

Maryville University Course Syllabus
Spring 2010

NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor to accommodate instructional and/or student needs.

Course Information:

Course ID: HUM 101/301 1C

Course Name: Cultures and Values

Prerequisites: None

Credit Hours: 3

Meeting Schedule: Alternating Tuesdays 6:00-8:50PM (1/12, 1/26, 2/9, 2/23, 3/9, 3/23, 4/6, 4/20)

Location: STC

Textbooks:

Perry, Marvin. *Western Civilization: A Brief History, Volume 1: to 1789*. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2008.

Perry, Marvin et. al. *Sources of the Western Tradition, Volume 1: From Ancient Times to the Enlightenment*. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2008.

Additional Readings and Materials as provided by the instructor.

Pre-Assignment: Read Chapters 1 and 2 in *Western Civilization* before our first class session (1/12)

Instructor Information:

Instructor: Dr. Rob Patterson

Email: rpatterson@maryville.edu I check my email often during normal business hours but not as often at night. Please keep this in mind when emailing me with questions about assignments due the next morning. I am more than happy to offer help over email, and I encourage you to ask questions if you're having trouble with an assignment, but make sure I have enough time to respond to you.

Office Hours: Before and after class as needed. Let me know in class or by email if you want to meet with me. If these times do not work for you, I'm happy to work with you to find another time, but I ask that you talk to me or email me at least one day in advance. If you make an appointment with me but need to cancel, make sure you email me as soon as possible.

Course Description and Content:

“An interdisciplinary approach to great ideas of Western civilization, the course will proceed chronologically, beginning with the ancient Greeks” (Maryville University Course Catalog). We will explore the development of various ideas and values considered to have been influential in Western civilization: the value of the individual, rationalism, the rule of law, tolerance, political liberty, etc. These ideas will be explored through literary, historical, and philosophical perspectives. The course will place a special emphasis on critical thought and analysis as we look at primary sources from the historical periods under examination with an eye toward understanding both the development of various ideas and the ambiguous and problematic aspects of the Western cultural legacy. For more on course content, see the course outline.

Course Objectives:

1. To familiarize students with the ideas and values that have shaped Western civilization from Antiquity through the Middle Ages and into the Enlightenment.

2. To introduce students to a selection of primary sources that have contributed to those ideas and values.
3. To develop critical and analytical skills with which to discuss and write about those ideas, values, and primary sources.
4. To be culturally literate and to understand how the various historical actors and movements have contributed to students' fields of study, society, and cultural outlook.
5. To understand that Western civilization did not emerge in a vacuum and is instead the result of a complex exchange of ideas between cultures and civilizations.

Instructional Methods:

Lecture, discussion (particularly emphasized), written response (regular short writing assignments and three essays), and group activities. Written response may be assigned for homework or in class. Additional materials will be provided to supplement the textbook.

Course Requirements and Policies:

Grading: All assignments, regardless of their relative value, must be submitted to pass the course.

Written exercises [For each class except 1/12, 3/9, 4/20 (2-3 pages each)]	30%
Mid-Term Exam	25%
Final Exam	30%
Quizzes, in-class exercises, homework	15%
Participation (Defined Below)	+ or – 1/3 of a letter grade

The grade scale below will be used:

A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	59 below

If you are taking this course Pass/Fail, you must receive a C or higher *and* turn in all assignments in order to pass.

Course Policies:

Assignments: All assignments are due at the beginning of class, and unless otherwise specified, they should be typed according to the format outlined below. If you have printer problems, email the assignment to me as an attachment to make sure it's in on time. Also keep in mind that you might be asked to share your work with classmates in group activities. This course is about the exchange of ideas in Western civilization, and the course itself will emphasize the exchange of ideas within the classroom through discussion. Sharing written work is part of this exchange. Additionally, you should treat all material as the confidential property of its author. Sharing or publicly commenting on this work in any context other than the usual classroom exchange may be considered a violation of academic integrity. **All assignments, regardless of their relative value, must be submitted to pass the course.**

Attendance: Regular attendance in this course is absolutely crucial because in-class discussions and lectures will build on the textbooks. Exams will cover both the readings in your textbooks and the additional materials covered or discussed in class. I also expect that your essays will be informed by in-class discussions and lectures. If you do miss a class, it is your responsibility to contact me for any

information, homework, assignments or handouts that were distributed. You should also contact one or more classmates in order to get notes from the missed session.

Absences: 1 absence will be allowed. **2 or more absences will constitute grounds for failure of the course.** I suggest you do not use this absence unless it is for illness or some other unavoidable conflict. If you use your absence for a “day off” and get sick later in the semester, you will wish you still had it. If you schedule an appointment with me and do not show up, it will be counted as an absence (if you need to cancel a scheduled meeting, all you need to do is email me). In cases of serious illness – that is, any debilitating sickness or injury that prevents you from completing assignments and/or attending class for a *prolonged period of time* – you should contact me to discuss how to proceed.

