

WESTERN CIVILIZATION to 1500 (HIS-113)

Berkshire Community College

Humanities Division, History Department

Fall 2014

Instructor:	Chris Laney
Office #:	M238
Office Hours:	MWF 9:30-10:30am; MWF 12:00-12:15pm; Tue., 9:00-10:00am
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E-mail:	claney@berkshirecc.edu Include HIS-113 in your email's subject line, <i>or</i> use Moodle Quickmail (located in the left column of the course homepage). If you do not use one of these methods, I may not see your message.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An exploration of the origins and development of Western society and culture from prehistory through the Ancient Near East, Greece, Rome, and the Middle Ages to the Renaissance. **Skills Prerequisites:** *ENG 020 and 060.*

Student Learning Outcomes:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1w3pTC7E3VuQFH_VuK7_sf1J9OmcUcDZuOtCrtQDJd1g/edit

RESOURCES AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT:

Required Textbook: Lynn Hunt, et. al., *The Making of the West: Peoples and Cultures – A Concise History*. Combined-volume, Fourth Edition, Bedford St. Martin's Press, 2013 (ISBN# 978-1457621659). Or, if you do not plan to take Western Civilization Since 1500, you can choose the Volume I edition (ISBN# 978-0312672737). Please direct questions about buying the book to the BCC bookstore. If you acquire a book online, or try to use an older edition, please understand that it will be your responsibility to resolve any resulting complications. You may also want to access the optional Student Site which comes with the book: <http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/huntconcise>.

Colored Pencils or Graphics Software: You will need to use a set of colored pencils on the map assignments. Or, you may choose to do your map assignment on your computer using Photoshop or a similar graphic program (see more on the map assignments below).

Technical Requirements and Support: Please follow the recommendations of the [Moodle User's Guide](http://blogs.berkshirecc.edu/onlinelearning/files/2014/08/MoodleUsersGuide_2014FA-sjw31r.pdf) carefully: http://blogs.berkshirecc.edu/onlinelearning/files/2014/08/MoodleUsersGuide_2014FA-sjw31r.pdf. If you have technical difficulty with Moodle (such as your password not working), email onlinehelp@berkshirecc.edu,

with a *copy* of your email to me at claney@berkshirecc.edu. Put “**Online Help**” in your subject line, then briefly describe your technical problem and include your full name, student ID#, and the course and section numbers (**HIS-113-02/03**).

Online Tutoring: <http://blogs.berkshirecc.edu/onlinelearning/online-tutoring/>

BCC REQUIREMENT – CORE COMPETENCIES:

Six Core Competencies are required for graduation (this does not impact GCC or MCC students). In this course the embedded core competency is **Historical Knowledge and Reasoning (CC-HK)**. Read more about the Core Competencies here: <http://www.berkshirecc.edu/CoreCompetencies>

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

2 Exams @ 100 points each:	200
6 Discussion Forums @ 30 points each	180
12 Chapter Quizzes @ 10 points each (<i>lowest score dropped</i>)	110
8 Maps @ 10 points each	80
TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE	570

Exams (35% of course grade): consist of a combination of essay questions which you can work on at your own pace, using the book, notes, and discussion forums.

Chapter Quizzes (19% of course grade): are designed primarily to encourage you to read and study the chapters each week, thus fostering higher quality discussion. Chapter Quizzes therefore have a 16-minute time limit once you begin the quiz (so it is important to read the chapter before beginning the quiz). Quizzes will typically be available for a 33-hour window of time, from 3pm Mondays until midnight (11:55 pm) Tuesdays. *Please note that these are not nearly as important to your grade as the Exams and the Discussion Forums. In fact, you can have a D-average on the quizzes and still easily have an A in the course.*

Map Assignments (14% of course grade): There are eight total map assignments, but you will **only turn maps in twice** during the semester (see the course outline for the dates). In other words, I will not collect them every time each map is assigned, but it is still important for you to do them during the week they are required – *doing the maps will help you to make sense of the other material*. Feel free to submit individual maps early if you want to (I can grade those almost like a “draft” if you wish). You may turn them in using *one* of these four ways, whichever is most convenient for you:

1. Use Photoshop (or similar program of your choice) to complete them and email them to me in Moodle.
2. Print the blank maps and then scan (or photograph) your completed maps and send them to me via

Moodle email.

3. Drop them off at my office in M238 (if I'm not there, slide them under the door).
4. Mail the completed maps to me (Delivery Confirmation recommended) at:

Chris Laney
Berkshire Community College
1350 West Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Online Discussions (32% of course grade):

The Discussion Forums are the heart of the course – you can think of them as the “classroom” - and they are designed to make this class an interactive experience. Participation in each discussion topic is worth up to 30 points (as you can see, this is nearly a third of your course grade). Points will be based on the quality and quantity of your comments.

