185-98, 215-22; Caesar, *Gallic War*, and Tacitus, *On Germany*; The Law Code of the Salian Franks.

Quiz 6. Monday-Tuesday, **April 15-16**. On the assigned reading: *A History of Western Society*, pgs. 208-15, 226-35, 240-44, 248-51, 255-66; Magna Carta; The Koran, *The Cow* (selections).

Quiz 7. Wednesday-Thursday, **April 24-25**. On the assigned reading: *A History of Western Society*, pgs. 274-80, 304-13, 331-4, 340-54, 358-61, 374-80, 387-93.

### Papers (3) – 30%

You're expected to write 3 short, interpretive papers (each 750-1000 words), one each on The Code of Hammurabi; Plato, *The Apology of Socrates*; and The Law Code of the Salian Franks. Each will count 15% toward your final grade. However, at the end of the semester, I will drop your lowest score. Alternatively, you can choose not to submit one of the papers, in which case the 2 you do submit will both be counted towards your final grade.

#### *Assignment*

For each of the papers, you must formulate and then try to answer your own issue-question about the document. An issue-question is one about which reasonable people could disagree, for example, not, what is the capital of the United States, but, what would be a better capital for the U.S.

As you read each document, think about the questions you have, and write them down. Once you've chosen a question to investigate, you should work on your thesis, which is a clear, one-sentence answer to your own issue-question (for example, "In Frankish society, the status of Romans was higher than that of women"). In the rest of your paper, your goal is to support your thesis, above all, by referring to passages in the document that you think most effectively back up your claim.

For each of your papers, I will be happy to look over your one-sentence thesis statement, should you want to send it to me (I cannot read drafts).

#### *Outside sources*

Obviously, I can't stop you from reading outside sources. But you ought to work mainly with the historical documents. The most effective way to support your thesis is by providing references to passages in the documents themselves (not by referring to other peoples' interpretations).

#### *References*

References should be put in parentheses in the text of your paper; for example, (Code of Hammurabi, section 28).

#### *Length*

750-1000 words each.

#### *Due dates*

Paper 1. The Code of Hammurabi. Monday, **February 4**

Paper 2. Plato, *The Apology of Socrates*. Monday, **March 4**

Paper 3. The Law Code of the Salian Franks. Monday, **April 8**

#### *Submitting your papers*

First, make sure that your paper has an identifiable filename (e.g., "Obama paper 1"), and that it's saved as a Microsoft Word, PDF, or Rich Text Format (RTF) document (if you save it in another format, I may be unable to open it). At the course website, click the Dropbox link below the course title, then the appropriate Folder link (e.g., "Paper 1. The Code of

Hammurabi”). Click the “Add a File” button. A new window will open. Click the “Browse...” button. Locate the file you want to upload from your computer, select it, and (if you’re working with Windows), click “Open”. Click “Upload”, then “Submit”.

#### Final exam – 10%

A “take-home” final exam, consisting of 2 to 3 essay-type questions, will be available at the course website at 8:00 a.m., Friday, **April 26**. Your answers to the questions must be posted to the course website no later than 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, **April 30**.

#### **Deadlines for submitting work**

All assignments (other than the quizzes) must be posted to the course website by **5:00 pm, Mountain time**, on the day that they’re due. **Late work will not be accepted.**

#### **Schedule**

##### *Week 1, January 9-11*

#### Recorded lectures

- Doing history

Assigned reading. *A History of Western Society*, pages 2-7.

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##### *Week 2, January 14-18*

#### Recorded lectures

- The agricultural revolution
- The cradle of western civilization
- Life in Mesopotamia (The Epic of Gilgamesh)

Assigned reading. *A History of Western Society*, pgs. 7-19; The Code of Hammurabi.

Answers to the reading questions on The Code of Hammurabi are due Sunday, **January 20**.

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##### *Week 3, January 22-25*

#### Recorded lectures

- On the banks of the Nile
- The Trojan war

Assigned reading. *A History of Western Society*, pgs. 19-30, 33-6; The Epic of Gilgamesh (selections).

Answers to the reading questions on The Epic of Gilgamesh are due Sunday, **January 27**.

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*Week 4, January 28-February 1*

Recorded lectures

- The Hebrews
- The Persians
- Africanizing Greece

Assigned reading. *A History of Western Society*, pgs. 36-52; The Old Testament, Exodus, 1-24.

**Quiz 1** will be available at the course website from 12:01 a.m. Monday, **January 28** until 11:45 p.m. Tuesday, **January 29**.

Answers to the reading questions on The Old Testament, Exodus, 1-24 are due Sunday, **February 3**.

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*Week 5, February 4-8*

Recorded lectures

- The history of Greece, 1200-400 BC
- A day in classical Athens
- Life in Sparta (Xenophon, *Constitution of the Lacedaemonians*)

Assigned reading. *A History of Western Society*, pgs. 58-83; Xenophon, *Constitution of the Lacedaemonians*.

**Paper 1**, on the Code of Hammurabi, is due Monday, **February 4**.

Answers to the reading questions on Xenophon, *Constitution of the Lacedaemonians* are due Sunday, **February 10**.

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*Week 6, February 11-15*

Recorded lectures

- Democracy: Greece and America
- The life and death of Socrates
- Slavery in the ancient world

Assigned reading. *A History of Western Society*, pgs. 83-4; Plato, *The Apology of Socrates*.

