



**SYLLABUS FOR HISTORY-1**  
**INTRODUCTION TO WESTERN CIVILIZATION I**  
*West Los Angeles College, Fall 2015*

**TIME:** 6:45 -10:00 p.m., Mondays (section 4202)

**PLACE:** Building GC (General Classroom), Room - 340

**Instructor:** Dr. Ali Parsa

**Office hours:** By appointment

**E-mail:** parsaa@wlaac.edu

**Course Description, Goals, and Objectives:**

The course is a survey of the major events in Western history from the beginning to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. In addition to political history, the course explores major cultural developments such as arts, literature, philosophy, and religion in the context of historical development. The focus of the course is on the interrelationship among these different human activities. Therefore, it requires understanding and quality work and not just memorization.

In Accordance with WLAC Institutional and the Division “Student Learning Outcomes” the following goals and objectives are pursued through this course.

- A. **Critical Thinking:** Analyze problems by differentiating fact from opinions, using evidence, and using sound reasoning to specify multiple solutions and their consequences.
- B. **Communication:** Effectively communicate thought in a clear, well-organized manner to persuade, inform, and convey ideas in academic, work, family and community settings.
- C. **Quantitative Reasoning:** Identify, analyze, and solve problems that are quantitative in nature.
- D. **Cultural Diversity:** Respectfully engage with other cultures in an effort to understand them.
- E. **Ethics:** Practice and demonstrate standards of personal and professional integrity, honesty and fairness; apply ethical principles in submission of all college work.
- F. **Interdisciplinary Awareness:** Cultivate relationship to other disciplines
- G. **Creativity:** Develop individual creative process and practice creative routine
- H. **Self-Awareness & Growth:** Learn self-assessment for personal fulfillment and growth

**Required Text:**

McKay, Hill, Buckler, *A History of Western Society: Volume I*,  
Houghton Mifflin, 2006 (8<sup>th</sup> Edition)

**IMPORTANT NOTES:**

**ATTENDANCE:** The text covers only portions of the material for the tests. You need to go to the class website on the Etudes and read and study my lecture notes and the PowerPoint presentations very carefully. They are important part of your exams. Also, the students are expected to attend class regularly and focus on the lectured material. Students absent from class could be dropped. Lateness and early leaving is disruptive and will result in loss of attendance points. **NO LAPTOP** (even for taking notes) and **NO TEXTING** allowed. Turn off all cell phones please.

**GRADING:** Submit 3 scantrons for 3 exams. (**886-E. Write no name on it**) by 2<sup>nd</sup> week. Plus/minus system of grading will apply to this course for the final grade.

Make ups result in 1 grade reduction. Each exam is worth 30 points and consists of:  
15 multiple-choice questions .....15 points  
1 essay question .....5 points  
5 IDs (includes 1 question from primary source) .....10 points  
Each exam total.....30 points  
**Total 3 Exams ..... 90 points**  
Attendance & participation .....10 points

**TOTAL POSSIBLE COURSE POINTS.....(100%)100 points**

***Lecture Outline & Reading Assignments***

SEGMENT 1

- **Aug. 31** Introduction/ Prehistoric Time/ Paleolithic & Neolithic Ages/  
 Read: pp. 3-9 from the book.  
**Study lecture notes and PowerPoint online (Etudes)**
  
- **Sep. 14** Birth of Civilization: Mesopotamia  
 Read: pp. 10-16 from the book.  
**Study lecture notes and PowerPoint online (Etudes)**
  
- **Sep. 21** Egyptian Civilization/ Judaism/ Video on Egypt/ Discussion/  
 Read: pp. 16-26 and the Persian Empire/ and Others from the book.  
**Study lecture notes and PowerPoint online (Etudes)**
  
- **Sep. 28** Review for Exam/ **EXAM No. 1**

SEGMENT 2

- **Oct. 5** Minoan and Mycenaean Civilizations/ Archaic Greece  
 Read: pp. 55-70 from the book.  
**Study lecture notes and PowerPoint online (Etudes)**
  
- **Oct. 12** Classic (Golden) Greek Age  
 Read: pp. 70-89 from the book.  
**Study lecture notes and PowerPoint online (Etudes)**

- **Oct. 19** Romans/ From Republic to An Empire  
Read: pp. 125-146 from the book.  
**Study lecture notes and PowerPoint online (Etudes)**
- **Oct. 26** Fall of the Roman Empire/ Rise of Christianity  
Read: pp. 153-185 from the book.  
**Study lecture notes and PowerPoint online (Etudes)**
- **Nov. 2** Byzantine Empire/ Justinian/ /Early Middle Ages/  
Read: pp. 215-217/ and pp. 207-215; 235-250 from the book.  
**Study lecture notes and PowerPoint online (Etudes)**
- **Nov. 9** Review for Exam/ **EXAM No. 2**

### SEGMENT 3

- **Nov. 16** The Rise and Expansion of Islam/ Islamic Civilization  
Read: pp. 221-228 from the book.  
**Study lecture notes and PowerPoint online (Etudes)**
- **Nov. 23** High Middle Ages/ Rise of Church/ Crusades/ Scholasticism/ Gothic Style  
Read: pp. 265-280 from the book.  
**Study lecture notes and PowerPoint online (Etudes)**
- **Nov. 30** Late Middle Age/ Crisis of the 14<sup>th</sup> Century/  
Read: pp. 379-395 from the book.  
**Study lecture notes and PowerPoint online (Etudes)**
- **Dec. 7** Italian and Northern Renaissance/ Protestant Reformation/  
Read: pp. 413-430; pp. 438-446 and pp. 453-480 from the book.  
**Study lecture notes and PowerPoint online (Etudes)**
- **Dec. 14** Review for Exam/ **EXAM No. 3**

## Class Policies

### Attendance

Because class discussions and group work are an integral part of this course, attendance is mandatory. Up to 3 absences are allowed. After that, you could be dropped. Students are expected to attend every class meeting, to arrive on time and stay throughout the class period. **Excessive absenteeism will lower your grade, as well as walking in and out of class.** 3 tardies = 1 absence. Students may be dropped from class for excessive tardiness, or for failure to attend class the first day or during the entire first week of the class.

