

# History 106

## Western Civilization I: Antiquity to 1715

Kauke 101– Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-10:50

Instructor: Michael Behrent

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Office hours: Thursday 2:30-4 and by appointment

### COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

Studying European history can make an essential (if partial) contribution to your “cultural literacy”—by which I mean a basic familiarity with the fundamental ideas, traditions, and structures that have shaped the contemporary world. In keeping with this goal, the course will introduce key moments in the history of what has become known as “the West”: Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, the European Middle Ages, Byzantium, the rise of Islam, the Renaissance, and the early modern world (including the Age of Discovery, the Protestant Reformation and its consequences, and the politics of absolutism).

Furthermore, this course will focus on a number of basic problems and concepts that are relevant to the study of *any* society, be it “western” or not. These problems include:

- \* How can one describe the basic structure of a society?
- \* How do social structures shape the politics and culture of a given society?
- \* How do we explain historical change, especially profound social, economic, and political transformations?
- \* How can one use original texts and primary sources to understand the past?

Finally, as a class, we will reflect throughout the semester on what it means to study “Western Civilization” (if indeed there is such a thing) in an increasingly globalized and multicultural age, when Europe is no longer held up as the template of “civilization.”

## REQUIRED TEXTS

The following texts are available for purchase at the Florence O. Wilson bookstore in Lowry Center.

**Note:** You must bring to class all readings on the date for which they are assigned.

- Mark Kishlansky, Patrick Geary, and Patricia O'Brien, *Civilization in the West*, Volume 1: *To 1715* (5<sup>th</sup> edition) (Pearson Education)
- Mark Kishlansky, ed., *Sources of the West: Readings in Western Civilization*, Volume 1: *From the Beginning to 1715* (5<sup>th</sup> edition) (Pearson Education)
- Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince* (Bantam, or any other edition)

## REQUIREMENTS

- Attendance of all classes
- Careful reading of all assignments
- A midterm exam
- A final exam
- Two 5-page papers
- One 3-page primary source analysis
- One 3-page film review
- Weekly participation in online discussions
- Viewing of course films
- Occasional short papers, worksheets, and **pop quizzes**

## FINAL GRADE

Your final grade will be calculated on the following basis:

- Midterm exam: 10%
- Two 5-page papers: 20% each
- Primary source analysis: 10%
- Film review: 10%
- Final exam: 20%
- Online and class participation: 10%

## **ONLINE DISCUSSIONS**

To improve your writing skills and to enrich your understanding of the texts, you are required to make at least one post of 200-300 words to the course's online discussion board each week. Following a schedule determined in advance, students will take turns initiating the discussion. You must submit your post weekly no later than Wednesday at 6 P.M. You can make your post by logging on to Wooster's *Blackboard* platform at [www.bcm.wooster](http://www.bcm.wooster); clicking this class under "My Courses"; clicking on "Discussion Board"; and then opening the week's folder.

Your posts should be clearly written in full sentences. Use them to express whatever is on your mind. What struck you or disturbed you about the week's material (reading or lecture)? What did you find illuminating or puzzling about the course readings? What about the material seems relevant to today's world? You are encouraged, in your posts, to address classmates directly. Vivid disagreement is good—so long as it remains respectful.

## **COURSE WEBSITE**

The course website is accessible through the *Blackboard* platform mentioned above. It will include assignment prompts and other materials (such as lists of keywords and exam review sheets) that I wish to make available to you.

## **FILM REVIEWS**

In addition to viewing all the films assigned for the course, you must also write a review of one of them. It is up to you to decide which film you will review. You must turn in the film review no later than a week after the screening. Directions for writing the review will be distributed.

## **TEACHING APPRENTICE**

The teaching apprentice for this course is Alex Balloon. He will be attending class regularly, and will have a number of responsibilities, including record-keeping of various kinds, assisting in moderating online discussions, and organizing optional discussion groups. He can be reached at [aballoon@wooster.edu](mailto:aballoon@wooster.edu)

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

It is your responsibility to attend each class. Attendance will be taken on a regular basis. If for some exceptional reason you are not able to attend class, please let

me know beforehand. I should also receive appropriate written justification for any prolonged medical absences. If you are absent more than **three** times, additional absences may affect your final grade for the course. Frequent or excessive tardiness is also grounds for lowering your grade.

## **POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

All assignments are to be handed in at the beginning of class on the day indicated on the schedule below. Unless you provide me with documentation of serious illness or a comparable emergency, your grade will be lowered one mark (i.e., from a B+ to a B) for each additional day that you take beyond the initial due-date. If you miss an exam or a quiz, I will administer a make-up test. However, you must request the make-up test within two days of your absence, and, unless you provide can provide documentation of illness or an emergency, your grade will be lowered one mark.

