

# World Civilizations II

Vanguard University of Southern California

## Class

Semester: Spring, 2014  
Room: Smith 101  
Time: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 11-11:50am  
Units: 3  
Department: History and Political Science

## Instructor

Kevin Walker, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Government  
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## **Course Description**

This course is a study of the events, people and ideas that have given shape to the modern world. The times we live in have forced upon us a framework in which we think, believe, and feel, by no choice of our own. But we do have one choice left: to study history. Only history can keep us from binding ourselves to one more generation that is doomed to pass away, or fixating about things that the world is quick to forget. The study of historical texts can free us from the busyness of modern life, and teach us to be still again, knowing that stillness is more akin to eternity. History can help us judge the times we live in, and know whether or not they are good for society and edifying to ourselves. It can liberate us from the assumptions of our time, and put us on the path to knowing what is good, true and beautiful. This course will pursue those goals by tracing world affairs since the seventeenth century. We will study Western civilization, both in Europe and America, and consider what the West's own development means for mankind. We will examine the rise of nation-states, the role of science and technology, and the meaning of liberal democracy for ourselves and for non-Western societies. We will then turn attention to the twentieth century, the legacy of the World Wars and the Cold War, and the state of the world today. Finally, we will examine the statesmanship of Winston Churchill, and consider whether or not such qualities of character are possible (or desirable) in the face of "world anarchy." Overall, the course will be devoted to serious questions about our own human nature, the meaning of civilization, and the conditions of freedom.

## **Required Texts**

Students are required to own the following texts (in order of reading):

- Woodruff, William. *A Concise History of the Modern World, 1500 to the Present: A Guide to World Affairs*. Fourth Edition. New York: Palgrave-MacMillan, 2002.
- Penguin Custom Editions. *The Western World: Vanguard University, World Civilizations II*. Boston: Pearson Learning Solutions, 2013 OR 2014. Available *only* in the VU Bookstore. ISBN# 1-269-05584-4 OR 1-26929310-9
- Johnson, Paul. *Churchill*. New York: Penguin Books, 2009.

## **Course Requirements and Grading**

Grades for the course will be based on the following.

- **Participation (10%).** Come to class every day with the readings done and be prepared to contribute to the discussion by answering the reading questions. Students will be randomly called on to answer them. Those who cannot answer will lose a participation point; students without the book will lose two participation points. Each unexplained absence will also result in the loss of a participation point.
- **Two Midterm Exams (40%, 20% each).** These are exams on the first and second thirds of the class.
- **Final Exam (20%).** This is an exam on the terms, basic concepts, and readings on the final third of the course, as well as a few comprehensive topics.
- **Two Essays (30%, 15%).** These are 3-4 page essay. There will be prompts.
- **Extra Credit.** There will be various extra credit opportunities throughout the semester.

## Laptop Policy

The course is focused entirely on the text and the reading questions, so laptops will not be necessary, unless: 1.) students write a 2-3 page essay explaining why the computer is necessary; 2.) sit in the front row; and 3.) agree to email the notes immediately after class. Students are prohibited from sitting in the back of the Heath lecture halls.

## Academic Integrity

Plagiarism, or the use of someone else's text without quotes and proper citation, is considered a violation of the university's standards of academic integrity and will be grounds for serious disciplinary action. A first offense will be an F on the assignment; a second offense will be an F in the class and a referral to the Dean.

## 2013-2014 Disability Services Statement

The Disability Services Office offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your professor(s), and the Disability Services Office. If you have not yet established services through the Disability Services Office, but have a temporary or permanent disability that impacts your learning, attention, mental health, vision, hearing, physical health, or other disabilities that may require accommodations, you are welcome to contact the Disability Services Office. The Disability Services Office is located in the Scott Building 244.

## Course Outline

Students are required to read the following texts for each day of class.