**Quiz 2** will be available at the course website from 12:01 a.m. Monday, **February 11** until 11:45 p.m. Tuesday, **February 12**.

Answers to the reading questions on Plato, *The Apology of Socrates* are due Sunday, **February 17**.

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*Week 7, February 19-22*

Recorded lectures

- Alexander the Great
- Assessing Alexander ('Alexander the Great' (Arrian, Diodorus of Sicily))

Assigned reading. *A History of Western Society*, pgs. 85-7, 90-115; 'Alexander the Great' (Arrian, Diodorus of Sicily).

Answers to the reading questions on 'Alexander the Great' (Arrian, Diodorus of Sicily) are due Sunday, **February 24**.

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*Week 8, February 25-March 1*

Recorded lectures

- Greek art and architecture
- Early Rome
- Roman society

Assigned reading. *A History of Western Society*, pgs. 118-42; The Twelve Tables.

**Quiz 3** will be available at the course website from 12:01 a.m. Monday, **February 25** until 11:45 p.m. Tuesday, **February 26**.

Answers to the reading questions on The Twelve Tables are due Sunday, **March 3**.

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*Week 9, March 4-8*

Recorded lectures

- From republic to empire
- Augustus' autobiography (Accomplishments of the Deified Augustus)
- Gladiators

Assigned reading. *A History of Western Society*, pgs. 144-63; Accomplishments of the Deified Augustus.

**Paper 2**, on Plato, *The Apology of Socrates*, is due Monday, **March 4**.

Answers to the reading questions on Accomplishments of the Deified Augustus are due Sunday, **March 10**.

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*March 11-15          Spring break*

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*Week 10, March 18-22*

Recorded lectures

- Christianizing the Roman world
- Army and frontiers
- Celts and Germans (Caesar, *Gallic War*, and Tacitus, *On Germany*)

Assigned reading. *A History of Western Society*, pgs. 163-70; Caesar, *Gallic War*, and Tacitus, *On Germany*.

**Quiz 4** will be available at the course website from 12:01 a.m. Monday, **March 18** until 11:45 p.m. Tuesday, **March 19**.

Answers to the reading questions on Caesar, *Gallic War*, and Tacitus, *On Germany* are due Sunday, **March 24**.

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*Week 11, March 25-28*

Recorded lectures

- Romans and barbarians
- The Franks
- Christianizing Europe

Assigned reading. *A History of Western Society*, pgs. 170-71, 174-82, 185-98, 215-22; The Law Code of the Salian Franks.

Answers to the reading questions on The Law Code of the Salian Franks are due Sunday, **March 31**.

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*Week 12, April 1-5*

Recorded lectures

- The origins of feudalism and manorialism
- The spread of Islam
- The nature of Islam (The Koran, *The Cow*)

Assigned reading. *A History of Western Society*, pgs. 208-15, 226-35; The Koran, *The Cow* (selections).

**Quiz 5** will be available at the course website from 12:01 a.m. Monday, **April 1** until 11:45 p.m. Tuesday, **April 2**.

Answers to the reading questions on The Koran, *The Cow* (selections) are due Sunday, **April 7**.

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*Week 13, April 8-12*

Recorded lectures

- The crusades
- The origins of the nation-state
- The king and his subjects (Magna Carta)

Assigned reading. *A History of Western Society*, pgs. 240-44, 248-51, 255-66; Magna Carta.

**Paper 3**, on The Law Code of the Salian Franks, is due Monday, **April 8**.

Answers to the reading questions on Magna Carta are due Sunday, **April 14**.

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*Week 14, April 15-19*

Recorded lectures

- Peasants
- Towns and trade
- The Black Death

Assigned reading. *A History of Western Society*, pgs. 274-80, 304-13, 331-4, 340-48.

**Quiz 6** will be available at the course website from 12:01 a.m. Monday, **April 15** until 11:45 p.m. Tuesday, **April 16**.

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*Week 15, April 22-26*

Recorded lectures

- The Hundred Years' war
- The end of the Middle Ages

Assigned reading. *A History of Western Society*, pgs. 348-54, 358-61, 374-80, 387-93.

**Quiz 7** will be available at the course website from 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, **April 24** until 11:45 p.m. Thursday, **April 25**.

The **final exam** will be available at the course website starting at 8:00 a.m., Friday, **April 26** (click the "Content" link on the toolbar below the course title, then "Final exam"). Your answers must be posted to the course website no later than 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, **April 30**.

*Submitting your exam*

First, make sure that your exam answers have an identifiable filename (e.g., "Pitt final exam"), and that they're saved as a Microsoft Word, PDF, or Rich Text Format (RTF) document (if you save it in another format, I may be unable to open it). At the course website, click the Dropbox

link below the course title, then the appropriate folder link, "Final exam". Click the "Add a File" button. A new window will open. Click the "Browse..." button. Locate the file you want to upload from your computer, select it, and (if you're working with Windows), click "Open". Click "Upload", then "Submit".

**Grade scale**

93-100 = A	80-82.9 = B-	67-69.9 = D+
90-92.9 = A-	77-79.9 = C+	63-66.9 = D
87-89.9 = B+	73-76.9 = C	60-62.9 = D-
83-86.9 = B	70-72.9 = C-	<60 = F