## **LEARNING DISABILITIES**

If you are a student with a documented disability, please register with Pam Rose, Director of the Learning Center. The Learning Center is located in the Rubbermaid Student Services Building (ext. 2595) and is the office that will assist you in developing a plan to address your academic needs.

## **STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Cheating in any of your academic work is a serious breach of the Code of Academic Integrity and is grounds for an F for the entire course. Such violations include turning in another person's work as your own, copying from any source without proper citation, crossing the boundary of what is allowed in a group project, and lying in connection with your academic work. Particular attentions should be directed to the appropriate use of materials available on-line through the Internet. You will be held responsible for your actions. You are expected to know and abide by the rules of the College as described in *The Scot's Key* and the *Handbook of Selected College Policies* [www.wooster.edu/policies](http://www.wooster.edu/policies). If you are unsure as to what is permissible, please do not hesitate to contact me.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### PART I: ANCIENT GREECE (2500 B.C.E.-100 B.C.E.)

#### Week 1

Tues., January 18      *Introduction: The Idea of “Western Civilization “  
(...and of “Western Civ” Courses)*

Thurs., January 20      *Athens: Of Democracy and Slavery*  
Kishlansky, Chapter 2  
*Sources:*  
- Hesiod, *Works and Days*, 16-20  
- Homer, *Iliad*, 35-38  
- Sappho of Lesbos, *Poems*, 38-40  
- Handouts on slavery and democracy

#### Week 2

Tues., January 25      *The Peloponnesian War*  
Kishlansky, Chapter 3, 69-86  
*Sources:*  
- Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*, 44-48  
- Xenophon, *The Spartan Constitution*, 49-52  
- Plato, *Apology*, 53-57

Thurs., January 27      *The Macedonian Empire and the Hellenistic World*  
Kishlansky, Chapter 3, 86-103  
*Sources:*  
- Plato, *The Republic*, 59-65  
- Aristotle, *Politics*, 66-69  
- Handout on Alexander

### PART II: ANCIENT ROME (800 B.C.E. -C. 500 C.E.)

#### Week 3

Tues., February 1      *A Republic, Not an Empire?*  
Kishlansky, Chapter 4, 105-129  
*Sources:*  
- Plutarch, *The Life of Cato the Elder*, 85-88

**Primary source analysis due**

Thurs., February 3     *The Crisis of the Republic*  
Kishlansky, Chapter 4, 129-133; Chapter 5, 135-147  
*Sources:*  
- Cicero, *The Trial of Aulus Cluentius Habitus*, 70-81

#### **Week 4**

Tues., February 8     *Imperial Hubris? The Augustan Age*  
Kishlansky, Chapter 5, 147-168  
*Sources:*  
- Virgil, *Aeneid*, 74-77  
- Ovid, *The Art of Love*, 78-81  
- Suetonius, *The Life of Augustus*, 88-92

Thurs., February 10     *The Rise of Christianity and the Empire's Decline*  
Kishlansky, Chapter 6  
*Sources:*  
- Juvenal, *Satires*, 81-84  
- *The Sermon on the Mount*, 93-95  
- Saint Paul, *The Epistle to the Romans*  
- Tacitus, *Germania*, 103-106  
- Eusebius, 106-110  
Excerpt from Gibbon

Fri., February 11     **NB:** Last day to declare S/NC option

### **PART III: BYZANTIUM AND ISLAM**

#### **Week 5**

Tues., February 15     *Byzantium*  
Kishlansky, Chapter 7, 200-208, 220-226 (skip 222-223)  
*Sources:*  
- *The Justinian Code*, 136-139  
- Procopius, *Secret History*, 140-143

**First 5-page paper due**

Thurs., February 17 *The Birth of Islam*  
Kishlansky, Chapter 7, 208-220; 222-223  
*Sources:*  
- Selections from *The Koran*, 144-147

### **Week 6**

Tues., February 22 *What Went Right? The Islamic Empire*  
Handouts

## **PART IV: THE MIDDLE AGES (C.500-C.1500)**

Thurs., February 24 *The Early Middle Ages*  
Kishlansky, Chapter 8  
*Sources:*  
- The Burgundian Code, 119-124  
- Gregory of Tours, *The History of the Franks*, 125-128  
- Bede, *The Ecclesiastical History of England*, 128-132  
- Einhard, *The Life of Charlemagne*, 132-135

