

Sacred Heart University
Department of History
Fall 2011

HICC 101 The Human Journey: Historical Paths to Civilization (AZ, BZ & CZ)

Jennifer McLaughlin, Instructor

Office Hours:

Walk In: M 8-10; 1-3; T 9:30-12; W, 11-12; F 11-12

By Appointment: T 4-5; W 2-3

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Course Description

This course is designed to provide first-year college students with an understanding of the elements of Western Civilization from the ancient world to the end of the Renaissance, including the Catholic intellectual tradition, and to provide them with sufficient knowledge of the history and culture of a non-western civilization (China) to allow for meaningful comparison of the two. Primary texts will be used to bring students into close contact with the main thinkers of the period and to show how historians use written records to interpret the past.

Core Questions

This course is the first course in the University's common core sequence. It is different from other college first-year history courses because it addresses these essential questions in the context of the Catholic intellectual tradition: 1) What does it mean to be human? 2) What does it mean to live a life with meaning and purpose? 3) What does it mean to understand and appreciate the natural world? 4) What does it mean to forge a more just society for the common good?

These questions serve as unifying threads for all four University common core courses. In this course the approach to them will be historical. Emphasis will be on the reading of primary sources, and on assignments that will foster your analytical and critical reading, thinking and communication skills.

Learning Objectives

By successfully completing this course students will be able to:

1. put into historical context ways in which people in the West and ancient China have sought to understand and appreciate the natural world;
2. put into historical context ways in which people in the West and ancient China have attempted to forge a more just society for the common good;
3. describe major developments in Western thought and the Catholic intellectual tradition to the Renaissance;
4. read and comprehend a textbook;
5. describe and analyze primary sources; and

6. write an expository essay based on class lectures and the reading of primary sources and other assigned documents or essays.

Textbooks

The following books are required for this course :

Dennis Sherman & Joyce Salisbury, *The West in the World, Vol. I to 1715*

Primary sources are available via the course Blackboard site. All students are required to familiarize themselves with Blackboard in order to access the primary source readings due for each class meeting. Readings are listed below under "Course Outline." I have also put together a bibliography of historical monographs (non-fiction books on a specific topic). Each of you will choose one of the books and write a critical book review.

Academic Integrity

Please refer to the University's policy on academic honesty in the Undergraduate Catalog. Any violations with regard to plagiarism, cheating, work handed in that is not your own, work handed in for previous or another course, and other infractions against this policy will result in a failing grade for the assignment for the first infraction and a failing grade for this course and an official report to the office of Dean Carey for the second infraction. You will be reminded of the consequences for such violations throughout the semester.

Use of Technology

Laptops are NOT permitted in the classroom. However, students will need to use their laptops to complete course assignments. Please turn off your cell phone when you come to class. Students caught texting will be asked to leave the room. Students caught texting a second time will be asked to withdraw from the course.

Course Withdrawal

The last date to add/drop a course is on Monday, September 12th. The last date on which a student may withdraw from a course and receive a "W" is Monday, October 31st.

Learning Center

I may have been contacted by Jill Angotta, the director of Special Services in the Jandrisevits Learning Center, about making accommodations for students with physical or learning disabilities. If you are one of those students, please make sure to speak to me about those accommodations. Students who receive extended time for test taking MUST take their exams in the Learning Center and are responsible for making arrangements with the Learning Center 72 hours before an exam is scheduled to be taken. Students who do NOT make these arrangements will have to take the exam with the rest of the class and will NOT receive extra time.

Course Requirements

Your final grade will result from the following:

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| Attendance, class participation, in-class presentation & in-class discussions* | 25% |
| Exam #1 | 15% |
| Exam #2 | 20% |
| Critical Book Review | 20% |
| Final Exam (take-home essay) | 20% |

* If students are not participating in class discussions, not only will their class participation grades go down, but the instructor reserves the right to include quizzes as part of the final class participation grade.

