

Syllabus  
**History 100-025 Western Civilization**

*Fall 2013, George Mason University*

INSTRUCTOR: Mark R. Stoneman, Ph.D.

CLASS TIMES: Wed., 4:30–7:10 p.m., Planetary Hall 212

OFFICE HOURS: Wed., 3:00–4:30 p.m., Robinson B 346

EMAIL: [mstonema@gmu.edu](mailto:mstonema@gmu.edu)

BLACKBOARD: <https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu>

## Description

As typically conceived for U.S. general education programs, Western Civilization encompasses an enormous swath of human experience from ancient civilizations in the Middle East and on the Mediterranean to Christendom in medieval Europe and the development of a European state system that eventually evolved into the modern nation-states we know today. Along the way, this civilization expanded and interacted with societies far beyond Europe through trade, missionary work, settlement, colonial rule, war, and other flows of people, culture, and goods. To cover such a story in only one semester, tough choices must be made. In this particular section, we will pay much less attention to the ancient and medieval periods and far more to developments since about 1500. Besides surveying the basic chronology and key themes and events, we will analyze testimony from people who lived in the past; that is, we will work with primary sources. Along the way, students will hone their skills in historical thinking, critical reading, and textual analysis.

## Requirements

100-level classes are so designated because they constitute beginnings, not because they are easy. In fact, these classes can even seem harder than upper-level courses because they cover a wide variety of material, and students are still learning the subject's basic vocabulary, assumptions, and techniques. This observation is especially true for history. To help you stay on track and succeed, this section of History 100 has the following graded components:

- **Attendance and class participation** are worth 10% of your grade for the whole course. Please note, however, that an F for this portion of your grade will result in an F for the whole course. See below for further details on the mandatory attendance policy.
- There will be **five factual quizzes**, each worth 5% of your course grade for a total of 25%. These closed-book quizzes will emphasize the assigned textbook readings, the secondary material in the other assigned books, and the basic facts and terms presented in class.
- There will be a **midterm exam** that is worth 25% of your grade. This open-book exam will entail analyzing primary sources from our assigned readings, and there will be more broadly based synthesis and interpretation.
- There will be a **final exam** that is worth 40% of your grade. Like the midterm, this open-book exam will entail analyzing primary sources from our assigned readings, and there will be more broadly based synthesis and interpretation.

## Required Books

Because the midterm and final exams are open-book, you must have your own copy—paper or electronic—of all four of the following required books. No exceptions. If you do not have them, you will fail your exams—and the course—because you are not allowed to share books during the exams.

- Lynn Hunt et al., eds., *Making of the West: A Concise History*, vol. II, *Since 1500*, 4th ed. (Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2013). [ISBN-13: 978-0-312-67274-4]
- Katherine J. Lualdi, ed. *Sources of The Making of the West: Peoples and Cultures*, vol. II, *Since 1500*, 4th ed. (Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2012). [ISBN-13: 978-0-312-57612-7]

- Lynn Hunt. *The French Revolution and Human Rights: A Brief Documentary History* (Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 1996). [ISBN-13: 978-0-312-10802-1]
- Marla Stone, *The Fascist Revolution in Italy: A Brief History with Documents* (Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2013). [ISBN-13: 978-0-312-45415-9]

We will also do a lot of source analysis in class, so it is essential that you always bring the week's assigned books with you to class.

## Grading System

Grades for all assignments are based on a 100-point scale. You will either see a percentage on your assignment or you will see a letter grade. If you see a letter grade, please note that I record that letter grade in my spreadsheet thus: A = 95% (occasionally higher for particularly excellent work), A- = 92.5, A-/B+ = 90, B+ = 87.5, B = 85, B- = 82.5, B-/C+ = 80, C+ = 77.5, C = 75, C- = 72.5, C-/D+ = 70, D = 65, F = 55, and not submitting an assignment = 0.

I calculate course grades according to the weighting in the requirements section above. The cutoff for an A in the course is a 93 average, for an A- a 90 average, for a B+ an 87.5 average, for a B an 83, for a B- an 80, for a C+ a 77.5, for a C a 73, for a C- a 70, and for a D a 60. These cutoff scores are nonnegotiable.

