



History of Western Civilization

Unit of Study Outline

1. Unit of study information

This course is a general survey covering major political, social, economic, cultural, and religious changes in the areas surrounding the Mediterranean Basin and the European continent from the prehistoric period through the Cold War. Other great world cultures are discussed only as they directly relate to European problems. In spite of commercial contacts resulting in cultural borrowing, the great civilizations of this planet seem to have developed independently. Topics include: the first civilization, Greece, Rome, Middle ages, Renaissance, Europe at war, modern Europe, Napoleonic era, World War II and Cold War.

2. Pre-requisite units and assumed knowledge

Basic English reading and analysis skills

3. Learning aims and outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the students should be able to:

- Get well with major trends in modern European history,
- Familiar with the methods historians use to learn about the past.
- Read and understand primary historical documents, including memoirs, speeches and other first-hand accounts
- Improve reading, writing and analytic skills.

4. Weighting of final grade

Comments/questions on each day's readings 20%
Group work in your discussion section 20%
Assignments 20%
Mid-term exam 20%
Final exam 20%

5. Grading

A	100-95	A-	94-90	B+	89-87
B	86-83	B-	82-80	C+	79-77
C	76-73	C-	72-70	D+	69-67
D	66-63	D-	62-60	F	59 or lower

6. Policies

Attendance Policy

Attendance in class is mandatory for all students enrolled in the course. Any excused absence must be discussed directly with the teacher. Being late to class within 15 minutes will be recorded as 1 LATE and being late over 15 minutes will be recorded as 1 ABSENCE. 3 LATES equal to 1 ABSENCE. 20% absences of the total teaching hours will cause an F (a failing grade) directly. However, students are still welcome to continue to attend class. F students have no right to drop this course anymore. Each unexcused absence will result in the lowering of the attendance grade by 1 point. Each excused absence will result in the lowering of the attendance grade by 0.5 point.

Participation Policy

Students should participate in their chosen classes actively and effectively. The Participation Grade is related to the Attendance Grade. Students' final attendance grade is the maximum of their participation grade.

Participation grade will be based on a variety of factors including, but not limited to taking part in class discussions and activities, completing assignments, being able to answer questions correctly, obeying class rules, and being prepared for class, frequent visiting your instructors and chatting in English during their office hours is highly recommended.

Policy on Assignments and Quizzes

Students should finish their assignments completely and punctually. Assignment should be submitted on the date appointed by the instructor. If a student cannot hand in the assignment on time, the reasonable excuse will be needed. Late assignments will receive a maximum grade of 80. An assignment that is late for 3 days will be corrected but receive 0.

You are recommended print all your assignment in the uniform format with the heading of Student's Pledge of no cheating. Written assignment or printed ones without the uniform heading of pledge will receive a maximum grade of 80.

It is mandatory to have weekend assignment every week. Any weekend assignment should be submitted on first class of next week.

It is mandatory to have holiday assignment on the public holidays. Any holiday assignment should be submitted on the first day on returning to school.

Students are required to do a multitude of presentations during the course.

Plagiarism

Any form of cheating is NEVER tolerated. Any student ONCE caught cheating on a quiz, assignment or examination will receive a 0 for that particular work of the whole semester. At the beginning of the semester the definition of plagiarism will be carefully explained. When any thoughts or writings of another person are used, the sources must be clearly identified (using quotes, bibliography and giving reference).

Classroom Policies

1. No eating, cellular phones, electronic dictionaries, smoking, chatting or drowsing in class.
2. Please speak in English rather than Chinese in class.
3. Students are not allowed to attend class without textbooks.
4. Stand up when answering questions.
5. Respect classmates' ideas, opinions, and questions of your classmates.
6. You are welcome to visit the instructor's office in his/her office hours.
7. Take good care of the laboratory facilities. Do not splash water on the desktop.
8. When each class is over, hang the earphone on the hanger. Put the trash into the trash-bin.
9. All your classroom involvement, performance and after-class communications with instructor will affect your participation score.
10. All communications with the teacher must be in English, both inside and outside class time.

7. Texts and other recourses

Kishlansky, M., Geary, P. and O'Brien, P. (2008) A Brief History of Western Civilization: The Unfinished Legacy 5th ed., China Renmin University Press.

8. Teaching methods

Lectures, group discussion

9. Week by week topic and study guide

Week 1	The First Civilizations
	Early Greece, 2500-500 BC
Week 2	Classical and Hellenistic Greece, 500-100 BC
	Early Rome and the Roman Republic 800-146 BC
Week 3	Imperial Rome, 146 BC-192AD
	The Transformation of the Classical World, 192-500
Week 4	The Classical Legacy in the East: Byzantium and Islam
	The West in the Early Middle Ages, 500-900
Week 5	The High Middle Age, 900-1300
	The Later Middle Ages, 1300-1500
Week 6	The Italian renaissance
	The European Empires
Week 7	The Reform of Religion
	Europe at War, 1555-1648
Week 8	Mid-term Exam
Week 9	The Experiences of Life in Early Modern Europe, 1500-1650
	The Royal State in the Seventeenth Century
Week 10	Science and Commerce in Early Modern Europe
	The Balance of Power in Eighteenth-Century Europe
Week 11	Culture and Society in Eighteenth Century Europe
	The French Revolution and the Napoleonic Era, 1789-1815
Week 12	Industrial Europe
	Political Upheavals and social Transformations, 1815-1850
Week 13	State Building and Social Change in Europe, 1850-1871
	The Crisis of European Culture, 1871-1914
Week 14	Europe and The World, 1870-1914
	War and Revolution, 1914-1920
Week 15	The European Search for Stability, 1920-1939
	Global Conflagration: WWII, 1939-1945
Week 16	The Cold War and Postwar Economic Recovery: 1945-1970

	The End of the Cold War and New Global Challenges, 1970 to the Present.
Week 17	Final Exam