

History 101: Foundations of Western Civilization

Dr. Susan Dinan

Winter Session 2010-2011

Faculty:

Professor	Susan Dinan	dinans@wpunj.edu
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Class meets	ON LINE	

Required Texts:

Jackson Spielvogel. *Western Civilization: A Brief History*, Volume 1. New York: Thomson Wadsworth, 2008. Referred to in the syllabus as Spielvogel.

Merry Wiesner, Julius Ruff and William Wheeler, *Discovering the Western Past: A Look at the Evidence*. Volume 1. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin, 2007. Referred to in syllabus as Wiesner.

The syllabus also contains some films and film clips that you must watch and discuss.

Course Description:

I have three primary goals to accomplish when teaching this class. First, I want to introduce you to the main trends, ideas and events in the history of Europe from the earliest civilizations to the Reformations. It is important to me that this course provide you with the tools with which to understand the major social issues and cultural themes which have defined concepts of humanity and society in the Western world. Second, I will use this course to attempt to answer the question "what do historians do?" by introducing you to the discipline of history through analysis of a variety of primary source readings. Finally, I stress the development of critical reading, thinking and writing skills for all my students. To this end, you will read several primary source documents and complete several writing assignments.

Assessment:

Participation in ONLINE Discussion	20%
Quizzes on Spielvogel text (13 quizzes, 12 are graded)	40%
Source papers based on Wiesner source book (8 papers)	40%

Class Expectations:

This class will be your life for three weeks. Please do not plan to work or much else while this class is in session. You are going to learn an entire semester's content in three weeks; this class will keep you very busy! I need to grade your work quickly and return it to you promptly. Therefore, I will not accept any late assignments.

Please familiarize yourself with the Black Board shell for this course. Black Board is idiosyncratic and it is not always easy to intuit what you need to do. Please locate the syllabus and start reading! Please learn how to post to the Discussion Board. Please check to see that the links to the videos are working.

You will be required to submit one or two assignments every day during this short academic term.

No Incomplete grades will be awarded for this class. You must complete the course work during the three week academic term.

Quizzes (Part of 40%): Quizzes will be taken for 13 chapters of the text. The format will be solely multiple choice questions. There will be about 40 questions per quiz. Please keep a close eye on the time as you have 60 minutes to take the test. you miss these quizzes, you cannot make them up. Quizzes are graded on a 100-point scale.

Quizzes will open on Black Board all day, but you have a 60 minute window in which to complete the quiz. Once you have started the quiz you must complete it in one setting. You must begin the quiz by 10:30pm in order to have time to complete it before the quiz window closes at 11:30. Quizzes cannot be made up, and must be taken on the day assigned. I will drop one quiz grade knowing that it is likely that something will go awry with your computer, the University's server, or the alignment of the planets and preclude you from taking a quiz.

Source paper (Part of 40%): This winter term you will write 8 papers, each responding to a collection of primary source documents. PAPERS ARE DUE BY 4:00pm EASTERN TIME ON THE DAY THE PAPER IS ASSIGNED. You are given a question and will respond to it using a few of the primary sources from the chapter. Each paper should be 2-3 pages (500-750 words). Submit the papers via email to the instructor and to the Discussion Board. LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Primary source papers and film comments are due by 4:00, but can be submitted earlier. No late papers will be accepted, so please submit your essays before 4:00.

All source papers MUST include citations. Any time a student provides a quotation, paraphrases a source, or takes a fact from the book a footnote MUST be made to credit the book for the information. Please use the Chicago Manual of Style citation style, which is described on the Library's website.

<http://www.wpunj.edu/library/refpubsx.shtml#chicago>

These assignments will be graded on an A-F scale.

Grade	Criteria
A	Earned by a student who submits a paper with a clear thesis statement responding to the question posed. Student uses evidence to support the thesis statement. Student organizes the paper well and writes clearly.
B	Earned by a student who submits a paper with a clear thesis statement responding to the question posed. Student uses evidence to support the thesis statement. Student submits a poorly organized or confusing paper.
C	Earned by a student who submits a paper with a clear thesis statement responding to the question posed. Student does not use evidence to support the thesis statement. Student submits a poorly organized or confusing paper.
D	Earned by a student who submits a paper without a clear thesis statement responding to the question posed.
F	Earned by a student who does not submit a paper.

Participation in Online Discussion Forums (20%):

Each student will submit their primary source papers to the instructor, and post their papers to the Discussion Board. You must then respond in a meaningful way to ONE online posting of a fellow student. Your response must be at least one page in length, about 250 words. Please give the name of the student whose paper you are responding to. Papers are due by 4:00pm on the date assigned, and the response must be posted by 8:00pm pm on the date assigned.

There will be other questions on the Discussion Board asking you respond to some films. Please respond the question asked and make your responses one page, or about 250 words. Please check the Discussion Board daily to keep up with the conversation.

Your papers and your postings to the discussion board must be thoughtfully and respectfully written. Do not post work that is sloppy, rushed, or written like a text message. Your response must be complex and informative. Simply stating that you like or do not like what someone else posted is not sufficient. You must explain why you agree or disagree with your classmate.

Students are expected to show respect for diverse opinions during class discussion and in papers. Each student is also expected to participate in class discussion in a responsible manner, presenting opinions but also permitting others to present their opinions. A failure to respect other students and the opinions they offer is unacceptable behavior.