### Walking In and Out of Class

When you arrive to class, make sure you have used the restroom, had a chance to eat, check your messages, etc. Walking in and out is rude and disruptive. If you need to leave early, or have some other problem, you need to notify me in advance. **Any student who makes a habit of walking in and out of class may be asked to leave.**

### Preparedness

You are expected to arrive on time. You will come to each class session prepared. You will have your books, binder, pens/pencils, any work that is due, and you will be prepared to discuss all readings/assignments.

### Cell Phones, iPods, etc.

**Turn them off and put them away when class begins!** Although it may not seem possible, you can survive without talking and texting on your cell phone, or listening to your iPod, for a little over an hour. Talking and texting on cell phones not only distract you, but they are a distraction for me and your peers. Distractions interrupt/disrupt the class and I will not tolerate interruptions. **You will be asked to leave if this occurs.**

### Contacting Me

E-mail is the best and quickest way to contact me. Thanks to modern technology, my e-mail is linked to my phone. Therefore, excuses such as, "I tried to contact you but (fill in the blank)" will not work. **If you have a problem, do not let it snowball. Contact me immediately.** Students are expected to ask questions and obtain help from instructor via email and/or during office hours.

**Refer to the course website/blog for more information on UMOJA policies.**

**For more information refer to the attached link:**

[http://www.wlac.edu/academics/pdf/WLAC\\_Catalog\\_Policies.pdf](http://www.wlac.edu/academics/pdf/WLAC_Catalog_Policies.pdf)

## College Policies:

### Academic Integrity (Plagiarism)

In accordance with code 9803.28, **academic dishonesty is prohibited and will not be tolerated in this class.** Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, the following actions: cheating on an exam, plagiarism, working together on an assignment, paper or project when the instructor has specifically stated students should not do so, submitting the same term paper to more than one instructor, or allowing another individual to assume one's identity for the purpose of enhancing one's grade. Academic dishonesty of any type, such as cheating or knowingly furnishing false information, by a student

provides grounds for disciplinary action by the instructor or college. In written work, no material may be copied from another without proper quotation marks, footnotes, or appropriate documentation.

- **Plagiarism will result in a zero for the assignment, possible dismissal from the class and disciplinary action from the college. You will not receive credit for any essay missing previous drafts, citations and/or a Works Cited page.**

### **Student Conduct**

According to code 9803.15, disruption of classes or college activities is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Refer to the catalog and the Standards of Student Conduct in the Schedule of Classes for more information.

### **Recording Devices**

State law in California prohibits the use of any electronic listening or recording device in a classroom without prior consent of the instructor and college administration. Any student who needs to use electronic aids must secure the consent of the instructor. If the instructor agrees to the request, a notice of consent must be forwarded to the Vice President of Academic Affairs for approval (WLAC College Catalog).

**For more information refer to the attached link:**

[http://www.wlac.edu/academics/pdf/WLAC\\_Catalog\\_Policies.pdf](http://www.wlac.edu/academics/pdf/WLAC_Catalog_Policies.pdf)

## **Campus Resources**

**See example below:**

As stated earlier in this syllabus, **if you are having problems, don't let them snowball.** Come and talk with me and check out some of the campus resources available to you.

### **Office of Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S)**

Student Services Building (SSB) 320 | (310) 287-4450.

West Los Angeles College recognizes and welcomes its responsibility to provide an equal educational opportunity to all disabled individuals. The Office of Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSP&S) has been established to provide support services for all verified disabled students pursuing a college education. DSP&S students may qualify for: priority registration, registration assistance, special parking permits, sign language interpreters and assistive technology (WLAC College Catalog).

### **Instructional Support (Tutoring) & Learning Skills Center**

Heldman Learning Resources Center (HLRC) | (310) 287-4486

Improve your reading, language, vocabulary, spelling, math fundamentals and chemistry knowledge with convenient, self-paced computer-aided courses in the Learning Skills Center. Increase your knowledge and learning success: sign up for tutoring in various college subjects (WLAC College Catalog).

### **Library Services**

Heldman Learning Resources Center (HLRC) | (310) 287-4269 & (310) 287-4486

The WLAC Library provides instruction on how to use the online catalog, periodical and research databases. In addition to a large collection of books, periodicals and videos the WLAC Library has course textbooks which students may use while in the Library. Web access is available in LIRL as well as meeting rooms. The upper floors provide a beautiful view ideal for study (WLAC College Catalog).

**For more information refer to attached link:**

[http://www.wlac.edu/academics/pdf/WLAC\\_Catalog\\_Policies.pdf](http://www.wlac.edu/academics/pdf/WLAC_Catalog_Policies.pdf)

**Student Acknowledgment**  
(Please return this sheet to the instructor)

“I \_\_\_\_\_, have completely read this syllabus and understand and agree to the course requirements.”

Please indicate below, any special needs or circumstances that may have some impact on your work in this class, and for which you may require special accommodations, including but not limited to physical or mental disabilities, inability to arrive in class on time or need to leave class early, observance of religious holidays, etc.

Special needs or circumstances:

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