### Week 1 – The Origin of Modern Times

#### January 13

Introduction

#### January 15

*Concise History* – Introduction (pp. 1-7)

#### January 17

*Concise History* – Origin of Our Times: An Asian-Dominated World (pp. 8-22)

### Week 2 – Europe

#### January 20

Martin Luther King Day

#### January 21

*Concise History* – Europe: 1500-1914 (pp. 23-36)

#### January 23

*Concise History* – Europe: 1500-1914 (pp. 36-43)

### Week 3 – The West

#### January 26

*Concise History* – The Rise of the West (pp. 54-62)

#### January 28

*Concise History* – Africa: 1500-1914 (44-53)  
*Western World* – Olaudah Equiano, "Horrors of the Slave Ship"

#### January 30

*Concise History* – The Impact of Western Man (pp. 63-80)

### Week 4 – Makers of the Enlightenment

#### February 3

*Western World* – Thomas Paine, "Common Sense"; U.S. Declaration of Independence; Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen

#### February 5

*Western World* – Maximilian Robespierre, "Justification of the Use of Terror"; Edmund Burke, "Human Rights"

#### February 7

*Western World* – John Locke, "The Origins of Property" (pp. 46-57)

### Week 5 – The West and the Rest

#### February 10

*Concise History* – "White Peril" in the East (pp. 81-95)

#### February 12

*Concise History* – The Expansion of the Russian Empire (pp. 99-112)

#### February 14

*Concise History* – Expansion of the American Empires (pp. 113-122)

**Week 6 – Science and Industry**

**February 17**

Presidents Day – No Class

**February 19**

*Concise History* – Scientific and Industrial Revolutions (pp. 136-152)

**February 21**

Midterm I

**Week 7 – Makers of Modernity**

**February 24**

*Western World* – Karl Marx, “Nothing to Lose but Their Chains”

**February 26**

*Western World* – Charles Darwin, “The Struggle for Existence”; Charles Darwin, “The Human Animal”

**February 28**

*Western World* – Sigmund Freud, “Symbolism in Dreams”

**Week 8 – World War I**

**March 3**

*Concise History* – The Great War: 1914-1918 (pp. 153-163)

**March 5**

*Concise History* – The Great War: 1914-1918 (pp. 163-171)

**March 7**

*Western World* – Woodrow Wilson, “The Fourteen Points”

**Essay I Due March 7**

**Week 9 – Communism and Nationalism**

**March 10**

*Concise History* – Communism – A New World Religion (pp. 172-182)

**March 12**

*Concise History* – Asia in the Interwar Years (pp. 183-202)

**March 14**

*Concise History* – The Way of Subjects; Japan’s Twenty-One Demands

**Spring Break**

**Week 10 – World War II**

**March 24**

*Concise History* – The Second World War: 1939-1945 (pp. 203-218)

**March 26**

*Western World* – Adolph Hitler, “Hitler Encounters the Jews”; Adolph Hitler, “Hitler’s Educational Ideals”; Gottfried Feder, “Nazi Demands”

**March 28**

Midterm II

**Week 11 – A Statesman in Modern Times?**

**March 31**

*Churchill*, Chapters 1-2 (pp. 3-43)

**April 2**

*Churchill*, Chapter 3 (pp. 47-72)

**April 4**

*Churchill*, Chapter 4 (pp. 75-88)

**Week 12 – A Statesman in Modern Times? (continued)**

**April 7**

*Churchill*, Chapter 5 (pp. 91-106)

**April 9**

*Churchill*, Chapter 6 (pp. 109-140)

**April 11**

*Churchill*, Chapter 7 (pp. 143-166)

**Week 13 – The Cold War**

**April 14**

*Concise History* – The Balance of Terror (219-227)

**April 16**

*Western World* – Nikita Krushchev, “Stalin’s Crimes Revealed”

**April 18**

Good Friday – No Class

**Essay II Due April 16**

**Week 14 – After the Cold War**

**April 21**

*Concise History* – Decolonization of Africa (228-240)

**April 23**

*Concise History* – Communism and its Collapse in the USSR and Eastern Europe (241-257)

**April 25**

*Western World* – Ronald Reagan, “Evil Empire” Speech

**Week 15 – The Shape of Things Today**

**April 28**

*Concise History* – Western Europe and North America (pp. 289-295)

**April 30**

*Concise History* – The Resurgence of Asia (pp. 319-333)

**May 2**

*Concise History* – The Threat of World Anarchy (334-351)

*Western World* – Usama Bin Laden, “What Al-Qa’eda Wants from America”

**Final Exam: Wednesday, May 7, 8-10am**