

Suffolk Community College, Selden, New York 11784

IND 101-100 Civilization: The Human Experience I

Spring 2009, CRN: 20787 and 20788

Instructors: Dr. Myrodes Konstantinides, Dr. Gertrude Postl

Time: T/R 9:30-10:45

Location: Southampton Bldg. 30

Contacts:

Prof. Postl

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Office Hours: M 11:00 - 12:00 a.m.

W 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

T/R 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Prof. Konstantinides

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COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The successful student will be able:

- To identify and explain the distinctive features of Western Civilization from recorded history to the 15th century;
- To distinguish between Greek, Roman, and Medieval culture by identifying and explaining the significant characteristics of these cultural periods;
- To explain the various cultural manifestations of the Greek, Roman, and Medieval period in terms of an interaction between politics, religion, science, philosophy, literature, drama, art, music, and architecture;
- To explain human experience as integral part of these various cultural manifestations;
- To identify and respond to contemporary cultural issues and problems through applying knowledge of cultural history;
- To develop an interdisciplinary approach to social and cultural phenomena in general and to connect the various fields of their own studies;
- To develop skills of critical, conceptual analysis in speaking and writing by responding to diverse material, such as political history, theory, literature, artworks, and music;
- To develop skills of information literacy by making use of a variety of sources, such as the library, the internet, TV, print media, etc.;

Procedures for meeting these objectives: lectures, class discussions, in-class group projects, written assignments, slides, films, internet sites, demonstrations, performances, and cultural excursions.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Mathews and Platt, *The Western Humanities, Vol.I*, 6th ed., Mc Graw Hill, 2007.

Mathews and Platt, *Readings in the Western Humanities, Vol. I*, 6th ed., McGraw Hill, 2007.

REQUIREMENTS:

1) THREE EXAMS

There will be one exam on each of the historical periods discussed: Greek, Roman, Medieval period. Each exam will involve short essays, questions, and definitions on history, philosophy, literature, and art.

Please do not miss these exams – **no make-up exams!**

2) ONE PAPER

This paper should be **at least five pages long, typed, double-spaced, and in the appropriate academic format** (your name, topic, correct quotations, etc.). Make sure that your text is written in proper English and does not contain any spelling errors. If you have problems writing papers, please consult the Writing

Center (Islip Arts Building 101). Topics for this paper will be given out on a separate handout.

Deadline: May 5! Papers received after this deadline will not be accepted.

3) MUSEUM VISIT AND ASSIGNMENT

Each student has to visit the New Greek and Roman Galleries at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NY City. A specific assignment will accompany this visit.

Deadline: April 14! Assignments received after this deadline will not be accepted.

4) CLASS PARTICIPATION, READING ASSIGNMENTS AND BEHAVIOR

This means **participating** in the common effort of discussion in order to complement the reading material and to accomplish the aims stated in the course objectives. Absolute unwillingness to participate will result in a lower final grade. "Talking a lot" is not necessarily participation. **Reading assignments** have to be completed **before** class meetings. It is not enough to read a text; one should also be able to talk about it. The introduction to each author and text is part of the reading.

Disruptive or inconsiderate **behavior** (including walking in and out of the classroom during class time) will affect the grade. Cell phones and beepers have to be switched off during class time.

5) ATTENDANCE POLICY

The college defines excessive absence or lateness as more than the equivalent of one week of class meetings during the semester. In this course, students are allowed **no more than three absences!** Any additional absence will affect the grade. Excessive absence or lateness may lead to failure in the course or removal from the class roster. If a student is late, the time will be added up and will thereby also contribute to the amount of absences. It is **the student's obligation to sign the sign-up sheet** which will be passed around. If a student misses a class due to sickness or other justifiable reasons, **evidence needs to be shown as soon as possible!** In this case the absence will be excused. No "W" grade will be given after the official withdraw-date (3/23).

GRADING

<u>Three Exams:</u>	45% of the final grade
<u>One Paper:</u>	20% of the final grade
<u>Museum Assignment:</u>	20% of the final grade
<u>Class Participation:</u>	15% of the final grade

Excessive absence will lower the final grade!