## Attendance

Attendance in class is mandatory, but flu season and school-sponsored team events can complicate things. Please read the following policies carefully:

- The exams in this course are geared very closely towards what happens in class, so missing class is never a good idea. If you are sick, however, missing class can be a great idea. You will prevent the spread of whatever you have, and you will get better more quickly.
- If you have flu-like symptoms, especially a fever, or if you are otherwise clearly sick, contact the student clinic or your family doctor. If you visit a doctor or nurse, get documentation of that visit for me and present it at the next class. If the best course of action seems to be simply staying in bed, then do that. Only get attestation from the clinic or doctor if you actually need to go there. (If you are unsure about whether or not to visit them, call and ask.)
- If you are sick and have to miss class, email me. And keep me updated. If you have documentation, please give it to me. If not, please explain why. In most cases, I will take your word for it, unless things seem to be getting out of hand. If you are sick more than once, I reserve the right to require documentation from you before I count the absence as excused. If you are getting sick that often, you should see a doctor anyway.
- **I must have documentation if you miss a quiz or exam.** Furthermore, you must talk to or email me about rescheduling the missed assignment. If you do not do so by the next class, you will get a "0" for the exam in question.
- **If you are participating in a school-sponsored sporting event or debate, you must present me with documentation *prior to the event*** so that you do not get penalized for your absence. At that time, you will also arrange with me any necessary makeup exam or quiz. If you do not do this, your absence will be considered unexcused and your missed quiz or exam will earn a "0".
- Your work or training schedule is not a legitimate reason for missing class. Such absences will be considered unexcused.
- Students who add the class late cannot be penalized for an absence prior to their enrollment; however, they are responsible for the material they missed. Catch up on your reading right away, and ask classmates for notes about what you have missed.
- Do not ask me about getting notes for a missed class. Although I might sometimes post handouts to Blackboard, it is your responsibility to get notes from a classmate.

## Communication

The best way to reach me outside of class and office hours is via email to [mstonema@gmu.edu](mailto:mstonema@gmu.edu). Also, you should contact me from your own Mason address to ensure I get your message.

Please do not try to call me, as I have no campus phone.

I will normally make announcements via Blackboard (<https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu>), which you need to check several times per week. You should also check your university email account regularly because that is how I will contact individual students.

### **Honor System**

Academic honesty is essential not only to the success of the course, but also to your academic and professional careers. Hence, you are expected to know what plagiarism is and abide by the GMU Honor System and Code at <http://mason.gmu.edu/~montecin/plagiarism.htm>. If you are at all unclear about what constitutes plagiarism, cheating, or lying, please talk to me.

The midterm exam and final exam are “blue book” exams. You must purchase the special blue books (or green books) for them at the bookstore and bring these to class completely empty, completely unused. Any writing in the blue books from prior to the exam and any missing pages can be construed as an honor code violation. Bring clean, complete, unused copies, and do not tear any pages out during the exam.

### **Special Accommodations**

Students requiring an official academic accommodation should see me immediately and also contact the Office of Disability Services at <http://ods.gmu.edu> or (703) 993-2474.

### **Classroom Policies**

Taking notes with your laptop or other electronic device is okay. Facebooking, tweeting, texting, internet surfing, and so on are not.

If I show any film footage, I will ask that computers and other note-taking devices be turned off because the light is distracting to others.

Due to the length of the class, we will usually hold a ten-minute break that I will announce. Please try to restrict your bathroom visits to that time, so as not to disturb your neighbors.

Please treat your classmates with the respect and consideration that you expect from them. A friendly, collegial atmosphere will lead to better results for everyone.

### **Schedule**

Class meets on Wednesdays from 4:30 to 7:10 p.m. in Planetary Hall 212, according to the schedule below. The required reading assignments in this schedule must be completed prior to the class under which they are listed, and you must bring a copy of these readings with you to class.

Although no changes to this schedule are anticipated, please check Blackboard regularly for any other changes or corrections.

