



HIS 101: HISTORY OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION TO 1648
Fall 2009
Section 82057
Monday & Wednesday, 1:25-2:40 p.m.; AD 119

Professor Linda Bregstein Scherr

Office: LA 121

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday – 9-10 a.m.

Tuesdays & Thursdays – 1:30-3 p.m.

and by appointment

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Course Objective: To introduce students to the political, social, cultural, and economic events that distinguished Western Civilization from its earliest roots to the Thirty Years' War (1648). Major topics include Ancient Near Eastern civilizations, Greece and Rome, the Middle Ages, and the Renaissance and Reformation. Emphasis is placed on close readings of primary works, including literary and visual sources, in order to provide a deeper appreciation for the events and people that have helped shape the modern world.

In more specific terms, at the end of the course, students will be able to:

- read primary and secondary historical sources critically, with an understanding of their context, validity, perspective, bias, and audience.
- construct an historical essay that presents a clear thesis, a persuasive argument, and well-researched supporting data.
- identify major personalities of western civilization.
- describe major movements, trends, and developments of western civilization.
- use information technologies in acquiring new knowledge and perspective.
- discuss with authority, either in writing or verbally, the historical forces (e.g., religion, economics, politics, social stratification, gender, individual actors, technology, intellectual and aesthetic thought, etc.) behind the major movements, trends, and developments of western civilization.
- analyze other time periods and cultures with little or no ethnocentrism, thus displaying a sense of informed perspective and a deeper appreciation of the common threads of human nature.

Required Texts:

- Levack, Brian, Edward Muir, Michael Maas and Meredith Veldman, *The West: Encounters & Transformations*. Volume 1, To 1715. **Concise Edition with MyHistoryLab**. Pearson Longman. 2007.

The textbook comes packaged with a code for **MyHistoryLab**. DO NOT THROW AWAY THIS CODE. MyHistoryLab is an excellent resource that comes for FREE with the textbook. Instructions for accessing MyHistoryLab are appended to the end of the syllabus.

Course Requirements:

Students will be evaluated through:

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Two non-cumulative 50-minute tests (20%, 20%)	40%
Four 2-4 page writing assignments (5%, 5%, 5%, 10%)	25%
A semi-cumulative final exam	25%
Quizzes, attendance, and active participation	10%

Tests and Final Exam

The three tests will consist of identifications and short essays. Full credit identifications for study terms should include 3 components:

- ✓ **Definition:** basic information about what the person did or what the event involved or what the term means;
- ✓ **Context:** what country or region, what time period does this fit into? What else is happening around this term that is important to know? What other people or events or concepts play a role?
- ✓ **Significance:** why is this an important person or event or concept? What does this change about the world, and what comes after this that couldn't have happened without it?

The well-organized essays should be 2-3 paragraphs in length. You will be required to answer 2 out of a choice of 6 essays and 10 out of a choice of at least 20 identification terms. Study Guides for the exams will be handed out in class at least one week prior to each test. The tests will all be available in the Academic Testing Center for six days.

The **final exam** is a semi-cumulative, two hour exam consisting of identifications, essays and multiple choice questions.

If you cannot take any of the exams as scheduled, you must contact the professor before the exam deadline passes. Students who take exams late will be penalized 10 points (the equivalent of one letter grade).

Writing Assignments

Students must complete four 2-4 page writing assignments. The writing assignments will be based on primary source readings found in MyHistoryLab and in handouts distributed by your professor.

Any writing assignments submitted late will be accepted, but grades will be lowered by one full letter grade.



Students must complete all the assignments in the class (writing projects, tests, and a final exam) in order to receive a final grade.

Textbook Companion Website

In addition to the resources available on MyHistoryLab, there are also useful materials available on the textbook companion website http://wps.ablongman.com/long_levack_wc_1. There is no access code required for this (free) website.

Cheating and Plagiarism

As stated in the College Policy, cheating or plagiarism will result in an “F” for the final grade. If you are unsure whether something is plagiarism, you are responsible for asking your professor. All quotations must be set off by quotation marks, with the source listed.

Downloading and copying passages without attribution from the Internet is plagiarism. You are encouraged to use the Internet as a tool, but all Internet information must be properly cited according to MLA or APA rules, with web page and date of access listed.

Academic Support

Your professors and Mercer County Community College are committed to supporting all students in their academic and co-curricular endeavors. Each semester, a significant number of students document disabilities, which may require learning, sight, hearing, manual, speech, or mobility accommodations to ensure access to academic and co-curricular activities. The college provides services and reasonable accommodations to all students who need and have a legal entitlement to such accommodations. For more information regarding accommodations, you may visit the Office of Academic Support Services in LB 218 or contact them at 609.570.3422 or stinsona@mccc.edu.