Each of you will work in a group of 2-3 students to put together an in-class presentation on a required course reading. I will send around a signup sheet with the topics beginning the second week of class. Instructions for this assignment will be posted on Blackboard under "Guidelines."

Attendance is important. Your presence (or lack thereof) will be evident in your final grade. Material for the exams comes from class readings and class discussions. Therefore, it is in your best interest to attend every class in order to do well on the exams.

Makeup Exams

Makeup exams will only be permitted in cases of serious illness or family emergency. Forgetfulness, broken alarm clocks, late nights or hangovers, for example, are not valid excuses and you will receive a 0 for the missed exam.

Other Course Requirements: All students taking HICC 101 are required to attend two (2) Common Core Colloquia during the semester. The schedule is posted on Blackboard under "Important Information." You MUST attend the Colloquium scheduled on Monday, September 26th from 3:45 to 4:45 in the Gallery of Contemporary Art. It is entitled "Boundaries of Identity: The Fluid Self."

You may choose to attend any other Colloquium scheduled for this semester. The schedule can be found on Blackboard under "Important Information." I do keep track of attendance, so please make sure to sign the attendance sheets when you go. These Colloquia are part of your class participation grade. While I don't give you a written assignment, I expect that you will participate in any discussions or other activities that are part of the Colloquium you attend.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:

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| MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 th : | SEBASTIAN JUNGER (Edgerton Theater, 3 pm OR 7 pm) |
| WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 st : | FRESHMAN CONVOCATION & PRESIDENTIAL INSTALLATION (Pitt Center 1:30 pm) |
| WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 26 th : | CAREER DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATIONS (schedule posted under "Important Information" on BB) |
| WEEK OF OCTOBER 24 th : | ADVISEMENT FOR REGISTRATION BEGINS |
| MID-NOVEMBER: | REGISTRATION FOR SPRING 2012 BEGINS |
| MONDAY, DECEMBER 12 th : | LAST DAY OF CLASSES |
| TUES. DEC 13 th to SAT. DEC 17 th : | FINAL EXAMS |

Grading Scale

I base your final course grades on the following scale:

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|----|---------|-----|----------|-----|---------|
| A: | 93-100 | A-: | 90-92.9 | B+: | 87-89.9 |
| B: | 83-86.9 | B-: | 80-82.9 | C+: | 77-79.9 |
| C: | 73-76.9 | C-: | 70-72.9 | D+: | 67-69.9 |
| D: | 60-66.9 | F: | Below 60 | | |

Course Outline

Unit I: The Ancient Near East and Early Hebrew Cultures

Introduction to the course and the study of history

Ancient Near Eastern Thought and Culture

Readings: *Hymn to the Nile*
Plutarch, *Isis & Osiris*
T. Dixon, "Does God Act in Nature?"

Early Hebrew Thought and Culture

Readings: *Epic of Gilgamesh* (On the Flood)
Genesis, chapters 1, 6-8 (Creation and Noah & the Flood)
D. MacCulloch, *Christianity* (chap. 2 "Israel")

Unit II: Hellenic and Hellenistic Cultures

Early Aegean and Hellenic Societies

Readings: Homer, *The Iliad*, Scroll 22
Hesiod, *Work & Days* (excerpt)
D. MacCulloch, *Christianity* (chap. 1 "Greece & Rome")
J. McPherson, *For Cause & Comrades* (chap 6 "A Band of Brothers")

A Natural History of Greece

Readings: Plato's *Apology* (excerpt)
Plato's *Timaeus* (excerpt)
Aristotle's *History of Animals* (excerpt)
Hippocrates, *Airs, Water, Places* (parts 1-11)
S. S. Parrish, *American Curiosity* (chap. 2 "English Bodies in America")

The Rise of the Polis & the Problem of Athenian Democracy

Readings: Plato, *The Apology* (excerpt)
Thucydides, *Pericles' Funeral Oration & The Melian Dialogue*
B. Hughes, *The Hemlock Cup* (Act 8 "The Trial & Death of Socrates")
C. Richard, *Greeks & Romans Bearing Gifts* (chap. 4 "Athens & the Perils of Democracy")
P. Cartledge, *The Spartans* (chap. 10 "The Legacy: Leonidas Lives!")