Most Forums are two weeks in length, and weeks begin on Wednesday morning. Usually, a new discussion topic will be posted by Thursday afternoon at 3:00 PM and that topic will be open for the rest of the week through Tuesday night. Since there are two weeks per Forum (after Week 1), this means there will usually be two discussion topics (or “threads”) per Forum. It is important that you participate during the course of the discussion, not just at the end - see the grading criteria below for more.

Your messages, or “posts,” might consist of one or more of the following types:

1. your replies to questions by the instructor
2. your replies to other student discussion posts
3. questions of your own which might spawn more discussion
4. your comments or analysis on the reading or topic in question
5. your summary of the discussion topic to that point

Go to this link to see the **grading criteria and guidelines** for Discussion Forums:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ljrexOArhduEbyAFhPR4BTkxSQzJ4gfHgC7Po54U8Y/edit?usp=sharing>

OPTIONAL ASSIGNMENTS AND EXTRA CREDIT:

You may choose to do optional assignments (such as optional book reviews or research papers) or extra credit (film reviews). Go to this link for more:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mmDuRx1gRDaNdzfEHDvRJ9WTBiWA7I_bT-OupvbNGxI/edit

ATTENDANCE AND LATE POLICIES:

The majority of your participation in this class will occur online. This means “attendance” will be measured by

your online participation. You will be expected to log on to the class a *minimum* of four days a week, and to keep up with the discussions and assignments. You will find that discussion messages from the teacher and other students pile up pretty quickly.

If you feel like you may have to drop the course, please talk to me first – sometimes there are solutions and alternatives that you may not know about. Failure to participate in the class for more than a week without contacting me *may* result in an automatic drop from the course. However, I will not *necessarily* drop you from the class – it is your responsibility to officially drop the course if needed. If you stop attending without dropping the course you may receive an F on your transcript.

How much time should you spend on the course? Remember that if this were an on campus course, you would be in the classroom for 3 hours a week. Of course, you would also spend 2-6 hours outside of class on homework and studying (right?). In other words you should expect to spend between about 5-9 hours a week on this class, just as you would in an on campus course.

Late Assignments: Late **exams** and **assignments** will be deducted **10%** in grade and will **not** be accepted more than twenty four hours late. **Chapter Quizzes** cannot be made up – if you fail to complete a quiz on time it will be a zero (However, I will drop your lowest Chapter Quiz score at the end of the semester).

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Penalties for academic honesty range from a zero on the assignment to an automatic F for the semester. For the course policies on academic honesty, and information on how to avoid plagiarism go here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IdHK4Yk1Qs0jKJUI6nRH591UMApLRsbDWfppi3_kIS4/edit#heading=h.qimafp2ak4ow

COURSE OUTLINE / SCHEDULE:

The schedule below provides you with an “at a glance” outline of the course – it does **not** include all assignments and due dates. More detail will be provided in the weekly assignment pages in the course homepage. All due dates in this class are “by midnight” (11:55 pm) unless otherwise stated.

After the Introductory Quiz, all **Chapter Quizzes** are available on Monday (at the end of the week they are assigned) from 3:00 PM until Tuesday at midnight (so you always have a 33-hour window in which to begin each quiz). So that you are doing them in tandem with the readings and discussion, all **Map Assignments** should be completed during the week they are assigned (but maps are only due on two dates, see below).

UNIT ONE: Prehistory and the Ancient Near East

WEEK 1: Tuesday, September 2 - Tuesday, September 9

Topics	Introduction to the Course; Prehistory
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Readings	Hunt, <i>Author's Note: The BCE/CE Dating System</i> , pp.iii-iiii (right before Chapter 1). Also the first part of Chapter 1 (pp. 3-8)
Quiz	Orientation Quiz: This quiz will cover the <i>Course Syllabus</i> , the <i>Survival Tips!</i> link, and the <i>Course Orientation</i> video (10 points)
Discussion	Unit 1 Discussion Forum begins (30 points)

WEEK 2: Wednesday, September 10 – Tuesday, September 16

Topic	The Ancient Near East, 4000-500 BCE
Readings	Hunt, pp. 8-47 Tablet XI of the <i>Epic of Gilgamesh</i> ; <i>Book of Genesis</i> , Chapters 6-9
Quiz	Chapter 1 Quiz, (including up to page 47 in Chapter 2) (10 points)
Map	Map 1: The Ancient Near East (10 points)
Discussion	Unit 1 Forum <i>concludes</i>

UNIT TWO: Ancient Greece and the Hellenistic Age

WEEK 3: Wednesday, September 17 – Tuesday, September 23

Topic	Ancient Greece, 750-400 BCE
Readings	Hunt, Chapters 2-3 [from p.47]
Quiz	Chapter 2-3 Quiz [from p.47] (10 points)
Map	Map 2: Ancient Greece (10 points)
Discussion	Unit 2 Forum begins (30 points)

