



Syllabus

HIS 100 Early Western Civilization: Greeks to the Renaissance

General Information

Date May 10th, 2019

Author Robert Brown

Department Social Science

Course Prefix HIS

Course Number 100

Course Title Early Western Civilization: Greeks to the Renaissance

Course Information

Catalog Description This course explores the social, political, intellectual and cultural origins of the Western tradition in Europe, from Classical Greece (5th c B.C.E) and Imperial Rome through the Middle Ages, Italian Renaissance, Protestant Reformation and Age of Overseas Exploration (16th – 17th centuries C.E.).

Credit Hours 3

Lecture Contact Hours 3

Lab Contact Hours 0

Other Contact Hours 0

Grading Scheme Letter

Prerequisites

None

Co-requisites

None

First Year Experience/Capstone Designation

This course DOES NOT satisfy the outcomes applicable for status as a FYE or Capstone.

SUNY General Education

This course is designated as satisfying a requirement in the following SUNY Gen Ed category

Western Civilization

FLCC Values

Institutional Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course

Vitality, Inquiry, and Interconnectedness

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Students will identify some of the distinctive features of early Western civilization; its history, institutions, geography, economy, religions, society, and/or culture.
2. Students will connect developments in early Western Civilization to those of other regions of the world.
3. Students will identify some of the major events and themes of early Western history, including humanism, democracy, rationalism etc.

Outline of Topics Covered

Classical Greece, 4th-5th centuries B.C.E.

- Greco-Persian Wars and Peloponnesian War
- The Humanist Revolution
- Athenian Democracy
- Greece's Golden Age: Philosophy, Art, Science & Theater

Hellenistic World, 1st-4th centuries B.C.E.

- Philip of Macedon and Alexander the Great
- West Meets East: The Hellenistic Fusion
- Cultural, Religious & Intellectual Change
- The "First Scientific Revolution"

Republican and Imperial Rome, 5th century B.C.E. – 3rd century C.E.

- Early Influences on Rome: Greeks and Etruscans
- Political, Economic & Social Change during the Roman Republic
- Imperial Rome
- Cultural, Architectural & Intellectual Achievements of the "Pax Romana"

Late Imperial Era & the Fall of the Roman Empire, 3rd- 5th centuries C.E.

- **Internal Factors**
- **External Factors**
- **Legacy of Ancient Roman Civilization**

Origins and Early History of Christianity, 1st – 4th centuries C.E.

- **Origins: Jesus of Nazareth & Early Christian Belief**
- **Factors in Christianity's Appeal & Growth**
- **Constantine, Theodosius & the Council of Nicaea**

The Dark Ages, 500-1000 C.E.

- **Western Europe in the Feudal Age**
- **Byzantine Empire**
- **The Golden Age of Islamic Civilization**

High and Late Middle Ages in Western Europe: 1000 – 1500 C.E.

- **Europe's "Great Leap Forward"**
- **Agricultural Revolution**
- **Twelfth Century Renaissance**
- **Age of Faith and Superstition**
- **Calamitous Fourteenth Century**

Italian Renaissance & Northern Renaissance, 15th – 16th centuries

- **The Humanist Revolution**
- **Why Italy?**
- **Machiavelli & Birth of Modern Politics**
- **Creating the Well-Rounded Individual ("Renaissance Man").**
- **Revolution in Art**
- **Northern Renaissance**

Protestant Reformation & Catholic Counter-Reformation, 1517-1648

- **Origins: The Medieval Catholic Church in Crisis**
- **The Challenge Within: Martin Luther**
- **Reformation Spreads: English Reformation**
- **Print Revolution & Rise of Literacy**
- **Age of Religious War, 1517-1648**
- **Catholic Counter-Reformation, 1545-1781**
- **Legacy of the Protestant Reformation**

Scientific Revolution, 16th – 17th centuries

- **Empiricism: From the "Age of Faith" to the "Age of Reason"**
- **New Technology: Microscope, Telescope & Printing Press**

- **Astronomy: Copernican Revolution**
- **Physics: Galileo & Newton**
- **Medicine & Anatomy**
- **Chemistry**
- **Legacy of the Scientific Revolution**

Age of Overseas Exploration, 15th – 17th centuries

- **Motivations**
- **Means**
- **Age of Discovery**
- **Legacy**

Program Affiliation

This course is not required as a core course in any programs.