



## HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES ON CULTURE, BELIEF, AND CIVILIZATION

**HIS 121 C**  
**GORDON COLLEGE**  
**WENHAM, MA**

**SPRING 2016**

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**TUESDAY & THURSDAY 9:45-11:20AM**

**MACDONALD 131**

**OFFICE HOURS: THURSDAY 9:00AM-9:45AM**

**BY APPOINTMENT**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

*J229*

Drawing upon the best of western civilization and world history classes, this course examines the human activity of culture building, development and change within societies, and the interaction of diverse people groups across a broad swath of history. It explores the story of Christianity from its roots in the ancient Middle East through the early modern European Renaissance and Reformation to more recent flourishing in the global cultures of the contemporary world, in the context of political, technological, social, and cultural developments. Students encounter historic Christian traditions, missionary endeavors, reform movements, and relationships between historic adherents of different world religions. Particular attention is paid to worldviews and the interface of religious belief, system of thought, and actions taken by individuals and groups. This course also introduces students to the critical evaluation of historical evidence found in primary source documents, oral tradition, and material culture.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Students will develop a meaningful chronological framework for major events in the global past, setting the stage for integration of historical knowledge gained in other core courses, such as philosophy, theology, and Bible.
- Students will encounter diverse cultures from the past, exploring their societies and worldviews.
- Students will explore the relationship of Christianity to broader global historical developments.
- Students will learn to analyze primary source documents and other types of material evidence from the past (i.e. art, archaeology).
- Students will practice articulating historical arguments in written form, through short writing assignments, papers, and exam questions.

## CORE CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES

The following core curriculum objectives will be addressed directly in this course:

- Knowledge of God's character and purposes as revealed in Scripture and understood in the life of the church.

In this course we will encounter Christians from the past and explore their understanding of the Church, Scripture, and God's calling on their lives.

- Understanding of humankind as created, fallen and redeemed, and an appreciation for various perspectives on human nature.

A Christian anthropology informs our study of human motivations, actions, and cultures. Christian historian recognize humans made in God's image as infinitely valuable and worthy of study. Their fallen nature makes humans capable of great evil, while examples of altruistic human behavior reveal the image of God's grace on our lives.

- Understanding of and engagement with global culture in all their diversity.

We will explore a variety of global societies and cultures from different times and regions. Of particular interest will be the interaction of Christian with other belief systems.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND DUE DATES**

Map Quiz	5%	January 28 <sup>th</sup>
Midterm Exam	20%	March 1 <sup>st</sup>
Participation	25%	See Course Schedule (Includes quizzes, seminar, classroom activity)
Paper Question Sheet		March 29 <sup>th</sup>
Paper	25%	April 12 <sup>th</sup>
Final Exam	25%	May 10 <sup>th</sup>

## **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance is mandatory and will be taken daily. Borrowing someone else's notes will not suffice to capture the entire classroom experience. Communication is the key. You will be granted two "personal days," for illness or otherwise. These constitute absences. Beyond two absences will result in a 2% lowering of your FINAL grade. More than four unexcused absences will result in a 10% reduction (one letter grade). If you are ill, or something major has happened, please communicate with me—before class would be best via email or as soon after class as possible. Caring about your attendance means I care about our academic community and care about your input in the classroom... which means I care about you.

## **MAP QUIZ**

The map quiz serves to familiarize you with basic geographic features of Europe and the Middle East. Success in this fundamental area will lead to much greater comprehension of course material. **January 28th**

## **SEMINAR GROUPS**

Each student will be assigned a seminar group. These groups will gather to discuss the topic given. This will most often happen during class time and each student should come to class prepared to enter into the discussion. Each student will earn a grade for the discussion based on participation and depth of insight. Just saying something does not constitute a passing seminar grade. Each student must engage and add to the discussion. Each group will have an appointed seminar leader who will be responsible to moderate the discussion and each group will have someone scoring the discussion. Students are welcome to meet outside of class to study and continue their discussions, but it is advisable to leave the assigned discussion for the classroom so it will remain

fresh. If a seminar approach is new to you, please see me if you need tips for participation.

### **READING QUIZZES**

Each week will include a very brief reading quiz. This quiz will usually be given verbally. Students will need to come each week with a **3x5 card to write out your answers**. The purpose of the quiz is to prove that the student has completed the required reading. These quiz grades will be under the participation section of required work. If you are tardy to class, there will be no make-up quiz and the grade will be a zero for that quiz. These quizzes are designed so that the questions vary for every class. I will drop the two lowest quiz grades.