Missed Work and Exams: You are responsible for making up all work you miss due to an absence. If an assignment is due on the day of your absence, it is still due that day (via email is fine). If I give an assignment on the day of your absence, you are still expected to complete that assignment by its due date, so always contact me and a classmate if you miss a class. Extensions will not be granted. If you know you will miss an exam, you must make arrangements with me before the exam date in order to schedule a make-up exam. Make-up exams must take place within 2 days of the exam date (before or after). If you miss an exam due to unforeseen circumstances, you must contact me immediately to schedule a make-up exam, but it must still take place within 2 days of the exam date.

Tardiness: Because important information may be covered at the beginning of class, excessive tardiness (3) will count as an absence. If you do come late, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed; missing more than 20 minutes of class constitutes an absence.

Participation: This course depends upon your regular attendance and participation for its success. Come to class having read the material and completed any written assignments, and be prepared to contribute to each discussion. Good participation should be understood as consistent and thoughtful contribution to the classroom community, an engagement with course materials and conversations, and a general responsiveness to (and respect for) one’s fellow students and instructor. **Participation will be calculated as a (+ or –) 1/3 of your final letter grade; the instructor is the final arbiter of this grade, and may also choose to give you a neutral grade for participation, meaning there will be no change in the grade.**

Email: I will use email to contact members of the class (check your email account regularly), and you may use it to reach me for questions or to set up an appointment. From time to time, I will use email to send you readings and assignments for class. I expect you to print these and bring hard copies to the appropriate class session.

Paper Formatting: All drafts and papers must be typed, proofread, spell-checked, and submitted at the beginning of class on the date specified. They should have one-inch margins, double-spacing, a 12-point Times or Times New Roman font, MLA-style parenthetical citations, works cited pages, and page numbers. The three essays should be submitted as attachments via email. I do not need hard copies of these, but I do want hard copies of all other homework.

Late Papers: Turning in papers on time is essential, for many of the assignments build one upon another, and catching up can be difficult if you fall seriously behind. If you do turn in a paper late, it will be penalized **one letter grade increment per day**. So, for example, if a paper assigned a “B” is due on a Monday and you submit it Wednesday, the grade you receive will be a “C+.” Papers are due at the *beginning* of class on the deadline stated in the assignment (so: a paper turned in after class will be treated as one day late).

Plagiarism: This course encourages you to develop your own voice as a writer, and to produce persuasive and well-supported arguments that are based on your own insights about and careful readings of primary and secondary sources. Falsifying citations, borrowing language or ideas from sources without acknowledging them, and other such violations of academic convention tend to be conspicuous to those who know your writing well. These actions not only constitute stealing, but they undermine your authority as a writer and a thinker. Whether intentional or accidental, plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course; all instances will be reported to the appropriate dean's office.

All students are expected to adhere to high standards of academic integrity. In this class, especially, that means that all work presented as original must, in fact, be original, and the ideas and contributions of others must always be appropriately acknowledged. Quotations must, of course, be acknowledged, but so must summaries, paraphrases, and the ideas of others. If you have any doubts or questions about documentation requirements, please ask me for guidance.

* **Please note:** In this case "original" means two things: that the work is your own and that it has not been produced for another course or submitted for this course in a previous semester.

Course Outline:

The following is an outline of the semester. It includes your reading assignments, exam and essay due dates, and the topics of discussion for the day. It is subject to change during the semester to fit the needs of the course. You are expected to have read the readings below by the specified date. I encourage you to read ahead when you can in case you get inundated with work from other courses.

Abbreviations: WC = *Western Civilization: A Brief History*
SWC = *Sources of the Western Tradition*

Please Note: In SWC, you will NOT be required to read all of the selections in each chapter. I will give you a list of selections you can skip in order to lighten your reading load. However, you will need to read all of each chapter in WC.

1/12	Course Introduction and Overview Syllabus and Course Outline The Ancient Near East WC Chapter 1 The Hebrews WC Chapter 2
1/26	The Greeks WC Chapter 3 SWC Chapter 3 (selections)
2/9	Rome WC Chapter 4 SWC Chapter 4 and 5 (selections)
2/23	Early Christianity WC Chapter 5 SWC Chapter 6 (selections) The Middle Ages WC Chapters 6 and 7

- 3/9** **Midterm Exam**
Covering chapters 1-5 in WC and 1-6 in SWC
Will include matching, multiple choice, short answer, and short essay questions
The Middle Ages
SWC Chapter 7 and 8 (selections)
- 3/23** **The Renaissance and Reformation**
WC Chapter 8
SWC Chapter 9 and 10 (selections)
- 4/6** **Political, Economic and Intellectual Transformation**
*WC Chapter 9 and 10 (selections)
*SWC chapter 11, 12, 13 (selections)
***Don't worry; I will give you specific pages on these chapters, so you won't need to read all of this.**
- 4/20** **Final Discussion – tying it all together and review**
Final Exam
Covering chapters 6-10 in WC and 7-12 in SWC
Will include matching, multiple choice, short answer, and short essay questions