Prof. Kristin Condotta Lee

Western Civilization I, 1000-1700
U16 Hist 101 Thurs 6:00-8:30 p.m. January Hall 10

Office Hours: By appointment only.
E-mail: condotta@artsci.wustl.edu

Hans Holbein, the Younger, Martin Luther, depicted as Hercules Germanicus, ca. 1497

Description: This course surveys the West in the period from c. 1000 B.C.E. to 1700 C.E. As we examine the civilizations of the western end of the Eurasian land-mass, and in more detail those of medieval and early modern Europe, we will focus on themes of cultural contact, conflict, and change in order to understand the complex roots of conventional "western" history. Topics covered include: the interaction between settled and nomadic peoples; the development and collapse of kingdoms, empires, and republics; the role of art, literature, and religion; the rise of the Christian Church and challenges to its dominance; the Black Death; and conflict and exchange in the Mediterranean and Atlantic worlds. The course will introduce students not only to major historical developments, but also to the basic elements of historical methodology and research.

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

* Identify important people, places and events in European and early American history from initial permanent settlement until 1700 C.E. and assess overarching themes in the narrative of the “West” that linger into the present day.
* Analyze primary and secondary source documents and formulate analytical questions about the past based on these diverse sources.
* Support and defend their arguments, both in written format and in class discussions.
Readings:

Selections from primary sources, see Blackboard

Grading Requirements:
1) There will be 2 exams, made up of a midterm and final. Each test is worth 20% of your final grade. Both exams will be comprehensive, or inclusive of all reading and lecture materials covered in the course up until that point. This means that your final exam will include some pre-midterm materials.

2) Each week, you must submit 1 question to our course’s Blackboard discussion board relating to that week’s readings. You will receive between 0 and 10 points for each post, and the average value of these assignments (x 10) will be worth 10% of your final grade. This post should be reflective, and it might take the form of a question you would want asked if leading discussion. Feel free to display your interests here, but remember your question must extend beyond simple content. I will post a question myself during the first few weeks of our class meetings, by way of example.

3) You will complete 1 research paper on a topic of your choosing, which we will work on throughout the semester. It should be 7 to 8 pages; and it is worth 40% of your final grade. The overall paper will be broken down into 4 smaller assignments, namely paper topic (5% of your total grade), bibliography (5%), outline (10%) and your final draft (20%). The due dates for each of these tasks are indicated on your course schedule. We will go over this assignment in more detail in our first few class sessions.

4) Your participation will make up the final 10% of your grade. Participation requires both your general attendance and your contribution to class discussions. You also are expected to bring the assigned discussion materials to class as a reference. A chronic habit of forgetting these documents will affect your participation grade. I know you all have great ideas. Come ready and willing to share them!

Course Policies:

Attendance:
You are expected to attend all class meetings for their entirety, and attendance will be taken each week. This said, you are entitled to 2 free absences. These include absences due to illnesses and appointments. Do not assume that you can make up an exam if you are absent on that day without my prior consent. Any absences above these 2 “freebies” will adversely affect your grade. If you feel you have extenuating circumstances, please come and speak to me privately.

When attending class, you are expected to adhere to basic classroom courtesies. *Please be on time. Tardiness is distracting to myself and to your fellow students; and a habit of this will adversely affect your participation grade.* Also, please turn off cell phones. Laptops may be used in this class, but only for classroom purposes. I reserve the right to prohibit computers later in the semester if they become a distraction. Finally, we will take a break in the middle of our session. Please make an effort to limit your bathroom/smoking needs to this timeframe.
Due Dates:
All written assignments are due at the start of class on assigned due dates. Reading questions are due by noon on the day of our class meeting. Late assignments will be penalized 10 points each week. Should you anticipate needing an extension on an assignment, please talk to me well in advance of its due date.

Grading:
I employ the following numerical scale to grades given for both written assignments and tests: A (93-100); A- (90-92); B+ (87-89); B (83-86); B- (80-82); C+ (77-79); C (73-76); C- (70-72); D+ (67-69); D (63-66); D- (60-62); F (59 and below). You will be assigned a numerical value for your written work, and a clear “points breakdown” will be returned with your graded assignment. For those of you taking this course as a “Pass/Fail,” the last grade that will warrant a pass is a C-. For those of you not taking this course for credit, you must attend half of our sessions to gain a “successful audit.”

Blackboard:
There is a Blackboard site for this class on which you can find many things, including reading assignments, class announcements and other important course documents. You can also use the site to communicate with myself and/or other students.

Writing Guidelines:
Historical writing can be different than other forms of critical writing that you have encountered. I will post writing guidelines on Blackboard to help you in the process. Please look at this document. I also am available via email and for one-on-one meetings to answer any questions you might have.

Plagiarism:
This course operates in accordance with the Undergraduate Student Academic Integrity Policy in place at Washington University in St. Louis. Any suspect violations of this policy will be brought before your relevant committee. If you are unfamiliar with your obligations therein, consult the policy at: http://www.wustl.edu/policies/undergraduate-academic-integrity.html.