### **PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYTICAL PAPER**

For your paper, you will be choosing a primary source to analyze. The paper will be approx. 3-5 pages, double-spaced in 12pt font with one-inch margins. Chicago style. You are strongly urged to take your rough draft to the writing center, or contact the TA or professor for further help. More details to come separately. Paper Question Worksheets must be submitted by **March 29th**, and the final paper is due **April 12th**.  
\*\*No paper will be accepted without first submitting a question worksheet. More specific details will be given in class.

### **EXAMS**

Examinations will cover materials from lecture, reading, and discussion. Exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer. One to two extended questions will be posed. These exams are thorough and constitute a large percentage of your grade. Please prepare carefully. Your book and its resources can be of some help. Study groups are encouraged.

Any student who scores less than 70% on the midterm should make an appointment to meet with the professor to discuss possible problems within two weeks of the exam being passed back. The TA and the academic support center are also available to give advice on study skills and exam preparation strategies for those who are having difficulty. It is the student's responsibility to set up appointments in a timely fashion. Email is the most effective way to reach me.

### **REVIEW SESSIONS**

Noah Henkell will be our TA for HIS 121 and will lead weekly review sessions. They are also available for office hours to discuss material relevant to the course. All students

are urged to attend. Time and place will be announced during class. You may contact \_\_\_\_\_ at: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **BLACKBOARD AND INTERNET READINGS**

Check Blackboard regularly for class announcements and assignment details. Necessary images or materials will be posted for review; however, lecture power points will not be posted. Please take the necessary notes during class.

**Trinity Forum** readings are to be purchased from [www.ttf.org](http://www.ttf.org) go to STORE and search for the required readings. Each reading is available for \$3.00 for the download. If you would like the hardcopy allow one week for it to arrive.

In order to save you the cost of another expensive textbook, you will find most of your primary sources available through the internet links posted on **Blackboard**. It is your responsibility to read the sources carefully, print and bring them to class with you. **You are encouraged to print the sources out for yourself in advance**; computer problems are no excuse to be unprepared in class. We will quiz over the text and primary sources each week. If there is a problem accessing these materials, please contact the TA, CTS, and photocopy a classmate's copy.

#### **LIBRARY RESOURCES STATEMENT**

Students are responsible to obtain any library resources assigned for this course. Questions about library sources should be directed to the librarians in the Jenks Library. Librarians are available to assist you from the library reference desk, or by email at [library@gordon.edu](mailto:library@gordon.edu) or by phone (978) 867-4878.

#### **LAPTOP AND CELLPHONE**

Cell phones are to be turned off and put away when class begins. Please do not depend on your phone for information needed for class. This will not be accepted as an option. Laptops may only be used for taking notes during lecture. **No laptop will be able to be out during quizzes or seminar**. Printing your primary sources and bringing your textbook will be important to following what is happening in the classroom. Deviations from both the cell phone and laptop policy will result in revoked permission to use them during class time.

#### **THE CLASSROOM AS A COMMUNITY**

The academic classroom is more than a place to gather information. It is a place to learn, to think, to inquire, and to discuss. Each student should come to this gathering fully prepared to enter into this community of learners as a contributor. Each class session may constitute different aspects of learning, but each student must be prepared to give to the community as best they can. This giving also involves thinking

about others as we participate in the class sessions. Balance is the goal. This will come when students arrive on time. It distracts the classroom when others enter late. Balance will also be obtained as students refrain from entering and exiting the classroom for personal needs: i.e. to take a phone call or a bathroom break. If bathroom breaks are required, please wait until an appropriate time and exit quietly and re-enter appropriately. Eating and drinking can also be a distraction, as well as cell phone use and viewing materials on your laptop. Please consider your fellow students and your professor with your classroom demeanor. More will be said concerning this during the course introduction.

#### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Academic dishonesty is regarded as a major violation of both the academic and spiritual principles of this community and may result in a failing grade or suspension. Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism (see Plagiarism in Student Handbook), cheating (in or out of the classroom), and abuse or misuse of library materials. Plagiarism can take many forms and is not excused even if done inadvertently. Papers will be submitted through *Safe Assign* in order to help us all guard against plagiarism. If you are unsure on what constitutes plagiarism, please make an appointment to see me or the Academic Writing Center.

