

HUM 2052.E1: Civilization 2: Renaissance & Modern

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Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 12.30–3 pm

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Class Time & Location

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY, 5–6.15 PM; SKURLA A103.

Course Objectives

The course presents a survey of the career of western civilization from the European Renaissance and Reformation to the 20th century and the modern world. 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

- Western Civilization: Ideas, Politics, and Society*, Perry & al., Cengage, 9th Edition, 2009, \$79, 0547147015
- The Prince: With Related Documents*, Machiavelli, Bedford/St Martins, 2004, 206 Pages, \$16.35, 0312149786
- Hamlet*, William Shakespeare, Signet, 1998, 271 Pages, \$4.95, 0451526929
- Candide, Zadig, and Selected Stories*, Francois M. Voltaire, Signet, 2009, 400 Pages, \$4.95, 0451531159
- The Mentor Book of Major British Poets*, Oscar Williams, Penguin, 1963, 576 Pages, \$8.99, 0451626370
- Heart of Darkness*, Joseph Conrad, Penguin, 2007, 136 Pages, \$8, 0141441674 or 0140186522
- The Communist Manifesto: A Road Map to History's Most Important Political Document*, Marx & Engels, Haymarket, 224 Pages, Price \$14.99, 1931859256

viii. *The World's Greatest Short Stories*, James Daley, Dover, 2006, 235 Pages, \$3.50, 0486447162

ix. *The Road to Serfdom: Text & Documents*, F. A. Hayek, University Of Chicago Press, 2007, 304 Pages, \$17, 0226320553

x. *Invisible Cities*, Italo Calvino, Harvest, 1978, 165 Pages, \$14, 0156453800

Grading & Evaluation

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

1. Midterm Exam (Seventh Week);
2. Final (Cumulative) Exam (**Monday 7th December 8.30–10.30 pm**)—the date of this exam has already been fixed and **cannot** be changed;
3. Contribution to the class: (Best quiz grades + Presentation grade) × **Participation quotient**;
4. 3000 Word Essay (Due Fourteenth Week: **Friday 20th November**)

will each contribute **one quarter** to the overall grade.

Contribution to the Class

The **participation quotient** is proportional to the number of weeks in which you make a contribution to the class. Contributions include, but are not limited to:

- delivering a class presentation;
- participation in discussion;
- asking intelligent questions;
- work on the class wiki, aberdein.pbworks.com.

Class Presentations

Each student is expected to make a presentation on one of the reading assignments. Presentations should last no more than ten minutes, and answer at least the following questions:

- A. Who wrote it? An account of the text's authorship;
- B. What does it say? A (brief) recap of the text's content—note that all students are expected to read all assignments, so detailed restatement should be unnecessary;
- C. What doesn't make sense? What questions do you have after a first reading?

Course Regulations

- Students are expected to attend **all** classes.
- All cell phones (including text messaging), MP3 players, &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. Late essay submissions will be penalized by one letter grade. Essays late by more than one class session will receive a grade of 0.
- Essay submission is final: whatever you submit as your essay is your essay.
- 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/documents/plagiarism.pdf).
- '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

In most cases you need **only** read **parts** of the text: I will indicate which parts in class.

Dates indicate the class in which each text will be discussed—and the point by which you should have read it!

1 WEEKS 1–5: Early Modern Europe

Perry: Chapters 13–17

8/19 Machiavelli: *The Prince*

8/24 Online: Montaigne

8/26,31;9/9 Shakespeare: *Hamlet*

9/14 Handout: Bacon & Descartes

2 WEEKS 5–7: The Enlightenment

Perry: Chapter 18

9/16 Online: Swift: *A Modest Proposal*

9/21 MIDTERM EXAM

9/23,28 Voltaire: *Candide*

9/30 Online: Adam Smith: *The Wealth of Nations*

3 WEEKS 8–11: Nineteenth Century

Perry: Chapters 19–26

10/5 Williams: Blake

10/7 Williams: Shelley

10/14,19 Marx & Engels: *The Communist Manifesto*

10/21 Online: Wallace & Darwin

10/26 Daley/Online: Kipling

10/28 Conrad: *Heart of Darkness*

4 WEEKS 12–16: Twentieth Century

Perry: Chapters 27–32

11/2 Handout: Freud

11/4 Daley: Chekov: *The Lady with the Dog*

11/9 Williams: Owen

11/16 Online: Yeats

11/18 Hayek: *The Road to Serfdom*

11/23 Daley: Kafka: *Hunger Artist*

11/30;12/2 Calvino: *Invisible Cities*