Should you be wondering what exactly constitutes plagiarism, there are several helpful websites available. Check out Indiana University (http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml) and Purdue University (https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/930/01/).

Accommodation:
If you have a learning or physical disability and seek accommodation, you must register with the Office of Disability Resources (DR) at the Center for Advanced Learning.
Course Schedule and Reading Assignments*
* Assignments should be completed BEFORE the scheduled class meeting

Week 1: Thurs 8/28  Introduction; What is History?

Part I: The Ancient World

Week 2: Thurs 9/04  Pre-History and Early Civilizations
Discussion: Establishing Order
Reading: Epic of Gilgamesh (ca. 2000 BCE)
The Code of Hammurabi (1772 BCE)
The Book of Exodus (ca. 1400 BCE)
Hymn to the Aten (ca. 1370 BCE)

Week 3: Thurs 9/11  Ancient Greece
Discussion: Classical Values
Reading: Homer, The Odyssey (ca. 750 BCE)
Hesiod, Works and Days (ca. 700 BCE)
Thucydides, “The Funeral Oration of Pericles” (ca. 400 BCE)
Xenophon, The Polity of the Spartans (375 BCE)
Aristotle, Politics (350 BCE)

Week 4: Thurs 9/18  Ancient Rome
Discussion: “Us” & the” Others”
Reading: Julius Caesar, The Gallic War (52 BCE)
Virgil, The Aeneid (ca. 20 BCE)
The War with Spartacus, selected (ca. 75)
Tacitus, Germania (ca. 100)

Fri 9/19  DUE: RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC

Part II: Christianity and Medieval Europe

Week 5: Thurs 9/25  Early Christianity, its Contenders
Discussion: Islam & the West
Reading: Artwork, selected
Muhammad Ibn Ishaq, Life of Muhammad
The Islamic Conquest of Spain (ca. 870)
Abū Bakr Muhammad, A Treatise on the Small-Pox (ca. 910)
Muhammad al-Idrisi, Tabula Rogeriana

Week 6: Thurs 10/2  The Middle Ages
In-Class Film: The Name of the Rose (75 minutes)

Week 7: Thurs 10/9  The Crusades and Religious Change
Discussion: Authority and the Church
Reading:  *The Dictates of the Pope* (1075)
Henry IV, *Letter to Gregory VII* (1076)
Peter Abelard, *Sic et Non* (1120)
Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica* (ca. 1270)

**Week 8: Thurs 10/16**  
**European Crises, Consolidations**  
*Discussion: Experiencing “Control”*  
Reading:  *The Travels of Marco Polo* (ca. 1300)  
Dante Alighieri, *Inferno* (1313)  
Geoffrey Chaucer, “The Pardoner’s Tale” (ca. 1390)  
*The Trial of Jeanne d’Arc* (1431)

**Week 9: Thurs 10/23**  
**Midterm Exam**

**Part III: Early Modern Europe**

**Week 10: Thurs 10/30**  
“Renaissance”  
*Discussion: Changing Perspectives*  
Reading:  Artwork, selected  
Leonardo da Vinci, *The Notebooks* (ca. 1500)  
Baldassare Castiglione, *The Book of the Courtier* (1528)

**Week 11: Thurs 11/6**  
Reformation  
*Discussion: Reformed Ideas?*  
Reading:  Edict of Expulsion (1492)  
Martin Luther, *On the Freedom of a Christian* (1520)  
Martin Luther, *Address to the Christian Nobility* (1520)  
John Calvin, *The Institutes of the Christian Religion* (1536)  
Ignatius of Loyola, *Spiritual Exercises* (1544)

**Week 12: Thurs 11/13**  
Exploring New Worlds  
*Discussion: Reason and Revolution*  
Reading:  Juan Ginés de Sepúlveda, *Just War Against the Indians* (1547)  
William Shakespeare, *The Tempest* (1611)  
René Descartes, *Discourse on Method* (1637)

**Week 13: Thurs 11/20**  
Absolutism and Enlightenment  
*Discussion: Political Legacies*  
Reading:  J.B. Colbert, *Instructions and A Royal Ordinance* (1667-1669)  
The Petition of Right (1628)
John Locke, *Second Treatise on Government* (1690)
Mary Astell, *Reflections upon Marriage* (1706)
Jacques-Bénigne Bossuet, *Politics...from Scripture* (1709)

**Week 14: Thurs 11/27**  THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

**Part IV: Reflection**

**Week 15: Thurs 12/4**  “Western” Civilization  
*Discussion: A Unique Space?*  
*Reading:*  Ferguson, *Civilization: The West and the Rest*

**Fri 12/5**  DUE: FINAL RESEARCH PAPER

**Week 16: Thurs 12/11**  **Final Exam**