If the university cancels class due to inclement weather, it will announce this cancellation on its home page (<http://www.gmu.edu>). If I have to cancel class because I am ill, I will post a notice on Blackboard and also send everyone an email. If class is cancelled for either of these two reasons, please check Blackboard for instructions on any required makeup work.

- 8/28 WESTERN CIVILIZATION; PERIODIZATION; ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL CIVILIZATIONS
- 9/4 OVERSEAS ENCOUNTERS; PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC REFORMATIONS  
– Required reading: Hunt et al., *Making of the West*, ch. 14; Lualdi, *Sources*, ch. 14.
- 9/11 STATE-BUILDING CONFLICTS; SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTION  
– Required reading: Hunt et al., *Making of the West*, chs. 15–16; Lualdi, *Sources*, chs. 15–16.  
– The **first quiz** (closed book) will take place at the beginning of class.
- 9/18 ATLANTIC SYSTEM; ENLIGHTENMENT  
– Required reading: Hunt et al., *Making of the West*, chs. 17–18; Lualdi, *Sources*, chs. 17–18.

- 9/25 THE FRENCH REVOLUTION AND DISCOURSES ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
 – Required reading: Hunt, *French Revolution and Human Rights*. (Read the whole book.)
- 10/2 THE FRENCH REVOLUTION AND ITS CONSEQUENCES  
 – Required reading: Hunt et al., *Making of the West*, chs. 19–20; Lualdi, *Sources*, 19–20.  
 – The **second quiz** (closed book) will take place at the beginning of class.
- 10/9 MIDTERM EXAM  
 – **“Blue book” exam**: bring the blue (or green) exam booklets available at the bookstore. You will need 1–2 large blue books or 2–4 small blue books. Make sure your blue books are completely unused and have no missing pages.  
 – **Open-book and open-note exam**, but you must have your own copy of each book, whether paper or electronic.  
 – Using the internet for anything else is strictly prohibited.  
 – Consulting with classmates during the exam is also strictly prohibited.
- 10/16 ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, POLITICAL, AND CULTURAL CHANGE  
 – Required reading: Hunt et al., *Making of the West*, chs. 21–22; Lualdi, *Sources*, chs. 21–22.
- 10/23 IMPERIALISM, INDUSTRY, AND MODERNITY  
 – Required reading: Hunt et al., *Making of the West*, chs. 23–24; Lualdi, *Sources*, 23–24.  
 – The **third quiz** (closed book) will take place at the beginning of class.
- 10/30 WORLD WAR I AND AFTER  
 – Required reading: Hunt et al., *Making of the West*, ch. 25; Lualdi, *Sources*, ch. 25.
- 11/06 ITALIAN FASCISM  
 – Required reading: Stone, *Fascist Revolution*. (Read the whole book.)
- 11/13 THE GREAT DEPRESSION; NAZI GERMANY; WORLD WAR II  
 – Required reading: Hunt et al., *Making of the West*, ch. 26; Lualdi, *Sources*, ch. 26.  
 – The **fourth quiz** (closed book) will take place at the beginning of class.
- 11/20 REBUILDING EUROPE; COLD WAR; DECOLONIZATION  
 – Required reading: Hunt et al., *Making of the West*, ch. 27; Lualdi, *Sources*, ch. 27.
- 11/27 THANKSGIVING BREAK: NO CLASS
- 12/4 COLD WAR; POSTINDUSTRIAL SOCIETY; GLOBALIZATION  
 – Required reading: Hunt et al., *Making of the West*, chs. 28–29; Lualdi, *Sources*, 28–29.
- 12/11 **FINAL EXAM, 4:30–7:15 P.M.**  
 – **“Blue book” exam**: bring the blue (or green) exam booklets available at the bookstore. You will need 1–2 large blue books or 2–4 small blue books. Make sure your blue books are completely unused and have no missing pages.  
 – **Open-book and open-note exam**, but you must have your own copy of each book, whether paper or electronic.  
 – Using the internet for anything else is strictly prohibited.  
 – Consulting with classmates during the exam is also strictly prohibited.