

Imperial Valley College

History 110 “Early Western Civilization”

CRN: 10575

Professor: Bradford W. Wright, Ph.D.

Fall 2013

Meeting days/times: Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:50-1:15 PM

Class Location: Room 412

Prerequisites: None

Office 301 Hours:

| | |
|--------|-----------|
| Mon. | 4:30-5:30 |
| Tues. | 3:30-4:30 |
| Wed. | 1:30-2:30 |
| Thurs. | 3:30-4:30 |

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Course Description and Objectives:

This is an introductory course in the history of Western civilization from its origins in ancient times until the end of the Reformation era. Major topics to be covered include the rise and decline of Ancient Greece and the Roman Empire, the birth of Christianity and the rise of Islam, the formation of Europe, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Protestant Reformation, and the beginnings of European expansion overseas. Within these general topics we will have the opportunity to explore the role played by all kinds of people—important leaders and common folk alike—played in the political, economic, military, social, and cultural formation of Western civilization.

I emphasize a broad perspective of history in my courses. History is not simply the memorization of names and dates. It is a means for understanding how people in the past helped to shape their world and how they responded, or failed to respond, to the changes happening around them. It is a story that traces the origins of Western thought, culture, and politics. Ultimately, it is our story.

Students should come out of this course with a good basic understanding of the major themes and developments in Western civilization. And in the process, students will have the opportunity to sharpen their own critical, argumentative, and analytical skills, which will help them in whatever career or personal path they choose to pursue.

Student Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to (1) identify and recall key information from a historical text and/or a documentary film; (2) describe the causes and/or impact of a historical event; and (3) evaluate a primary or secondary history source by the end of the course.

Required Text

Donald Kagan and friends, *The Western Heritage, Vol. 1*, 6th ed.

Grading

Final grades will be determined according to the following distribution:

| | | |
|-----------|-----|------------|
| Exam I: | 20% | 200 points |
| Exam II: | 20% | 200 points |
| Exam III: | 20% | 200 points |
| Exam IV: | 20% | 200 points |
| Essay 1: | 10% | 100 points |
| Essay 2: | 10% | 100 points |

Total: 100 % 1000 points

---Exams will consist of short answer questions (identifications of terms), essays, and possible multiple-choice questions. A study guide will be distributed prior to each exam, and these should greatly help students prepare for the exams.

---Essays will be short (300-500 word) answers to assigned questions given as take-home assignments.

Class participation (including attendance, involvement in class discussions, and other positive contributions to learning in the course) is strongly encouraged. Good class participation will be taken into account in cases where a student finishes the course with a borderline grade. (i.e.: an 89 may be entered as a grade of "A," if the student in question had a good attendance record and participated positively in the class.) Disruptive behavior in class, including frequent tardiness, getting up and leaving before the end of the class, and poor attendance will also be taken into account, negatively, in evaluating a student's class participation.

Class Policies and Procedures:

Attendance:

Regular class attendance is expected. If you should miss a class meeting for any reason, you are still responsible for any material and/or class announcements discussed in your absence. Excessive absences (over three) will hurt your class participation grade and effectively cancel any possibility of rounding up your final grade in borderline instances.

You are also expected to arrive at class on time and remain for the duration of the class. Failure to do so will be considered the same as an absence. It is also simply rude. If you must leave early for a valid reason, I simply ask that you let me know ahead of time. Please be courteous.

Make-Up Exams: You should do everything possible to take the exam at the regularly scheduled time and place. If, however, you must miss an exam because of an extreme illness or family emergency, you may be permitted to make up the exam. If I happen to be giving an exam in another class during the same week of the missed exam, and it may be possible for a student to make up the exam at that time.

Otherwise, all make up exams will be given during the last week of the term before finals. The make-up exam will be based on the same study guide, but may or may not consist of the same questions. **Make-up exams will also offer fewer choices in the identification section, and so will be more difficult than the exams given in class. Again, I emphasize that the right to take a make-up exam is not absolute and is open to my discretion.** You are expected to take the exam in class on the regularly scheduled date.

