Required Texts

Students must have regular access to both of the following textbooks

Burger, *The Shaping of Western Civilization, v1*

Ober et al, *The Threshold of Democracy: Athens in 403 BCE*

Handouts posted on Canvas (students are responsible for downloading, reading these before they are due, and bringing them to class)

Intros posted on Canvas (students are responsible for downloading and reading these before they are due)

Course Summary:

As twenty-first century Americans, we have a strong tendency to ignore everything that occurred before World War II as unimportant, almost as prehistory that has no impact on how we live our lives today. Yet nothing could be more wrong. Vast portions of our day to day life, from our language and clothing to our religious, political, and educational institutions derive in large part from the distant past. This course aims to survey the roots of Western Civilization and examine some of the structures and systems that have preceded us.

But knowing raw facts about the past is of minimal value unless we develop the ability to think about history in a meaningful fashion. With that in mind, this course will challenge you to not just think about history as ‘what happened’ but to find an understanding of how history is discovered and constructed. To that end, you will be reading not just textbooks, but also documents, genuine writings
produced by men and women who lived centuries ago and still have much to say to us as people. Learning how to read historical sources critically is a skill that will pay dividends in virtually any career you pursue after college.

This course will also address questions of how to engage in open discussion about historical issues and how to persuade people within a classroom setting. The Athens Game is designed to teach students how to engage in debate, critique each other’s ideas, and build written and oral arguments.

**Course Outcomes:**

After taking this course students should be able

1) To demonstrate an understanding of the discipline of history. In particular, they should be able to demonstrate a basic understanding of some of the historical methodologies used to formulate plausible interpretations of human behavior in past centuries.
2) To demonstrate basic skills in reading primary sources from a historical standpoint.
3) To demonstrate an understanding of how Western Civilization has developed through the complex interaction of socio-economic, political, religious, and other cultural forces, including historical memories constructed by successive generations.
4) To demonstrate an understanding of continuities and differences between the past and present.
5) To identify some of the important individuals, movements, and events that helped shape Western Civilization.

**Requirements:**

All students will be expected to attend lecture regularly and participate enthusiastically by asking questions and offering ideas and insights. The course has 2 required textbooks and all assigned readings are to be completed by the date they are assigned for.

The course is divided into three sections, on Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, and the Middle Ages. The first section will be assessed based on two short papers written as part of the Athens Game. The other two sections will be assessed based on take-home exams.
The final grade in the class will be based on the following work:

Second mid-term 25%
Final exam 25%
Two Short Papers 15% each
Participation 20%

The grading scale is as follows:

100-94 A
93-88 AB
87-83 B
82-78 BC
77-73 C
72-68 CD
67-60 D
59-0 F

All exams will be take home exams rather than in-class exams. They will take the form of questions to which students will have to write a short (3-4) page essay.

Academic dishonesty (cheating and plagiarism) is a serious matter and will not be tolerated. Penalties for such behavior range from a failing grade on the assignment or exam in question for minor incidents to failing the entire class for serious incidents to suspension or expulsion from the university for repeated offenses. Any situation in which a student is penalized for plagiarism requires a permanent letter be put into the student’s university records. Students are advised and cautioned to always do their own work. Students who are unsure if something qualifies as plagiarism should speak to the instructor, who will gladly explain how to avoid such mistakes.
Attendance and Participation:

Regular attendance at class is extremely important to doing well. Students who do not attend regularly are likely to miss important concepts and ideas not covered in the texts. Participation is an important element of the final grade, and students cannot participate if they do not attend. However there is no formal attendance policy in this course. Students who miss a lecture are responsible for finding out what they missed; it is not the instructor’s job to review the lecture for them.

Students are expected to not just attend class but also to participate. Participation is defined as asking questions, answering questions asked in class, and offering insights and thoughts on the readings and other elements of the course.

Policy on Plagiarism:

For purposes of this course, plagiarism is defined as follows:

1) Submitting work that fails to acknowledge the sources of ideas or specific language in the paper that are not your own.
2) Submitting work that acknowledges a source but does not identify specific quotes.
3) Submitting work that you did for a previous course, even if all the words are your own (also known as ‘recycling fraud’).
4) Collaborating with another person to write a paper or exam, except where the assignment specifically permits you to work with another student. The only exception to this is seeking assistance from the Writing Center or other appropriate form of university-sponsored assistance. Casual discussion of issues is acceptable, but anything further than casual discussion will result in both students being punished.

