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**

Introduction to European History**

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**("Western Civilization")

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**Susanne Pohl **

History 151

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Wednesday: 12.30-1.30

And by appointment | History 151

Fall 2000

MWF 11:15 - 12:04

Mallott 253 **

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Teaching Assistants:

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Office Hours TBA

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Course Requirements:

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**** The goal of this course is to expose you to the history of Europe from Antiquity to the Renaissance and Reformation. While acquainting you with major political, social and cultural developments, this course focuses on close reading and interpretation of primary sources to teach you basic analytical skills historians use to evaluate the past.

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** Your grade in this course will be calculated as follows: **

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Two 4–6 page Essays

Midterm Exam

Final Exam

Participation

Quizzes

| 40%

15%

25%

15%

5%

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Paper topics will be distributed in class. The Midterm Exam will be given in class. The Participation grade evaluates your contributions during sections and when appropriate, during lectures, fulfillment of homework assignments, contributions to in-class group projects, and attendance patterns.

Attendance during lectures and sections is mandatory. If you miss sections more than three times without explanations, or if you do not attend lectures on a regular basis, you will forfeit the 15% credit for class participation. Discussion of primary sources is an integral part of this class. Do the readings carefully and come to class prepared to discuss them. If questions about the readings are handed out in advance, you need to be prepared to discuss these as well. Your written work *must* represent *your own* thinking. Students who submit plagiarized, or unattributed, work of others will fail the course.

If you have any questions about the material we are reading or any difficulties keeping up with the course requirements, please see me or your teaching assistant during office hours or by appointment. If you have a disability that requires accomodation, please let me or your teaching assistant know.

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Required Texts

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Books available for purchase at the Campus Bookstore :

Thomas Noble, Barry Strauss et. al. *Western Civilization*. Boston, New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1998.

Beowulf. Michael Alexander, trans. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1973.

St. Benedict's Rule for Monasteries. Leonard J. Doyle, trans. Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 1935.

Christine de Pisan. *The Treasure Of The City Of Ladies*. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1985.

Niccolo Macchiavelli. *The Prince*. New York: Dover, 1992.

Course Pack available at KC Copies.

Additional handouts and supplements to the Course Pack will be available later in the semester.

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Course Outline

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I. Introduction: August 25

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II. Ancient Greece

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Political and Social Organization: August 28 and August 30

Plato and Aristotle: September 1 and 4

Readings:

NSONCR: Chapter 3 (Chapter 1 and 2 recommended)

Section (August 31 and September 1): Selections from the *Iliad*

Alexander the Great and Hellenistic Greece: September 6

Readings:

NSONCR: Chapter 4, p. 120–134

Section (September 7, 8): CP: Plato, *Apology*

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III. Rome and Christianity

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The Roman Republic: September 8

Readings:

NSONCR: Chapter 5

Section (September 9 and 10): CP, nr. 1: Plato, *Apology*

Imperial Rome: September 11

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Readings:

NSONCR: Chapter 6, p. 195–213

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Early Christianity: September 13

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Readings:

NSONCR: Chapter 6, p. 213–228

Section (September 14 and 15): *Res Gestae Divi Augusti*

CP: *The Passion of St. Perpetua*

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IV. The World of Late Antiquity

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Diocletian and Constantine: September 15

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Readings:

NSONCR: Chapter 7, p. 229–243 _____

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The Transformation of the Roman World, Barbarian Societies (Merovingians, Ostrogoths): September 18

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Readings:

NSONCR: Chapter 7, 243–265

V. Concepts of Rule in Early Medieval Kingdoms, ca. 800 – 1150

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Kings and Queens in early medieval Europe: September 20

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Readings:

NSONCR: Chapter 8, p. 280–286

The Carolingians: September 22

Readings:

NSONCR: Chapter 8, p. 287–296, 298–305

Sections: *Beowulf* (September 21 and 22)

Scandinavia, The Vikings: September 25

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Readings:

NSONCR: Chapter 8, p. 297–298, p. 335–337

Byzantium and its Eurasian Neighbors (Khazaria, Bulgaria, Russia): September 27 and 29

Readings :

NSONCR: Chapter 8, p. 267–280, 337–339

Section (September 28 and September 20): CP: *Life of Charlemagne*

VI. Society and Religion in Europe, ca. 800–1150

**** *Islamic Spain: October 2*

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Early medieval Spirituality, Monasticism; Brides of Christ and Martyrdom:
October 4

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FIRST PAPER DUE OCTOBER 6

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The Rise of Chivalry: October 11

Readings:

NSONCR: Chapter 9, p. 307–320, 339–344

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Church and State: The Investiture Controversy: October 13

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Readings:

NSONCR: Chapter 9, p. 320–339

Section (October 12 and 13): *The Rule of St. Benedict*, CP, nr.4: Roswitha of Gandersheim, *Sapientia*

The Crusades: October 16

Readings:

NSONCR: Chapter 9, p. 344–351

VII. Medieval Civilization at Its Height, ca. 1150–1300

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Urban Culture and the Rise of Universities; New Religious Movements and Female Spirituality, Heresy and Inquisition: October 18 and 20

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Readings:

NSONCR: Chapter 10, p. 370–386

Section (October 19 and 20): CP : *The Rule of St. Francis, The Testament of St. Clare of Assisi* , Mechthild of Magdeburg : *The Flowing Light of the Godhead* (Selections)

Jewish Communities in Europe: October 23

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Wednesday, October 25: Midterm Exam, 11.15–12.05

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Emergence of Central Governments: Papacy, France, England: October 27, 30 and November 1

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Readings:

NSCONCR: Chapter 10, p. 353–379

Sections (October 26 and 27): Selections from Jacob Marcus, *The Jew in the Medieval World, A Source Book, 317–1791* *

VIII. The Transformation of Medieval Civilization, 1300–1500

The Crisis of the Western Christian Church: November 3

Readings:

NSONCR: Chapter 10, p. 386–392, Chapter 11, p. 395–402

Sections (November 2 and 3): CP, nr. 9: *A Medieval Home Companion* (Selections)

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Politics and Society in Crisis: The Hundred Years War, Joan of Arc, The Plague: November 6 and 8

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Changes in Warfare: November 10

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__ Readings:

NSONCR: Chapter 11, p. 402–433

Sections (November 9 and 10): Christine de Pisan: *The Treasure of the City of Ladies* (Selections)

IX. The Renaissance

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Civic Humanism, Politics and War in 15th Century Italy: November 13

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The Renaissance Monarchies: November 15

Did Women Have a Renaissance?: November 17

Neoplatonism and The Renaissance Magician: November 20

The Arts in Italy: November 22

Readings:

NSONCR: Chapter 12, p. 437–472

Sections: (November 16 and 17):

Niccolo Machiavelli: *The Prince*,

__ CP: __ Selections from the Writings of Christine de Pisan

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SECOND PAPER DUE NOVEMBER 22

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X. Encounters with Non-Europeans before Columbus; Colonial Empires Overseas

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The Late Medieval Background: Rise of Genghis Khan; Pax Mongolia, The Friars and the Mongols: November 27

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Readings:

NSONCR: Chapter 13, p. 475–480

Spains Colonial Empire: November 29

Readings:

NSONCR: Chapter 13, p. 480–507

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XI. Conclusion: December 1

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FINAL EXAM WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 12.00–2.30 PM.