History of Western Civilization 1

Svanur Pétursson
svanur.petursson@gmail.com
Office: Conklin Hall 337
Office Hours: Tuesdays: 1:30-3:30 and by appointment

This course gives students an overview of the major events and developments in European history, from ancient times to roughly 1700. In this class, students will regularly practice their writing skills with two take home exams, and will have many opportunities to express their ideas verbally in class discussions. In both the written assignments and the class discussions, students will develop their analytical skills by identifying the course readings’ main theses, supporting arguments, evidence, assumptions, and rhetorical strategies.

Course Requirements:
1. Participation in class discussion. Students will be expected to read the assigned texts before the class (by date indicated on the syllabus). Each class session will have a discussion component to it, so it is crucial that you come prepared.
2. Primary Source Quizzes, two online multiple choice quizzes based on our primary source readings.
3. Take Home Midterm, 5-6 pages (typed and double-spaced), due October 17th by midnight.
4. Take Home Final Exam, 5-6 pages (typed and double-spaced), due December 21st at 11:30am (tentative).

Grading:
In-class participation: 10%
Primary Source Quizzes: 30% (15% each)
Take Home Midterm Exam: 30%
Take Home Final Exam: 30%

Required Books:
- Katharine J. Lualdi: Sources of the Making of the West: Volume 1, to 1750 5th ed.
- The books are available at the University Book Store, and also from online retailers.
- The readings will also be available online through the publisher as a tailored package.

Attendance policy:
Attendance is required. If you have more than four unexcused absences, your grade will be lowered by a third of a grade (from B+ to B, for example). If you have more than more than six unexcused absences, your grade will be lowered by one full grade (B+ to C+, for example). Any student who misses eight or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will not earn credit in this class. Such students should withdraw from the class.

If you plan to be excused for any religious holidays during the semester, please talk to me before the end of September so I can mark it in the roster in advance.

Late papers and exams:
Exams are due on the dates announced in class or indicated below. Unless discussed with me IN ADVANCE, late assignments will have their grades lowered. Excused lateness for the take-home exams will only be granted for students who can document medical or family emergency. Students who feel a
personal emergency is sufficiently grave to warrant an excused absence must speak with me the week BEFORE the exam is due. Students who are unclear about the course’s requirements should speak to me early in the semester.

Disabilities:
Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus’s disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form. For more information please contact Kate Torres at (973) 353-5375 or in the Office of Disability Services in the Paul Robeson Campus Center, in suite 219 or by contacting odsnewark@rutgers.edu.

Policy on Academic Integrity (Cheating and Plagiarism):
Rutgers University treats cheating and plagiarism as serious offenses. Cheating is both a moral and an ethical offense. It violates both your own integrity and the ethics of group commitment: when you cut corners and cheat, you undermine those students who took the time to work on the assignment honestly. The standard minimum penalties for students who cheat or plagiarize include failure of the course, disciplinary probation, and a formal warning that further cheating will be grounds for expulsion from the University.

All students are required to sign the Rutgers Honor Code Pledge. To receive credit, every assignment must have your signature under the following phrase: “On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this assignment.

Resist the urge to cut and paste, either literally or figuratively by using other people’s ideas. If I find that you have used other people’s ideas (ex: Wikipedia, Amazon reviews, book jacket descriptions, etc.), I will not accept the assignment because I will not be able to consider it your own work. You will get a failing grade (0 points) for that assignment and will not be able to make it up.

Course Website
From time to time, I will also post additional materials (images that we discuss in class, texts that I discuss in lectures which are not in the textbooks, etc.) If there are any changes to the syllabus, I will announce these in class and then post them on the website. I will also use the electronic roster to send e-mails to all students, if there are announcements to be made.

Topics and Schedule of Readings
1. Tues. 9/5: Introduction

2. Thurs. 9/7: Ancient Civilizations
The Making of the West, 8-26

3. Tues. 9/12: Greek City States
The Making of the West, 44-74
The Book of Exodus, chapters 19-20 (Sources, 39)  
Tyrtaeus of Sparta and Solon of Athens (Sources, 51)

4. Thurs. 9/14: The Golden Age of Greece  
The Making of the West, 77-89; 93-99; 104-108  
Thucydides, The Funeral Oration of Pericles (Sources, 57)  
Plato, The Apology of Socrates (Sources, 62)

5. Tues. 9/19: The Hellenistic World  
The Making of the West, 116-126; 131-139  
Epicurus (Sources, 95)

6. Thurs. 9/21: The Roman Republic  
The Making of the West, 150-171  
The Twelve Tables (Sources, 101)  
Cicero, “Cultivating Justice and Piety” (Sources, 114)