By submitting any piece of written work for a grade, you are assumed to be swearing that the work is not plagiarized. Any significant example of plagiarism will at minimum receive a 0 for the assignment, and may merit failure for the course as a whole.
Schedule of Classes

Week 1
Fri 9/8  Introduction

Ancient Greece

Week 2
Mon 9/11  The Greek Polis (Intro to Ancient Greece; Burger, 39-52; Handout on Hesiod)
Wed 9/13  Religion in Ancient Greece (Intro to Polytheism)
Fri 9/15  Women and Family in Ancient Greece (Ober, 44-51, 213-17; Handout on Euphiletos)

Week 3
Mon 9/18  Athenian Government (Burger, 53-62; Ober, 25-35; Handout on Athens)
Wed 9/20  Sparta: The Odd Polis Out (Burger, 62-64; Ober, 35-44; Handout on Sparta)
Fri 9/22  Alexander the Great (Burger, 74-81; Ober, 51-75)

Week 4
Mon 9/25  Set-Up for the Game (Ober 3-19, 77-87)
Wed 9/27  Understanding Plato (Burger, 65-74; Ober, 95-147)
Fri 9/29  Game Session 1 (Ober, 147-71, 226-35)

Week 5
Mon 10/2  Game Session 2 (Ober, 171-94, First Short Paper due)
Wed 10/4  Game Session 3 (Ober, 194-202)
Fri 10/6  Game Session 4 (Ober, 209-13, Second Short Paper due)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 6</th>
<th>Mon 10/9</th>
<th>Game Session 5 (Ober, 217-26)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wed 10/11</td>
<td>Game Session 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fri 10/13</td>
<td><strong>No Class--Fall Break</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Week 7   | Mon 10/16 | **No Class--Fall Break**    |

**Ancient Rome**

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 10/18</td>
<td>Roman Government (Intro to Rome; Burger, 85-100)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 10/20</td>
<td>Roman Law and Religion (Handout on Law and Religion)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 8</th>
<th>Mon 10/23</th>
<th>The Republican Family (Handout on Republican Women)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wed 10/25</td>
<td>The Collapse of the Republic (Burger, 101-120: Handout on Late Republic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fri 10/27</td>
<td>The Accomplishments of Augustus (Burger, 120-28)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 9</th>
<th>Mon 10/30</th>
<th>Life on the Edge of the Roman World; Roman Entertainments (Handout on Vindolanda)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wed 11/1</td>
<td>Early Christianity (Burger 142-54; Handout on Early Christianity)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fri 11/3</td>
<td>Woman and Early Christianity (Handout on Women and Christianity)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Week 10  | Mon 11/6 | The Decline of the Roman World (Burger, 134,42, 154-59) |

**Midterm Exam handed out**
The Middle Ages

Wed 11/8  Germanic Society and Government (Intro to Early Medieval Europe; Burger, 159-65)

Midterm Exam due

Fri 11/10  Germanic Law and Family (Handout on Germanic Society)

Week 11  Mon 11/13  Medieval Monasticism (Handout on Monasticism)
           Wed 11/15  The Carolingian Empire (Burger, 165-72; Handout on Charlemagne)
           Fri 11/17  The End of the Carolingian World (Burger, 173-78; Handout on Fiefs)

Week 12  Mon 11/20  Manorialism (Handout on Manorialism)
           Wed 11/22  No Class--Thanksgiving Break
           Fri 11/24  No Class--Thanksgiving Break

Week 13  Mon 11/27  The Urban Revival (Intro to the High Middle Ages; Burger, 183-86; Handout on Towns)
           Fri 12/1   High Medieval Christianity (Burger, 186-95, 200-05; Handout on Church and State)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 14</th>
<th>Mon 12/4</th>
<th>Popular Religion in the Middle Ages (Handout on Popular Religion)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 12/6</td>
<td>The Emergence of Medieval Universities (Burger, 211-220; Handout on Universities)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 12/8</td>
<td>Women in the Middle Ages (Handout on Medieval Women)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 15</th>
<th>Mon 12/11</th>
<th>The Impact of the Black Death (Burger, 220-25)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 12/13</td>
<td>The Problems of the Late Middle Ages</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Midterm Exam handed out (due during Exam Week)**