PLAGIARISM

"In writing, students must fully credit the source of any quoted, paraphrased, or summarized passages and any ideas which they have borrowed. Failure to conform to these academic standards is plagiarism and may result in a failing grade for the course and/or serious disciplinary sanctions as outlined in the Code of Conduct" (SCCC Catalog, p.69). Plagiarism of any kind will result in a "0" for the assignment in question and in repeated cases in an "F" for the course.

SCHEDULE

Tu 1/27: Introduction: cultural history, the Western tradition as distinguished from non-Western cultures; the human experience; interdisciplinary approach, periodization; transition from pre-history to recorded history;

GREEK PERIOD

Th 1/29: Early Greek History (pp.35-46);

Tu 2/3: From Mythology to Philosophy: the Pre-Socratics (p. 52; p.77; handout);

- Th 2/5: Early Greek Literature and Mythology; Homer, *Iliad* (pp 46-52; Reader, pp.35-45);
Movie: *Troy: Ancient Myths and Unsolved Mysteries* (2004);
- Tu 2/10: Archaic Art, Early Greek Architecture (pp.54-60);
- Th 2/12: Hellenic and Hellenistic Greek History (Reader, pp.63-68; 93-98);
- Tu 2/17: Greek Philosophy (pp.76-80); Plato, *Republic*, Cave Allegory (Reader, p.89-90); *Phaedo*
(Reader, pp.91-94);
- Th 2/19: Philosophy continued: Aristotle, *Politics* (pp.99-100);
- Tu 2/24: Classical Art, Architecture, and Sculpture (pp. 81-90; 106-116);
- Th 2/26: Greek Theater: Tragedy (pp.71-75); Aristotle, *Poetics* (Reader, pp.95-99); Sophocles,
Oedipus the King (Reader, pp. 56-75);
- Tu 3/3: Greek Tragedy continued;
Movie: *Oedipus Rex* (1967, dir.: Pier Paolo Pasolini);
- Th 3/5: **EXAM 1**

ROMAN PERIOD

- Tu 3/10: Roman History (pp.119-128);
- Th 3/12: Roman Philosophy (pp.133-134); Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations* (Reader, pp. 139-145);
- Tu 3/17: Roman Art and Architecture (pp.136-150);
- Th 3/19: Roman Religion, Literature, and Drama (pp.128-133); Cicero, *On the Republic*, The
Dream of Scipio (Reader, pp.107-111);
- M 2/23: **LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW FROM CLASSES WITH GUARANTEED W!**
- Tu 3/24: Roman Literature continued: Vergil, *Aeneid* (Reader, pp.112-121); Ovid, *Metamorphoses*
(Reader, pp. 123-127);
- Th 3/26: Late Roman History, Early Christianity, Byzantium (pp. 169-175; 183-188; 198-205);
- Tu 3/31: Early Christian and Byzantine Literature and Philosophy: New Testament, Matthew
(Reader, 162-167); St. Augustine, *Confessions*, *City of God* (Reader, 172-178); Anna
Comnena, *The Alexiad* (Reader, pp.178-181);
- Th 4/2: **EXAM 2**
- Tu 4/7, Th 4/9: **No Class** (Spring Recess)

MEDIEVAL PERIOD

- Tu 4/14: Early Medieval History (pp.208-211);
MUSEUM ASSIGNMENT DUE!
- Th 4/16: Early Medieval Art, Literature, and Music (pp. 211-218); Einhard, *The Life of*

Charlemagne (Reader, pp.185-188);

- Tu 4/21: High and Late Medieval History (pp.247-259; 285-293);
- Th 4/23: Gothic Art and Architecture (pp. 266-282; 299-315);
- Tu 4/28: Art and Architecture continued; Movie: *Gothic Art and Architecture*;
- Th 4/30: Medieval Philosophy (pp. 260-262; 293-295); St. Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica* (Reader, pp. 233-235; handout on “The Five Proofs”);
- Tu 5/5: Medieval Literature (pp. 264-266; 295-299); Chrètien de Troyes, *Arthurian Romances*, Lancelot (Reader, 221-226);
PAPER DUE!
- Th 5/7: Movie: *First Knight* (1995, dir. Jerry Zucker)
- Tu 5/12: Medieval Literature continued: Dante Alighieri, *The Divine Comedy* (Reader, pp. 235-246); Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*, The Wife of Bath’s Tale (Reader, pp. 271-274);
- Th 5/14: **EXAM 3**