



Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2025	Instructor Name:	Bradford Wright
Course Title & #:	HIST 110 "Early Western Civilization"	Email:	bradford.wright@imperial.edu
CRN #:	10274	Webpage (optional):	
Classroom:	204	Office #:	203H
Class Dates:	Aug. 11-Dec. 5	Office Hours:	M: 11:00-12:00 by email T: 4:30-5:30 on campus W: 11:00-12:00 by email R: 4:30-5:30 on campus
Class Days:	Tuesday	Office Phone #:	760-355-6597
Class Times:	6:00-9:10 pm	Emergency Contact:	760-355-6144
Units:	3.0	Class Format/Modality:	Live on-ground

Course Description

This course is a survey of the major developments in the Western heritage from the world of the ancient Greeks to 16th century Europe. Emphasis will be placed on the foundations of the Western culture, religion, politics, economics, and society.

Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

None

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Identify and recall key information from a historical text and/or a documentary film. (ILO1)
2. Describe the causes and/or impact of a historical event. (ILO1, ILO2)
3. Explain and analyze the key information contained in a primary source document. (ILO1, ILO2)

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the importance of the Neolithic revolution, the evolution of writing and the beginning of history.
 2. Identify the earliest civilizations that were found in the lands bordering the Eastern Mediterranean.
 3. Distinguish the characteristics of the Greek society that became the basis for Western
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Civilization and those unique elements that separated them from other cultures. 4. Explain the contributions of the Romans in the fields of politics, philosophy, literature, art, science and law to Europe, Africa and the Middle East. 5. Describe the relation between the Roman Empire and the growth of Christianity until it became the official religion. 6. Contrast the characteristics of the Middle Ages in western, central and eastern Europe and the emergence of feudalism. 7. Explain the conditions in Europe which brought about an awakening of economic, spiritual, and political energy known as the High Middle Ages. 8. Describe the tensions between secular and spiritual authorities during the early, high, and later Middle Ages. 9. Describe the emergence of eastern and western Christendom, Islam, and the interaction between the medieval Church and the non-Christian world. 10. Identify the forces which created a new era of accelerated change that manifested itself in three large movements: Renaissance, Protestant Reformation, and Exploration.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

The following textbook is **recommended but not required** for the course:

Clifford R. Backman, *Cultures of the West: A History, vol. 1: to 1750, 4th edition.*

It is available through the IVC Bookstore, digitally from Oxford University Press, and on reserve at the IVC Library.

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Attend class lectures, video presentations, and discussions. Complete three in-class written exams. Read, review notes, and study out of class.

Out of Class Assignments: The Department of Education policy states that one (1) credit hour is the amount of student work that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of class time and two (2) hours of out-of-class time per week over the span of a semester. WASC has adopted a similar requirement.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Final grades will be determined according to accumulated points for three exams.

Exam 1: 200 points

Exam 2: 200 points

Exam 3: 200 points

Updated 6/2023



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Exams will consist of short-answer questions (IDs), essays, and multiple-choice questions. A study guide with possible ID terms and essay prompts will be given to students at least two weeks before each exam.

Academic Honesty (Artificial Intelligence -AI)

IVC values critical thinking and communication skills and considers academic integrity essential to learning. Using AI tools as a replacement for your own thinking, writing, or quantitative reasoning goes against both our mission and academic honesty policy and will be considered academic dishonesty, or plagiarism unless you have been instructed to do so by your instructor. In case of any uncertainty regarding the ethical use of AI tools, students are encouraged to reach out to their instructors for clarification.

Course Policies

ATTENDANCE:

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See [General Catalog](#) for details.
- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

Other Course Information

1. ACADEMIC HONESTY:

In addition to the above warning about AI, there are many different forms of academic dishonesty. The following kinds of honesty violations and their definitions are not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, they are intended to serve as examples of unacceptable academic conduct.

- Plagiarism is taking and presenting as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to "cite a source" correctly, you must ask for help.

- Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment, or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the [General Catalog](#) for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment; (c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment; (e) using a commercial term paper service.

How do I show academic honesty and integrity in an online “classroom”?

- **KEEP YOUR PASSWORDS CONFIDENTIAL.**

- You have a unique password to access online software like Canvas. Never allow someone else to log-in to your account.

- **COMPLETE YOUR OWN COURSEWORK.**

- When you register for an online class and log-in to Canvas, you do so with the understanding that you will produce your own work, take your own exams, and will do so without the assistance of others (unless directed by the instructor).

Examples of Academic Dishonesty that can occur in an online environment:

- Copying from others on a quiz, test, examination, or assignment;
- Allowing someone else to copy your answers on a quiz, test, exam, or assignment;
- Having someone else take an exam or quiz for you;
- Conferring with others during a test or quiz (if the instructor didn't explicitly say it was a group project, then he/she expects you to do the work without conferring with others);
- Buying or using a term paper or research paper from an internet source or other company or taking any work of another, even with permission, and presenting the work as your own;
- Excessive revising or editing by others that substantially alters your final work;



- Sharing information that allows other students an advantage on an exam (such as telling a peer what to expect on a make-up exam or prepping a student for a test in another section of the same class);
- Taking and using the words, work, or ideas of others and presenting any of these as your own work is plagiarism. This applies to all work generated by another, whether it be oral, written, or artistic work. Plagiarism may either be deliberate or unintentional.

IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

Week 1 (August 12): The Origins of Western Civilization

Introductions and Getting Started

The Earliest Western Civilizations

Week 2 (August 19): Ancient Greek Civilization and The Hellenistic Age

The Origins of Greek Civilization

Classical Greece

The Hellenistic Age

Read Backman, Chapters 3 and 4

Week 3 (August 26): Rome: From Republic to Empire

The Roman Republic and Revolution

The Roman Empire

Read Backman, Chapters 5 and 6

Week 4 (Sep. 7): Early Christianity, Byzantium, and Islam

The Birth of Christianity

Updated 6/2023

The Decline of Rome

The Byzantine Empire

The Empire of Islam

Read Backman, Chapters 7 and 8

Week 5 (Sep. 16): Exam 1

Week 6: The Dark Ages and the New Feudal Order

The Dark Ages

The Age of Charlemagne

The New Feudal Order

Read Backman, Chapters 8 and 9

Week 7 (Sep. 23): The Revitalized Church and the Holy Crusades

The Revitalized Church

Popes versus Kings

The Crusades

Read Backman, Chapter 10

Week 8 (Sep. 30): The High Middle Ages

The High Middle Ages

Medieval Thought and Culture

The Medieval Cathedral

Read Backman, Chapters 10 and 11

Week 9 (Oct. 7): The Late Middle Ages and the Commercial Revolution

Medieval Towns and Commercial Transformation

Updated 6/2023

The Later Middle Ages

The Calamitous 14th century

Read Backman, Chapter 11

Week 10 (Oct. 14): Exam 2

Week 11 (Oct. 21): The Renaissance

The Renaissance

The Revolution in Painting

Read Backman, Chapters 11 and 12

Week 12 (Oct. 28): The Protestant Reformation

The Origins of the Reformation

The Spread of the Reformation

Tudor England

Read Backman, Chapter 13

Week 13 (Nov. 4): Wars of Religion and the Formation of Modern States

Wars of Religion

The Formation of Modern States: Absolutism and Constitutionalism

Read Backman, Chapter 14

Week 14 (Nov. 11): New Worlds

The Age of Discovery

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The Scientific Revolution

The Age of Reason

Read Backman, Chapter 15

Week 15 (Nov. 18): Final Thoughts and Review

Week 16 (Dec. 2): Final Exam

*****Subject to change without prior notice*****