

# Readings in European History I

**EUH 6935 AD 081**

**Dr. Philip Kaplan**

Time: Wednesday 1:30–4:15

Office: Building 8, room 2533

Room: 45/2807

Office phone: 630–2886

3 Credit hours

Office hours: M 11–12, T 3–4, R 11–12

[www.unf.edu/~pkaplan/readings.html](http://www.unf.edu/~pkaplan/readings.html) [pkaplan@unf.edu](mailto:pkaplan@unf.edu) (<mailto:pkaplan@unf.edu>)

## The Course

What is "Western Civilization," why do we teach it, and how do we do so? By the end of this two-course sequence, class participants should be substantially prepared to teach in undergraduate history programs. The course echoes the structure of the undergraduate "Core" classes, but provides a much deeper background in the subject areas covered and the ways historians have dealt with them.

## Format

The class meets once a week; students are expected to come to class having done the assigned reading, and prepared to discuss what they have read. Class time will be devoted to discussing the major issues of the periods or topics covered in the Core classes for that week. We will also devote time to considering major pedagogical issues associated with teaching Western Civilization, including syllabus construction, teaching strategies, fostering discussion, and assessment.

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## Requirements and Evaluation

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**Class participation (20%):** *All students* will be required to do the readings for each class as described below, and will be expected to report on and discuss what they have read in class each week.

**Book reviews (20%):** *All students* will be required to submit 2-page reviews of 4 of the secondary texts they read for the class (one of the reviews may be of a movie). These reviews will discuss the substance of the argument, as well as the format and utility of the texts. Students may not review the Western Civilization textbooks or primary readings.

**Reading analysis (10%):** *All students* must submit an essay of 5 pages analyzing a primary text that would be used in a Western Civilization class. The essay should consider a significant aspect of the work which would be relevant to a discussion of that work among undergraduates. The essay should be submitted in the week to which that reading is relevant; copies of the essay should be printed (or the file should be sent via Bb) to be handed out to the other students in the class.

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**Syllabus preparation (30%):** *All students* must submit, by the end of the semester, a detailed syllabus with lesson notes for a stand-alone section of Core I. The notes and plan should include discussion of readings and audio-visual materials to be used.

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**Classroom experience (20%):** *All students* will be expected to sit in on all of the lectures of Dr. Kaplan's or Dr. Halsall's Core I class. In addition, at least once in the semester, students must attend at least one

class of a different instructor (including Dr. Reid or one of the adjunct instructors, with their permission) and write a brief analysis of the format, organization, and use of materials of that class.

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*Teaching students* will be expected to report each week on their sections of the previous week.

*Non-teaching students* will be required to sit in on one class of each of the teaching students, and write a brief analysis of the format, organization and use of materials of that class. The report will be given to the teaching student and discussed with her/him before it is submitted; the teaching student will have the opportunity to add comments or a response.

\_Non-teaching students \_ will also be expected to be part of a pool of substitutes for friday sections; arrangements should be made with the teaching students, based on their needs.

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## Readings

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All students will be required to own a copy of a Western Civilization textbook and to read the sections relevant to each week's Core class. Students who are teaching sections may use either Noble et al., *Western Civilization: The Continuing Experiment* , if they are teaching for Dr. Kaplan, or Sherman and Salisbury, *The West in the World* , if they are teaching for Dr. Halsall. If they are not teaching, they must use a different textbook (choose the most recent edition; ask to borrow one from Dr. Kaplan's collection). Some of the more popular texts are:

- Marvin Perry et al., *Western Civilization: Ideas, Politics & Society*

- Mark A. Kishlansky et al. *Civilization in the West*

- Lynne Hunt, *The Making of the West. Peoples and Cultures. Voume I: to 1740*

- Jackson J. Spielvogel, *Western Civilization. Volume I to 1715*

- Donald Kagan et al., *The Western Heritage.*

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In addition, each student will be expected to read one substantial work for each class, and be prepared to report on it: describe its outline, the topics it covers, any substantial or controversial argument it makes, and how it might be useful to presenting the material to undergraduates. A written handout will be beneficial to the rest of the students. In addition, the student should use it to inform her or his participation in discussion. The work may be chosen from the works listed on the schedule; students who choose to read a work not on the list should clear it with Dr. Kaplan in advance.