#### **FINAL EXAM POLICY**

Your Final Exam will be during the assigned Final Exam Period: **May 10th**. It is the College's policy that the individual professor may not change a final exam time assigned by the Registrar. Accordingly, please do not request permission to be excused from the exam—I cannot change this course requirement.

#### **COURSE ACCOMMODATION**

Gordon College is committed to assisting student with documented disabilities. (See Academic Catalog Appendix C for documentation guidelines) Please deliver your Faculty Notification Form to me within the first full week of class. If you would like to make an appointment to go over your accommodations, please do so—I'm happy to meet with you. It is your responsibility to inform me as to your needs. Failure to register with your professor may compromise our ability to provide the accommodations.

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND SOURCES

Perry, Marvin Ed., *Western Civilization: Ideas, Politics, and Society, Volume I: To 1789*. 11<sup>th</sup> Edition ISBN-13: 978-1305091412.

Trinity Forum Reading: Augustine, *City of God*. Forward by Eric Gregory. Translated by Marcus Dods. Downloadable for \$3.00 or print version available. [www.ttf.org](http://www.ttf.org) go to store, search for Augustine, *City of God* under Readings.

Einhard and Notker the Stammerer. *Two Lives of Charlemagne*. Translated by Lewis Thorpe. London: Penguin Books, 1969.

Trinity Forum Reading: *Pericles Funeral Oration*, Forward by Henry "Bud" Smith. Downloadable for \$3.00 or print version available. [www.ttf.org](http://www.ttf.org) go to store, search for Pericles Funeral Oration under Readings.

## HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES- HIS 121 READINGS AND LECTURE\*\*:

JANUARY 14 <sup>TH</sup>  COURSE INTRODUCTION	TOPIC:  WHY STUDY HISTORY: CAN'T I JUST GOOGLE IT?	ALL PRIMARY SOURCES ARE ON BLACKBOARD
JANUARY 19 <sup>TH</sup> AND 21 <sup>ST</sup>  READ: ANCIENT NEAR EAST: CHAPTER ONE, PAGES 8-20.  PRIMARY SOURCES ON BLACKBOARD, COMPETE ALL READINGS BEFORE CLASS.	TUESDAY:  MESOPOTAMIA	THURSDAY:  EGYPT
JANUARY 26 <sup>TH</sup> & 28 <sup>TH</sup>  READ: THE HEBREWS: ALL CHAPTER 2 FOR TUESDAY  21-29 or ch.1	TUESDAY:  HEBREWS: GOD AND HUMAN HISTORY	THURSDAY: READ-CHAPTER ONE, PAGES 21-29  THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE, NEO-BABYLON, & PERSIAN EMPIRE  MAP QUIZ*
*MAP QUIZ: JAN 28 <sup>TH</sup>	SEE BLACKBOARD FOR DETAILS	

<b>FEBRUARY 2<sup>ND</sup> &amp; 4<sup>TH</sup></b>  READ: THE GREEK CITY-STATE: CHAPTER 3  PRIMARY SOURCES ARE LISTED ON BLACKBOARD  ALSO READ: PERICLES <i>FUNERAL ORATION</i> (TRINITY FORUM READING)	TUESDAY:  GREEKS IN A DARK AGE/CITY STATES, SPARTA & ATHENS	THURSDAY:  GREEK CULTURE AND THE ARCHAIC AGE.
<b>FEBRUARY 9<sup>TH</sup> AND 11<sup>TH</sup></b>  READ: GREEK THOUGHT: FROM MYTH TO REASON, CHAPTER 4  PREP QUESTIONS FOR SEMINAR—FROM PERICLES FUNERAL ORATION—POSTED ON BLACKBOARD	TUESDAY:  SOCRATES & PLATO	THURSDAY:  HIGH POINT OF GREEK CIVILIZATION  STUDENT SEMINAR OVER PERICLES FUNERAL ORATION—MORE DETAILS GIVEN IN CLASS
<b>FEBRUARY 16<sup>TH</sup> &amp; 18<sup>TH</sup></b>  READ: THE ROMAN REPUBLIC, CHAPTER 6  PRIMARY SOURCES ARE ON BLACKBOARD	TUESDAY:  GREEK HELLENIZATION & THE ROMAN REPUBLIC	THURSDAY:  ROMAN REPUBLIC/GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE
<b>FEBRUARY 23<sup>RD</sup> &amp; 25<sup>TH</sup></b>  READ: THE ROMAN EMPIRE & EARLY CHRISTIANITY, CHAPTERS 7 & 8  PRIMARY SOURCES ARE ON BLACKBOARD	TUESDAY:  AUGUSTUS AND THE PRINCIPATE	THURSDAY:  ROMAN CULTURE, SOCIETY, RISE OF CHRISTIANITY
<b>MID TERM EXAM</b>	<b>TUESDAY, MARCH 1ST</b>	BE SURE TO ATTEND REVIEW SESSIONS