HIS 101 Schedule of Topics and Assignments*

*subject to change

⇒All assigned readings should be completed **before** class

PLEASE BRING YOUR **LEVACK** TEXTBOOK TO CLASS EVERYDAY

DATES	TOPICS	READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS
Aug. 31	Introduction: The Study of History and Human Civilization		
Sept. 2	What is the West? The Beginnings of Civilization	Levack, pp. 3-8; Chapter 1, pp. 11-15	
Sept. 7	Labor Day – No Class		
Sept. 9	Mesopotamian Civilization	Levack, Chapter 1, pp. 15-22	
Sept. 14	The Emergence of Egyptian Civilization	Levack, Chapter 1, pp. 22-29	
Sept. 16	Discussion of <i>The Law Code of Hammurabi</i> ; Egyptian Civilization (continued)	Handout: <i>The Law Code of Hammurabi</i>	<u>First</u> Writing Assignment: <i>The Law Code of Hammurabi</i> due 9/16
Sept. 21	Early European Civilization; The Egyptian Empire	Levack, Chapter 2, pp. 31-39	Quiz 1
Sept. 23	The Hittites, Assyrians, Babylonians, and Phoenicians	Levack, Chapter 2, pp. 39-40; 43-49	
Sept. 28	The Minoans and Mycenaeans; The International Bronze Age	Levack, Chapter 2, pp. 40-44	Quiz 2
Sept. 30	Hebrew Civilization and Religion	Levack, Chapter 3, pp. 53-57	
Exam 1 on Chapters 1-3 must be taken in the Testing Center between Monday October 5-Saturday, October 10			
Oct. 5	Classical Persia; Dark Age Greece	Levack, Chapter 3, pp. 57-60	
Oct. 7	Greece in the Archaic and Classical Age	Levack, Chapter 3, pp. 60-66	<u>Second</u> Writing Assignment: Ancient Greece, due 10/7
Oct. 12	Classical Greek Culture and Civilization	Levack, Chapter 3, pp. 66-72	Quiz 3
Oct. 14	The Rise of Macedonia; Alexander the Great	Levack, Chapter 4, pp. 75-78	
Oct. 19	The Hellenistic Age	Levack, Chapter 4, pp. 79-84	
Oct. 21	The Rise of Rome	Levack, Chapter 4, pp. 84-89	Quiz 4

Oct. 27	The Late Roman Republic; The Early Roman Empire	Levack, Chapter 4, pp. 90-95; Chapter 5, pp. 97-101	
Oct. 29	Life in the Roman Empire	Levack, Chapter 5, pp. 101-110	Quiz 5
Nov. 2	The Rise of Christianity and the Fall of the Roman Empire	Levack, Chapter 5, pp. 110-115; Chapter 6, pp. 117-122	<u>Third</u> Writing Assignment: Augustus, due 11/2
Nov. 4	The Late Roman Empire	Levack, Chapter 6, pp. 122-136	
Exam 2 must be taken in the Academic Testing Center between Monday, November 9-Saturday, November 14			
Nov. 9	Byzantium	Levack, Chapter 7, pp. 139-144; Chapter 8, pp. 172-175	
Nov. 11	Islam	Levack, Chapter 7, pp. 145-152; Chapter 8, pp. 175-179	
Nov. 16	The Latin West; The Carolingians	Levack, Chapter 7, pp. 152-158; Chapter 8, pp. 161-165	Quiz 6
Nov. 18	The Medieval World of Lords, Manors, and Vassals	Levack, Chapter 8, pp. 165-172	
Nov. 23	The High Middle Ages: Popes and Crusades	Levack, Chapter 9, pp. 183-191	
Nov. 25	Happy Thanksgiving (No Class – Wednesday is an instructional Friday)		
Nov. 30	The High Middle Ages: Kings and Culture	Levack, Chapter 9, pp. 191-202	
Dec. 2	Crisis in Medieval Europe	Levack, Chapter 10, pp. 205-222	Quiz 7
Dec. 7	Renaissance Italy ; Renaissance Thought	Levack, Chapter 11, pp. 225-235	
Dec. 9	Renaissance Art; Renaissance Europe	Levack, Chapter 11, pp. 235-244	<u>Fourth</u> Writing Assignment: The Middle Ages, due 12/9
Dec. 14	The West and the World, 1450-1650 The Reformation; Early Modern Europe	Levack, Chapter 12, pp. 247-266 Levack, Chapter 13, pp. 269-288 Levack, Chapter 14, pp. 291-309 (skim)	
Dec. 16	Final Exam		
TBA	FINAL EXAM		

Message to LBS – include the pdf with info on MyHistoryLab and the info on getting into it