

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Fall 2009

History 3000: Arts and Ideas, Ancient and Medieval
MW, 7:00-8:15 PM, 3202 Dunbar Hall

Dr. Steven R. Cartwright, instructor

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This course offers an introduction to the cultural history of Western Civilization from approximately 100,000 B.C. to A.D. 1400. By the end of the course, the student should be able to discuss the major artistic and intellectual achievements of the various civilizations that have contributed to the larger Western Civilization, which in turn has made the dominant (though not exclusive) artistic and intellectual contributions to our own American culture.

Additionally, the student should develop and improve skills in critical thinking, research techniques, and writing, all of which are important for any educated, cultured, thoughtful person, as well as any person seeking high-quality employment after college.

Textbooks:

Lawrence S. Cunningham and John J. Reich, *Culture and Values: A Survey of the Western Humanities*, 7th Edition, Volume I.

Mary Lynn Rampolla, *Pocket Guide to Writing History*, 6th edition.

Richard Paul and Linda Elder, *The Miniature Guide to Critical Thinking: Concepts and Tools*.

Coursepack.

Course operations:

1. This course centers on the textbook, the lectures, the in-class discussions, and the audio-visual presentations. An understanding of all of these is necessary to obtain a good grade.

2. Your grade will be based on daily assignments, one research paper, two hourly exams and one final exam, with point values as follows:

Daily assignments: 5 pts ea. @ 22 sessions	=	110 pts
Searchpath library instruction module	=	15 pts
Paper:	=	100 pts
Tests: 2 midterms @ 50 pts ea.	=	100 pts
Final exam:	=	100 pts
Total:		425 pts

Daily assignments: Answer study questions on assigned readings. Due at beginning of each class session.

Searchpath library instruction module: This is a basic course in Information literacy, and can be accessed from the WMU Library's webpage. It is required for the research instruction session on September 28.

Research paper, about 10 pp., demonstrating basic understanding of relevant topics.

Midterms: 10-20 identifications, one-two essay questions. Questions will be on any and everything pertaining to the course: Readings, lectures, discussions, videos, and slides.

Final: 10-20 identifications, two-three essay questions

Grade scale:

A=	401-425	94%
BA=	376-400	88%
B=	351-375	82%
CB=	326-350	76%
C=	301-325	70%
DC=	276-300	64%
D=	251-275	58%

I tend to grade fairly toughly during the semester and be fairly lenient in determining final grades. In determining your final grade I will take into account progress during the semester (i.e., if your test grades or paper grades got better each time) and class participation (i.e., did you ask questions and make your voice heard?).

3. A normal class session will normally consist of lecture, audio-visual presentation (videos, web sites, slides, music), and small-group discussion. I expect all students to ask questions, make comments, or otherwise actively participate in class.

4. It is essential that you bring your textbook to each class session, since we will be discussing the readings at the end of each chapter. Study questions covering each reading are found elsewhere in this syllabus. In addition, you will receive occasional handouts of required readings.

5. There is also a website for this course that contains much of the information contained in this syllabus as well as a page of links to other websites. I will update it as often as possible. The URL is: <http://homepages.wmich.edu/~cartwrig>

6. I will e-mail the class about once a week to remind everyone of upcoming assignments and tests, or to pass on interesting information in the news relevant to what we are studying. Please check your wmich.edu account regularly.

7. Attendance: I have no attendance policy as such, as taking attendance in a large class such as this is time-consuming and I have no graduate assistant to help me. You will find, however, that attendance is essential for doing well on the tests, especially the essays, as I ask questions that you cannot answer well if you have not been coming to class. Those who come to class regularly inevitably do better on my tests than those who do not come regularly.

8. Key terms: Part of each test includes identifications of “key terms.” You will find a list of key terms elsewhere in this syllabus. You will also find key terms at the end of each chapter of the textbook. **The list in this syllabus is what I will test you on.** All terms on the syllabus list, excepting one, can be found in the textbook, though they are not found in the textbook lists very often. I have a different opinion from that of the textbook writers about which terms are important. Terms in common to both lists are marked with an asterisk (*) in the syllabus list.

9. If you have an emergency and are unable to take a test, you must notify me beforehand if possible or before the next class. Make-up exams will be given for legitimate excuses (personal illness or family emergencies) up to a week after the assigned test date. Missing exams will receive 0 points after one week. I expect papers to be turned in on time; if you have printer problems, you may send your papers to me as e-mail attachments (Microsoft Word or .txt files).

10. It is important to get in the adult habit of turning in work on time. I expect papers to be turned in on time; if you have printer problems, you may send your papers to me as e-mail attachments (Microsoft Word or .txt files). **No daily assignments or papers will be accepted more than one week after they were due.** Do not fall behind on these.

11. If you do not understand what is going on in class-lectures, videos, readings, or exercises-please do not be afraid to ask questions. There are no dumb or stupid questions. I want each of you to succeed, and will do my utmost to help you when you ask for assistance-but you must take ultimate responsibility for your own success. Ask questions in class, make an appointment with me, or e-mail me. I covet your questions, suggestions, and constructive criticisms.

12. Large lectures require that you be especially sensitive to matters of common courtesy. One tardy person disrupts the class; several make it difficult to teach or learn. Therefore do not come late to class, if possible. Leaving early, or packing up your gear before class ends, is equally inconsiderate. Additionally, please turn off cellphones and beepers when class begins. Your respect for your fellow students is appreciated. It will gain you respect in return.

13. One last topic that I hate to discuss or even mention, but must: Cheating and plagiarism. Cheating on daily assignments and tests (copying from one another) and plagiarism on research papers (using another person's words or ideas without proper attribution and passing them off as your own) will not be tolerated. If I determine that you have done any of these things, I will give you a failing grade for the assignment and notify the Student Judicial Council.