MARCH 1 <sup>ST</sup> AND 3 <sup>RD</sup>  STUDY FOR EXAM  <i>ch.8</i>	TUESDAY:  MID-TERM EXAM	THURSDAY:  DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH/AUGUSTINE/BYZANTIUM
SPRING BREAK  MARCH 7-11		
MARCH 15 <sup>TH</sup> & 17 <sup>TH</sup>  READ: WESTERN KINGDOMS, BYZANTIUM, CHAPTER 9 PAGES 199-209,  ALSO: AUGUSTINE'S CITY OF GOD (TRINITY FORUM READING)	TUESDAY:  WESTERN KINGDOMS & EARLY CHRISTIANITY  PREPARE FOR SEMINAR ON THURSDAY.	THURSDAY:  <i>CITY OF GOD</i> SEMINAR—MORE DETAILS GIVEN IN CLASS  ISLAM AND BYZANTINE
MARCH 22 <sup>ND</sup>  READ: LATIN CHRISTENDOM: THE RISE OF EUROPE: CHAPTER 9 PAGES 209-224.  READ: EINHARD'S <i>LIFE OF CHARLEMAGNE</i> (YOU DO NOT HAVE TO READ NOTKER)  PREP FOR SEMINAR	TUESDAY:  FEUDALISM, FRANKISH AND CAROLINGIAN EMPIRES,  CHRISTIANITY IN THE MIDDLE AGES	THURSDAY:  NO CLASS MEETING
MARCH 29 <sup>TH</sup> AND 31 <sup>ST</sup>  READ: HIGH MIDDLE AGES: ORDER PERFECTED 1000-1300: CHAPTERS 10-11  **HISTORY QUESTIONS DUE ON THURSDAY	TUESDAY:  MEDIEVAL CULTURE—  SEMINAR ON CHARLEMAGNE—MORE DETAILS IN CLASS	THURSDAY:  HISTORY QUESTION SHEET** DUE-SUBMIT IN BLACKBOARD FOR CREDIT.  **This question sheet is required before you can submit a paper.  GROWTH OF THE PAPACY AND THE SCHOLASTICS

<b>APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup> &amp; 7<sup>TH</sup></b>  READ: LATE MIDDLE AGES, CHAPTER 12  PRIMARY SOURCES ARE ON BLACKBOARD	<b>TUESDAY:</b>  BLACK DEATH, SCHOLASTICISM, 100 YEARS WAR	<b>THURSDAY:</b>  INDIVIDUALISM, REALISM, TALENT AND BEAUTY
<b>APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup> &amp; 14<sup>TH</sup></b>  READ: SCHOLASTICISM AND THE RENAISSANCE, 1300- 1640, CHAPTER 13  HISTORY PAPER DUE-- 12 <sup>TH</sup>  PRIMARY SOURCES ON BLACKBOARD	<b>TUESDAY:</b>  **HISTORY PAPER DUE IN BLACKBOARD—SEE TIME FOR CLOSING  RENAISSANCE SPIRIT: NORTH AND SOUTH	<b>THURSDAY:</b>  RENAISSANCE VIEWS OF THE NEW MAN
<b>APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup></b>  NO READINGS RENAISSANCE ART AND SCHOLARSHIP	<b>TUESDAY:</b>  RENAISSANCE ART	<b>THURSDAY:</b>  NO CLASS MEETING
<b>APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup> &amp; 28<sup>TH</sup></b>  READ: PRE-REFORMERS, LUTHER AND THE REFORMATION, CHAPTER 14  PRIMARY SOURCES ON BLACKBOARD	<b>TUESDAY:</b>  PRE-REFORMERS & LUTHER	<b>THURSDAY:</b>  PRIMARY DOCUMENTS, REFORMERS
<b>MAY 3<sup>RD</sup></b>  READ: PRIMARY SOURCES ON BLACKBOARD	<b>TUESDAY</b>  ZWINGLI, CALVIN, CATHOLIC REFORMATION	<b>THURSDAY:</b>  NO CLASS MEETING
<b>MAY 10<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>9:00-11:00AM</b>