HUM 2051.E1: Civilization 1: Ancient & Medieval

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Class Location & Time
Skurla A103
5–6.15 pm Monday & Wednesday

Course Objectives
The course presents a survey of the career of western civilization from its origins in the ancient Near East to the European Renaissance. Emphasis is given to the close reading and interpretation of primary sources that reflect the intellectual and historical changes in society. Goals include

• acquaintance with some of the principal texts of the Western canon and their historical contexts;
• development of skills in critical thinking and written and verbal communication.

Required Texts
Lualdi  Sources of the Making of the West, ed. Lualdi, Second Edition. (Free with Hunt.)

There are links to other helpful resources on my webpage, my.fit.edu/~aberdein.

Grading & Evaluation
As usual, 90%+ = A; 80–89% = B; 70–79% = C; 60–69% = D; 0–59% = F.

1. Midterm Exam (Eighth Week: Wednesday 11th October);
2. Final (Cumulative) Exam (Monday 11th December 8.30 – 10.30 pm)—the date of this exam has already been fixed and cannot be changed;
3. Contribution to the class (including, but not limited to, grades for class presentation and quizzes);
4. 3000 Word Essay (Due Fourteenth Week: Tuesday 21st November)

will each contribute one quarter to the overall grade.
Course Regulations

- Students are expected to attend all classes.
- All cell phones (including text messaging), personal stereos, &c to be switched off during classes and exams.
- Essays to be word processed, with a full bibliography, and to be submitted in paper and electronic form (see below). Late essay submissions will be penalized by one letter grade. Essays late by more than one class session will receive a grade of 0.
- Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of 0 for the course. You are responsible for knowing all Florida Tech policies on academic dishonesty (see www.fit.edu/current/plagiarism.pdf).
- Essay submission is final: whatever you submit as your essay is your essay.
- “Florida Tech has contracted with a private company, TurnItIn.com, to help identify plagiarized papers. Essays written for this course will be submitted electronically to the TurnItIn.com web site for screening prior to being graded. Essays that are not submitted to TurnItIn.com will not be graded. Your instructor will show you how to use this service.”

Course Outline

WEEKS 1–2: Ancient Near East

- Hunt: Chp 1–2.
  8/23 Norton: The Epic of Gilgamesh
  8/28 Norton: Genesis

WEEKS 3–7: Greece and the Hellenic World

  8/30 Norton: Homer: The Odyssey
  9/6 Norton, Lualdi: Sappho
  9/11 Norton: Sophocles: Antigone
  9/13 Norton: Herodotus
  9/18 Handout: Zeno of Elea
  9/20 West & West: Aristophanes: The Clouds
  9/25 Plato: Plato: The Symposium
  9/27 West & West: Plato: The Apology of Socrates
  10/2 Norton: Plato: Republic

WEEK 8: Midterm Exam

WEEKS 9–11: Rome and Christianity

  10/18,23 Norton: Virgil: Aeneid
  10/25 Norton: Catullus
  10/30 Norton: Petronius: The Satyricon
  11/1 Norton: New Testament

WEEKS 12–16: The Medieval World

  11/8 Norton: Beowulf
  11/13,15 Norton: Dante: Inferno
  11/20 Norton: Heloise & De Pizan
  11/27,29 Handout: Mediaeval Philosophy
  12/4 Norton: Chaucer: Canterbury Tales

- Dates indicate when each text will be discussed—and the point by which you should have read it!
- In many cases you need only read parts of the text: I will indicate which parts in class.