The Hellenistic Age

Readings: Epicurus, *Letter to Menoeceus*
Lucretius, *The Nature of Things*
J.D. Hughes, *Pan's Travail* (chap. 10 "Groves and Gardens, Parks and Paradises")
M. Belozerskaya, *The Medici Giraffe* (chap. 1 "Elephants for an Empire")

Unit III: Rome and the Rise of Christianity

#10 The Founding of Rome and the Rise of the Republic

Readings: Cicero, *On the Commonwealth*
Seneca, *Letters to Lucilius (XLVII)*
C. J. Richard, *Greeks & Romans Bearing Gifts* (chap. 6 "Early Rome and Republican Virtue")

Civil War and the Fall of the Republic

Readings: Livy, Book 2. 23-25
Pliny the Elder, *Natural History*
C.J. Richard, *Greeks & Romans Bearing Gifts* (chap. 7 "The Fall of Rome")

The Pax Romana

Readings: Virgil, *Georgics*
Pliny, *On Christians*
Anthony Everitt, *Augustus* (chap. 19 "The Cult of Virtue")
S. Schiff, *Cleopatra* (chap 7 "An Object of Gossip for the Whole World")

The Spread of Christianity

Readings: Matthew 5:1-12
Luke 10:25-37
Justin Martyr, *The Apology*
Tertullian, *The Apology*
D. MacCulloch, *Christianity* (chap 3 "A Crucified Messiah")

The Decline of Rome/Early Antiquity

Readings: Augustine, *The Confessions* Book 1
Boethius, *The Consolation of Philosophy* (book 1)
J. O'Donnell, *The Ruin of the Roman Empire* (chap 1 "Rome in 500: Looking Backward")

Unit IV: Europe in the Middle Ages

Early Medieval Civilizations

Readings: *Rule of Benedict*
St. Bonaventure, *The Life of St. Francis*, chap. 8:6-10

The Church in Medieval Society: Popular Piety

Readings: Thomas a Kempis, *Imitation of Christ*, excerpts
Theresa of Avila, chapters 2-4

BOOK REVIEW DUE

The Medieval Mind

Readings: Thomas Aquinas, *On Sacred Doctrine*
Petrarch, *Letters to the Dead* (Letters to Cicero)
R. Rubenstein, *Aristotle's Children* (chap 6 "This Man Understands")

Unit V: The Renaissance

The Late Middle Ages: Crises in Western Europe

Readings: Pico, *Oration on the Dignity of Man* (excerpt)
Dante, *Inferno* (excerpt)
Thomas More, *Utopia* (excerpt)
M. Belozerskaya, *The Medici Giraffe* (chap 3 "How a Giraffe turned a Merchant into a Prince")

New Worlds: The Scientific Revolution, the Enlightenment & the Age of Exploration

Readings: Galileo, *On the Revolutions of Heavenly Spheres*
Bartolome de las Casas
D. Wootton, *Galileo* (chap 20 "Sunspots")
R. Holmes, *Age of Wonder* (chap 2 "Herschel on the Moon")

Unit VI: China

The Bronze Age Dynasties and the Mandate of Heaven

Readings: The Book of Poetry, "Large Rats!"
Confucius, *The Analects* (Book 2)
Mencius, *Mencius* (pages 1-2)
A. Aczel, *The Jesuit & the Skull* (chaps 10 and 14)

The Warring States Period and the Role of the Philosopher

Readings: Lao Zi, chapter 1-3

The Qin Unification and the Legalists/The Han Dynasty

Readings: Xunzi, pps 1-5
Han Feizi, pps 1-5

PLEASE NOTE: THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE INSTRUCTOR. ANY REVISIONS WILL BE POSTED ON BLACKBOARD.