WEEK 4: Wednesday, September 24 – Tuesday, September 30

Topic	From Classical Greece to the Hellenistic World, 400-30 BCE
Readings	Chapter 4 Plato, <i>Allegory of the Cave</i>
Quiz	Chapter 4 Quiz (10 points)
Map	Map 3: The Hellenistic World (10 points)
Discussion	Unit 2 Forum <i>concludes</i>

UNIT THREE: Ancient Rome

WEEK 5: Wednesday, October 1 – Tuesday, October 7

Topics	Early Rome and the Roman Republic, 753-44 BCE
Readings	Chapter 5 Readings and Images on daily life in Rome
Quiz	Chapter 5 Quiz (10 points)
Discussion	Unit 3 Forum begins (30 points)

WEEK 6: Wednesday, October 8 – Tuesday, October 14

Topic	The Roman Empire at its Height, 44 BCE – 284 <u>CE</u>
Readings	Chapter 6
Quiz	Chapter 6 Quiz (10 points)
Map	Map 4: The Roman Empire Maps 1-4 are due by <u>Thursday, October 16</u> (you can turn them in using one of the four methods described above in the syllabus under Methods of Evaluation)
Discussion	Unit 3 Forum <i>concludes</i>

MIDTERM EXAM

WEEK 7: Wednesday, October 15 – Tuesday, October 21

Your only task this week is to work on the **MIDTERM EXAM**, which is due by midnight on **Tuesday, October 21**. The exam will be posted by the beginning of the week, and you can work on it, *at your own pace*, all week (some students start even earlier, since it is available from Day 1).

UNIT FOUR: Rome's Transformation and the Early Middle Ages

WEEK 8: Wednesday, October 22 – Tuesday, October 28

Topic	The Fall of the Roman Empire, 284-600 CE
Readings	Hunt, Chapter 7
Quiz	Chapter 7 Quiz (10 points)
Map	Map 5: Transformation and Disintegration of the Roman Empire

Discussion	Unit 4 Forum begins (30 points)
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WEEK 9: Wednesday, October 29 – Tuesday, November 4

Topics	The Early Middle Ages: The Heirs of the Roman Empire (Byzantium, Islam, and the Western European Kingdoms), 600-750 CE Excerpt from the <i>Qur'an</i>
Readings	Hunt, Chapter 8
Quiz	Chapter 8 Quiz (10 points)
Map	Map 6: Europe and the Middle East in the Early Middle Ages
Discussion	Unit 4 Forum <i>concludes</i>

UNIT FIVE: Middle Ages 750-1150

WEEK 10: Wednesday, November 5 – Tuesday, November 11

Topic	The Early Middle Ages: Emperors, Caliphs, and Local Lords (Byzantium, the Islamic Abbasid Caliphate, and Western Europe), 750-1050
Readings	Hunt, Chapter 9
Quiz	Chapter 9 Quiz (10 points)
Discussion	Unit 5 Forum begins (30 points)

WEEK 11: Wednesday, November 12 – Tuesday, November 18

Topic	The High Middle Ages: Renewal, Reform, and the Crusades 1050-1150
Readings	Hunt, Chapter 10
Quiz	Chapter 10 Quiz (10 points)
Map	Map 7: Europe During the High Middle Ages (10 points)
Discussion	Unit 5 Forum <i>concludes</i>

UNIT SIX: Middle Ages 1150-1492

WEEK 12: Wednesday, November 19 – Tuesday, November 25

Topics	The Flowering of the Middle Ages, 1150-1215
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Readings	Hunt, Chapter 11
Quiz	Chapter 11 Quiz (10 points)
Discussion	Unit 6 Forum begins (30 points)

WEEK 13: Wednesday, November 26 – Tuesday, December 2

Topic	The Medieval Synthesis - and Its Cracks, 1215-1340
Readings	Hunt, Chapter 12
Quiz	Chapter 12 Quiz (10 points)
Discussion	<i>No discussion</i> this week due to Thanksgiving Break (Nov. 27-29) .

WEEK 14: Wednesday, December 3 – Tuesday, December 9

Topic	The Late Middle Ages and The Renaissance, 1340-1492
Readings	Hunt, Chapter 13 Excerpt from Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i>
Quiz	Chapter 13 Quiz (10 points)
Map	Map 8: Europe During the Late Medieval / Renaissance Periods (10 points) Maps 5-8 are due by <u>Thursday, December 11</u>
Discussion	Unit 6 Forum <i>concludes</i>
Optional	All <i>extra credit</i> and <i>optional assignments</i> are due by <u>Monday, December 8</u> .

FINAL EXAM:

WEEK 15: Wednesday, December 10 – Tuesday, December 16

The <u>FINAL EXAM</u> is due by midnight on Tuesday, December 16 .
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