Fri., February 25 **NB:** Last day to withdraw from class without penalty

### **Week 7**

Tues., March 1 *Homo Hierarchicus: Feudal Society and the Crusades*  
Kishlansky, Chapter 9, 263-290  
*Sources:*  
- Benedict of Nursia, *Rule of Saint-Benedict*, 115-119  
- Feudal Documents, 151-155  
- Ibn Al-Qalanisi, *The Damascus Chronicle*, 148-150  
- Fulcher of Chartres, *The First Crusade and the Siege of Jerusalem*, 160-166

Thurs., March 3 *Inner-Worldly vs. Outer-Worldly Power: The Investiture Conflict*  
Kishlansky, Chapter 9, 290-301  
*Sources:*  
- Augustine of Hippo, *The City of God*, 111-115  
- *Magna Carta*, 174-177  
Handouts on the Investiture Conflict

## Week 8

- Tues., March 8      **Midterm Exam**
- Thurs., March 10      *The Scourges: War and Plague*  
Kishlansky, Chapter 10, 303-322  
Handouts

## SPRING RECESS

## Week 9

- Mon., March 28:      **N.B.:** I.S. Monday
- Tues., March 29      *The Medieval Spirit: Multiplicity in Unity*  
Kishlansky, Chapter 10, 322-334  
*Sources:*  
- *The Song of Roland*, 166-170  
- Marie de France, *The Lay of the Were-Wolf*, 171-174  
- Francis of Assisi, *Admonitions*, 178-182  
- Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, 182-187  
- Dante, *The Divine Comedy*, 187-191  
- Catherine of Siena, *Letters*, 191-195

## PART V: THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE (C.1350-1550)

- Thurs., March 31      *Humanism and Society*  
Kishlansky, Chapter 11, 337-354  
*Sources:*  
- Francesco Petrarca, *Letters*, 213-217  
- Leon Battista Alberti, *On the Family*, 218-223  
- Vasari, *The Life of Leonardo da Vinci*, 224-227  
- Erasmus, *In Praise of Folly*, 232-235

## Week 10

- Tues., April 5      *City-State Politics and "Individualism"*  
Kishlansky, Chapter 11, 354-365  
Start reading Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*  
Excerpts from Jacob Burckhardt

Thurs., April 7      *Was Machiavelli a Machiavellian?*  
Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*

## **PART VI: EARLY MODERN EUROPE (C.1450-1715)**

### **Week 11**

Tues., April 12      *Europe Encounters the Other (or Does It?)*  
Kishlansky, Chapter 12, 369-381  
*Sources:*  
- Ludovico de Varthema, *Travels*, 248-251  
- Bartolomé de Las Casas, *Apologetic History of the Indies*, 251-255  
- Bernal Diaz, *The True History of the Conquest of New Spain*, 255-258

Thurs., April 14      *Monopolizing Power: The Formation of States*  
Kishlansky, Chapter 12, 381-399

### **Second 5-page paper (on Machiavelli) due**

### **Week 12**

Tues., April 19      *Justified by Faith: Luther's Reformation*  
Kishlansky, Chapter 13, 403-419  
*Sources:*  
- Martin Luther, *The Freedom of a Christian and Of Marriage and Celibacy*, 263-268  
- John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion and Catechism*, 269-276

Thurs., April 21      *Reformation and Counter-Reformation Europe*  
Kishlansky, Chapter 13, 419-435  
Excerpt on Max Weber  
*Sources:*  
- Ignatius Loyola, *Spiritual Exercises*, 277-281  
- Teresa of Avila, *The Life of St. Teresa*, 281-285

### Week 13

Tues., April 26      *Apocalypse Now: The Wars of Religion and the Thirty Years War*  
Kishlansky, Chapter 14

*Sources:*

- Henry IV, *The Edict of Nantes*, 309-311
- William of Orange, *Apology*, 311-314
- Cardinal Richelieu, *The Political Testament*, 315-318
- Hans von Grimmelhausen, *Simplicissimus*, 318-322

Thurs., April 28      *Everyday Life in Early Modern Europe*  
Kishlansky, Chapter 15

*Sources:*

- Martin Luther, *Admonition to Peace*, 289-294
- Anonymous, *The Debate About Women*, 303-306

### Week 14

Tues., May 3      *Divine Right vs. Democracy: The English Civil War*  
Kishlansky, Chapter 16, 505-526

*Sources:*

- James I, *True Law of a Free Monarchy*, 323-328
- Sir William Clarke, *The Putney Debates*, 333-329
- Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, 339-342
- John Locke, *Second Treatise*, 342-346

Thurs., May 5      *“L’Etat, C’est Moi”<sup>\*</sup> : Absolutism*  
Kishlansky, Chapter 16, 526-535

*Sources:*

- Duc de Saint-Simon, *Memoirs*, 347-350

Tues., May 10 **FINAL EXAM AT 2 P.M.**

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\* “The state, it is I.”