7. Tues. 9/26: The Roman Empire and the Birth of Christianity  
The Making of the West, 175-178; 182-188; 193-201  
Tacitus, Germania (Sources, 131)  
Paul of Tarsus, Letter to the Galatians (Sources, 134)

8. Thurs. 9/28: Official Christianization and the Fall of the Western Empire  
The Making of the West, 202-206; 211-234  
Arius, Letter to Alexander, Bishop of Alexandria & the Nicene Creed (Sources, 141)  
Augustine of Hippo (Sources, 143)

9. Tues. 10/3: Byzantium  
The Making of the West, 236-241; 257-262  
Procopius, Secret History (Sources, 154)  
Life of St. Theodore of Sykeon (Sources, 164)

10. Thurs. 10/5: New Kingdoms in Western Europe  
The Making of the West, 262-276  
Life of Lady Balthild, Queen of the Franks (Sources, 167)  
Pope Gregory the Great, Letters (Sources, 172)

11. Tues. 10/10: The Rise of Islam  
PRIMARY SOURCE QUIZ to be completed by 10am (October 10th)  
The Making of the West, 249-256; 285-289  
Qur’an, Suras 1, 53, 98 (Sources, 158)  
Jihad and Jizya, Islamic Terms of Peace (Sources, 161)  
Midterm topics distributed

12. Thurs. 10/12: Carolingians and their World  
The Making of the West, 289-299  
General Capitulary for the Missi (Sources, 175)

13. Tues. 10/17: Feudalism and the Commercial Revolution  
Take Home Midterm DUE
The Making of the West, 299-310; 313-321.

14. Thurs. 10/19: Church Reform
   The Making of the West, 321-331
   Sources of the Investiture Conflict (Sources, 197)

15. Tues. 10/24: The Crusades and the Norman Conquest
   The Making of the West, 331-343
   Calling the First Crusade, Pope Urban the II’s Speech (Sources, 199)
   The Anglo Saxon Chronicle and Domesday Book (Sources, 206)

16. Thurs. 10/26: The Twelfth-Century Renaissance
   The Making of the West, 347-364
   Peter Abelard, Story of my Misfortunes (Sources, 211)

17. Tues. 10/31: Heights of Medieval Culture and New Religious Orders
   The Making of the West, 364-376.
   Chrétien de Troyes, Lancelot (Sources, 220)
   St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi, Selected Writings (Sources, 226)

18. Thurs. 11/2: The Rediscovery of Aristotle and the Medieval Synthesis
   The Making of the West, 379-390.
   Thomas Aquinas (Sources, 235)
   Dante Alighieri, Divine Comedy (Sources, 246)

19. Tues. 11/7: Medieval World in Crisis and the Black Death
   The Making of the West, 390-404; 409-413
   Pope Boniface VIII, Unam Sanctam, and King Philip IV, General Assembly of Paris (Sources, 250)
   The Black Death (Sources, 254)

20. Thurs. 11/9: The Hundred Year’s War and the Great Schism
   The Making of the West, 413-421
   Geoffrey Chaucer, The Pardoner’s Prologue (Sources, 262)
   Jan Hus, Letters (Sources, 266)

21. Tues. 11/14: Renaissance Humanism
   The Making of the West, 421-437
   Giovanni Rucellai and Leonardo Bruni (Sources, 271)

22. Thurs. 11/16: The New World
   The Making of the West, 441-446
   Bernal Díaz del Castillo, The True History of the Conquest of New Spain (Sources, 278)
   Bartolomé de Las Casas, In Defense of the Indians (Sources, 284)

23. Tues. 11/21:
   PRIMARY SOURCE QUIZ to be completed by 10am (November 21st)
   In class film viewing:
   Guns, Germs, and Steel: Conquest

   Thurs. 11/23: NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING
24. Tues. 11/28: The Protestant Reformation
   *The Making of the West, 447-461*
   - Martin Luther, *Freedom of a Christian* (*Sources, 287*)
   - John Calvin, *The Necessity of Reforming the Church* (*Sources, 289*)
   - St. Ignatius of Loyola, *A New Kind of Catholicism* (*Sources, 291*)

25. Thurs. 11/30: Wars of Religion and the Thirty Years War
   *The Making of the West, 473-487*
   - The Edict of Nantes (*Sources, 296*)
   - *Apology of the Bohemian Estates* (*Sources, 302*)

26. Tues. 12/5: The Scientific Revolution
   *The Making of the West, 492-502*

27. Thurs. 12/7: Witchcraft
   - Trial of Suzanne Gaudry (*Sources, 310*)
   - *Take Home Final Topics distributed*

28. Tues. 12/12: Final Office Hours: 10am-1pm; 3pm-5pm.