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### HIST 104.00: European Civilization from its Origins to 1715

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**HISTORY 104: EUROPEAN CIVILIZATION FROM ITS ORIGINS TO 1715**  
J. A. Eglin, LA 264, MWF 10-11AM or by appointment, 243-6755.

Welcome! This course will take you across two million years in one semester. Hold on tight! Here is some information you will find useful:

**Course Text:**

Mark Kishlansky, Patrick Geary, Patricia O'Brien, Civilization in the West (CW)  
There is also a course packet available on two-hour reserve in Mansfield and on line.  
This packet contains the readings to be discussed in weekly sessions.

Course Requirements are that in any given week, you must attend three lectures, attend and participate in one discussion section, and complete the assigned readings. Given the scope and pace of this course, it is essential that you keep up with the reading. Readings listed for the week will be discussed in sections on Tuesday and Thursday. Each week 104 students will turn in 200 word responses to the reading. A map exercise will be handed out in sections next week, and will be collected at the end of the semester. There will also be two midterm examinations on 6 October and 3 November, and a final examination at 8AM on Thursday 21 December. These are essay examinations which allow students to demonstrate mastery of the subject matter, and enable us to see what students are thinking about the course material.

Lectures are generally given Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Please refrain from any behavior likely to distract either your classmates or me. Such behavior includes late arrivals, early departures, reading of newspapers, and--especially--talking during lectures. I assert my rights of intellectual property over these lectures, including any notes taken from them, as well as all other course materials, including examinations; sale of lecture notes or other materials is therefore theft and will be dealt with as such. Lectures may not be recorded without my prior written permission.

Sections for this course meet Tuesday or Thursday for an hour in the morning or afternoon. Consult your course schedule and the course listings for the time and location of your section. Sections, conducted by teaching assistants, are your opportunity to discuss readings, lectures, and most importantly your thoughts and ideas about them. For every section for which there are packet readings assigned, you will hand in a 200 word response to a focus question. 104 sections will begin Tuesday 12 September with discussion of *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, which you will need to have read.

Grades are assigned by the teaching assistants in consultation with the instructor. For students in 104, grades will be computed thus: section attendance and participation 10%, reading responses 10%, map exercise 5%, midterms and final 25%; since 107 students have additional assignments, their grades are computed differently. Students taking the course on a Pass/Not Pass basis are advised that 70 percentage points are needed to pass, and that all course requirements must be completed to pass. While we will gladly discuss your exam and other results with you, we will not change grades once they are assigned. The History Department takes academic dishonesty very seriously. Cheating and plagiarism undermine academic standards and threaten the reputation of an institution. Any student found cheating on an examination will fail the course, and may incur more serious penalties under the Student Conduct Code.

Teaching Assistants run your sections, handle your paperwork, grade your reading responses and exams, and generally keep track of you. They are an enormous help to me, and they *can* be an equally great help to you-- if you establish and maintain a working relationship with them. The TAs for this course are Brett Nichols, Todd Ramsted, and Allen Gallant.

### COURSE SCHEDULE

Week I. 5-8 September. Introduction. "Civilization" and the "West." 104 sections will not meet this week; 107 will meet.

Week II. 11-15 Sept. The Ancient Near East: Mesopotamians, Egyptians, and Hebrews. Readings for sections: CW chapter 1; *The Epic of Gilgamesh* (packet).

Week III. 18-22 Sept. Ancient Greece. CW chapters 2-3; Aristophanes, *Clouds* (packet).

Week IV. 25-29 Sept. Ancient Rome. CW chapters 4-5; Q. Cicero, *Handbook on Electioneering* (packet).

Week V. 2-6 October. Christianity and Islam. CW chapters 6-7. Review sessions this week; first midterm exam Friday 6 October.

Week VI. 9-13 Oct. The Middle Ages. CW chapters 8-10; Christine de Pizan, *Treasure of the City of Ladies* (packet).

Week VII. 16-20 Oct. The Renaissance. CW chapter 11; Machiavelli, *The Prince* (packet).

Week VIII. 23-27 Oct. The Expansion of Europe. CW chapter 12; Columbus, *Voyages* (packet).

Week IX. 30 Oct.-3 November. Background to the Reformation. Readings: CW chapter 13. Review sessions this week; second midterm exam Friday 3 November.

Week X. 6-10 Nov. The Reformation and its Consequences. Sections will not meet this week; responses to Erasmus, *Colloquies*, will be handed in Wednesday in lecture. There will also be evening screenings of "The Return of Martin Guerre," to be discussed in sections next week.

Week XI. 13-17 Nov. Everyday Life in Early Modern Europe. CW chapter 15. Sections will discuss the film "The Return of Martin Guerre."

Week XII. 20-24 Nov. Happy Thanksgiving!

Week XIII. 27 Nov.- 1 December. The Wars of Religion. CW chapter 14; Grimmelschausen, *Simplicissimus*, in packet.

Week XIV. 4-8 Dec. The Age of Absolutism. CW chapter 16; Richelieu, *Political Testament*, in packet.

Week XV. 11-15 Dec. Crises and Contrasts. Review for Final Examination 21 Dec.