Essay assignments are due on the dates given. Late essays will not be accepted.

Classroom Courtesy:

I ask you to respect the rights of your colleagues to learn in a productive, respectful, and disciplined classroom environment and to respect the job that I do to ensure such an environment as I teach. Behavior such as arriving late, leaving early, answering cell phones, text-messaging, listening to iPods, and carrying on personal conversations disrupts the class, interferes with my job as a teacher, and deprives your colleagues of their right to learn. I ask students to remove cell phones from their desks during class. **Please do not use iPads or laptops in class. Take notes using traditional paper notebooks. Cell phone usage in class has become a major problem. It is extremely distracting for myself and for students. If I see a student using a phone in class, I will ask them to stop. If the behavior continues, I will ask them to leave.** Please use common sense and take responsibility for your behavior. **Be courteous and considerate! Don't be rude!** That is all I ask.

Accommodation for Students:

I am happy to work with all students so that each can achieve his/her educational objectives. Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify me and the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible (DSP&S), Health Sciences Bldg. 2100, 355-6312).

Dropping the Course:

If for any reason you decide not to complete the course, remember that it is your responsibility to drop the class. If you simply stop coming to class and do not log on to the WebSTAR and officially withdraw from the course, you will receive an "F" as a final grade.

Academic Honesty:

The college and I take the issues of student dishonesty, cheating, and/or plagiarism very seriously. There are severe penalties arising from acts of academic dishonesty and student misconduct, up to and including dismissal from the college. For a complete discussion of disciplinary procedures for academic dishonesty or other student misconduct, please refer to the current IVC General School Catalogue.

Cheating may include: looking on another student's paper during an exam, the use of additional materials beyond those allowed for an exam, or turning in a paper that was not written by the student, and other acts of plagiarism.

I trust my students to do their work honestly. Please do not betray the trust that I have placed in you.

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments:

These are the readings and page numbers that should be completed by the given date.

Aug. 19: Introduction

Aug. 21: The Birth of Civilization

Kagan, 4-29

Aug. 26: The Rise of Greek Civilization

Kagan, 28-55

Aug. 28: Classical Greece

Kagan, 58-79

Sep. 2: Labor Day—No class

Sep. 4: Alexander and the Hellenistic Age

Kagan, 79-89

Sep. 9: Rome: From Republic to Empire

Kagan, 92-117

Sep. 11: The Roman Empire

Kagan, 119-130

Sep. 16: Exam I

Sep. 18: The Rise of Christianity

Kagan, 130-136

Sep. 23: The Decline of Rome

Kagan, 136-152

Sep. 25: The Byzantine Empire and the Rise of Islam

Kagan, 150-160

Sep. 30: The Dark Ages

Kagan, 160-165

Oct. 2: The Age of Charlemagne

Kagan, 165-170

- Oct. 7:** Feudal Society in the Middle Ages
Kagan, 170-175
- Oct. 9 : Exam II**
- Oct. 14:** Kings and Church
Kagan, 177-181
- Oct. 16:** The Crusades
Kagan, 181-187
- Oct. 21:** The Church Universal
Kagan, 187-199
- Oct. 23:** Medieval Society and the Rise of Towns
Kagan, 200-221
Essay #1 Due
- Oct. 28:** The Breakdown of Medieval Society
Kagan, 222-241
- Oct. 30: Exam III**
- Nov. 4:** The Italian Renaissance
Kagan, 244-249
- Nov. 6:** Renaissance Philosophy and Art
Kagan, 249-262
- Nov. 11: Veterans' Day—No Class**
- Nov. 13** The Age of Discovery and Conquest
Kagan, 262-267
Essay #2 Due
- Nov. 18:** The Reformation
Kagan, 270-284
- Nov. 20:** Tudor England
Kagan, 284-287
- Nov. 25:** Wars of Religion
Kagan, 287-319
- Nov. 27:** The Scientific Revolution and
the Consolidation of Modern States
Kagan, 321-364
- Dec. 2-6: Final Exam Week**