

History 101  
*Western Civilization to 1648*  
Instructor: Dr. David Leinweber  
Seney 307, 770-784-8320  
Office Hours, Monday, Wednesday, 2:00-3:15 p.m. and by appointment  
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**I. COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Course objectives are as follows:

- A. To gain an understanding and appreciation of the major events, issues and trends which constitute Western Civilization's history from the ancient period to 1648.
- B. To develop critical writing and thinking skills.
- C. To think about historical perspectives, using DBQ (Document Based Questions).

**II. Texts:**

**A. Primary Texts:** For your reading pleasure, excellent readings have been assigned. They are:

- 1. Edward Gibbon, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* (Abridged; Penguin Edition)
- 2. *Beowulf*, Penguin Edition
- 3. Dante, *the Inferno*, Penguin Edition
- 4. Shakespeare, William, *Richard III*

**B.** Course Lecturebook, available in pdf format from the instructor.

**B. Secondary Texts:** The instructor might occasionally distribute selected additional readings, as appropriate.

**III. Grading:** Three four units, each equal in value, will be averaged into a 100 point scale to tally the final grade. The three units will be broken as follows:

**A. Exams.** There will be two examinations, each covering material from both reading and lectures. Exams will be a essay, with short answers and topic paragraphs. The final exam will also include a larger, comprehensive essay question. Each examination will be worth 80 points, plus:

- **Quiz Grades:** Students will complete a variety of short quizzes during the semester, generally based on textbook reading passages that will help prepare them for the various topics treated during class. Assigned readings for quizzes will be provided one class session in advance; pop quizzes may be given at the instructor's discretion. The quizzes will take the form of paragraph responses identifying various topics cited by the instructor. Quiz grades will be averaged and added to the mid-term and final grades, respectively, constituting 20% of the grade for each exam. For convenience, each quiz will be graded on a ten point scale.
  - a. Students will need to keep the quizzes they have taken throughout the semester. They will be re-submitted for both the Mid-Term and the Final examinations.
  - b. The Professor will provide the paper for the quizzes.

**B. Paper.** One third of the final grade will be based on the completion of a polished 8 page research essay focusing on a DBQ (see above). The paper will be footnoted and try to address a problem or premise drawn from an historical document (used in the class) and analyzed in light of historical information and/or secondary sources. The paper will involve researching a subject through library materials, framing a clear thesis, and dealing with evidence in a critical manner. Several shorter assignments will help students prepare for the writing of this essay, including the LearnLink assignments indicated below.

**C. LearnLink.** Students will write "topic paragraph" responses on LearnLink to a variety of issues or materials

presented in class materials. The LearnLink responses will also help prepare students for the writing of the research essay, especially in the second half of the semester. Several special LearnLink assignments will get students to think about ahead about their paper topics, and begin the process of framing their ideas in a clear written fashion. While this LearnLink responses will not be formally graded, participation is expected. Failure to participate will result in the instructor's lowering of the student's grade, at his discretion.

#### **IV. Various Course Policies:**

- A. Your notes are your own work. Sharing of notes is impermissible, unless expressly authorized by the instructor. All students make take and use their own notes exclusively, no exceptions.
- B. Attendance is strongly encouraged, recorded, and a valuable piece of information to be considered at grading time. Moreover, four absences deemed unexcused by the instructor will result in a lowering of the student's grade one full letter.
- C. The instructor reserves the right to amend procedures, schedules, and course format, described in the syllabus, as each class evolves in its particular way. .
- D. This syllabus presents a skeletal overview of the class. The content of the course, and the specific expectations about it, are presented in the class itself.
- E. The Honor Code applies to all work prepared for this course, and all examinations taken during this course.

#### **V. Course Schedule**

##### **A. Major Due Dates in the Course**

Quizzes: Generally to be called by the Professor one class period prior. Pop-quizzes may be called at the instructor's discretion.

October 8: Mid-term Examination

November 22: Final Version of Term Papers Due

Final Exams: The Scheduling for Final Exams will follow the Emory University schedule for final examinations. All conflicts/issues regarding the scheduling of the Final Examination must be handled through the office of the Dean of Academic Affairs.