



## SYLLABUS SUMMARY

# Western Civilization in World History 2

HIS 104 Section 01

**Semester** Spring 2024

**Course Length** 16 weeks

**Credit Hours** 3

**Course Location** TSB 204

**Times** Mondays, Wednesdays, 3-4:15pm

**Instructor** Kevin Walker, Ph.D.

**Office Hours** MWF 12-1; TTh 1-2

**Email** kmwalker@umary.edu

**Website** kevinmatthewwalker.com

### 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 they are good for society and edifying for 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 sixteenth 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 the world. We will then turn our attention to the twentieth century, the legacy of the World Wars and the Cold War, and the state of the world today. Overall, the course will be devoted to serious questions about our own human nature, the meaning of civilization, and the conditions of freedom.

### Texts

The following text is required:

Rogers, Perry. *Aspects of Western Civilization: Problems and Sources in History*, Volume 2. Seventh Edition. Pearson, 2010.

### Expectations

- **Participation and Reading Questions (5%).** Come to class every day and be ready to contribute to the conversation. Following the Socratic Method, be prepared to respond to the reading questions which will be passed out each week.
- **Four Reflection Essays (20% -- 5% each).** These are short one-page reflections on the readings from class. There will be prompts.
- **Reading Quizzes (15%).** These are short multiple choice Canvas quizzes that will be given throughout the semester.
- **Three Exams (60% -- 20% each).** These are exams on each of the three major parts of the class. There will be study guides.

Late assignments will receive no higher than a B+ unless other arrangements are made by contacting the professor with a specific explanation.

## **Academic Honesty**

Students are expected to read the [University of Mary's Academic Honor Code and Honor System](#) and abide by all the standards of conduct and requirements contained therein. When a student is in doubt about whether or not an action might constitute an Academic Honor Code violation, s/he should request clarification from the instructor *before* the action in question is undertaken. The Academic Honor Code is available for review on [my.umary.edu](http://my.umary.edu) under the General University Policies link. To clarify: *Cheating* is copying one's own notes (e.g., a cheat-sheet) or someone else's exam. *Plagiarism* is copying text you did not write without proper citation as if it was your own, whether it is from online or from another essay.

## **Artificial Intelligence**

The whole purpose of AI software like ChatGPT is to generate fake text. There is therefore absolutely no reason for using AI software for this course. Use of these tools is strictly prohibited, and all assignments will be carefully screened by TurnItIn.com and ZeroGPT.com. Students will be notified about all incidents and offered a chance to explain, but their submission will be reported to the Vice President of Student Affairs.

## **Technology**

For all its uses, certain attitudes toward technology threaten to overwhelm everything distinctly human in us and replace our best qualities with machine functions. This class is focused on preserving humanity. Everything you need to know will be in the assigned texts, the classroom discussions, and your own reasoning and personal insights, meaning there is no need for laptops in class unless you have an accommodation.

## **Reasonable Accommodations**

The University of Mary, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and in the spirit of our mission, offers support for disabled students who provide required documentation. Students with disabilities who need accommodations should apply to the [Office of Student Accessibility Services](#). For further information, contact Dr. Lynn Dodge, coordinator of Student Accessibility Services, in the Student Success Center (lower level of Welder Library) at (701) 355-8264 or [ljdodge@umary.edu](mailto:ljdodge@umary.edu).

## **Excused Absence Policy**

The University has a policy on excused absences related to sponsored/sanctioned activities and events. The policy is available for review online. Students participating in such activities and events are expected to review this policy and comply with it. As long as appropriate prior notification is given according to this policy, students and faculty reach a mutual agreement concerning make-up work, and students complete the work in question, faculty shall not penalize a student for missing a class or exam when they were granted an excused absence from the university. Any questions concerning the policy may be referred to the course instructor who may refer the question to the athletic director, student activities director, or academic affairs for response.

## **Channel for Communication Relating to this Course**

Aside from the instructor, students may report or appeal decisions to: Dr. Mark Springer, Department Chair ([mmspringer@umary.edu](mailto:mmspringer@umary.edu)), and the Dean of SOAS Dr. Diane Fladland ([dflade@umary.edu](mailto:dflade@umary.edu))

## Class Schedule

Do the assigned readings for that particular day. Be sure to read *both* Perry's background explanation as well as the primary sources.

### I. Origins of Modernity

#### Week 1 – The Renaissance

#### January 10

Chapter 1 – The Age of Renaissance and Reformation (pp. 1-8)

#### Week 2 – The Reformation

#### January 15

Chapter 1 – The Age of Renaissance and Reformation (pp. 9-16)

#### January 17

Community Learning Day

#### Week 3 – Protestantism and the State

#### January 22

Chapter 1 – The Age of Renaissance and Reformation (pp. 16-20)

#### January 24

Chapter 2 – “I am the State”: The Development of Absolutism in England and France

#### Week 4 – Enlightenment

#### January 29

Chapter 3 – “Dare to Know!": The Scientific Revolution

#### January 31

Chapter 4 – The Enlightenment and the Revolution of the Mind

### II. Revolutions

#### Week 5 – Great Revolutions

#### February 5

Chapter 5 – “Liberty, Fraternity, Equality!": The French Revolution (pp. 91-105)

#### February 7

Chapter 5 – “Liberty, Fraternity, Equality!": The French Revolution (pp. 105-118)

#### Week 6 – Napoleonic Age

#### February 12

Chapter 6 – Paths of Glory: Napoleon and the Romantic Movement

#### February 14

Exam on Weeks 1-5

**Exam I – February 14**

#### Week 7 – Industry

#### February 19

President's Day

#### February 21

Chapter 7 – “The World to Win”: The Industrial Revolution

**Week 8 – Nations and Empires**

**February 26**

Chapter 8 – Fatherland: The Power of Nationalism

**February 28**

Chapter 9 – “Mark Them with Your Dead!”: The Scramble for Global Empire

**III. The Twentieth Century**

**Week 9 – The Great War**

**March 4**

Chapter 10 – Fin de Siecle: The Birth of the Modern Era; Chapter 11 – The Great War (pp. 235-246)

**March 6**

Chapter 11 – The Great War (pp. 246-261)

**Week 10 – Communism**

**March 11**

Chapter 12 – The Russian Revolution (pp. 262-273)

**March 13**

Chapter 12 – The Russian Revolution (pp. 273-289)

**Week 11 – Interwar Years**

**March 18**

Chapter 13 – Interwar Years (pp. 290-308)

**March 20**

Exam on Weeks 6-10

**Exam II – March 20**

**Week 12 – World War II**

**March 25**

Chapter 13 – Interwar Years (pp. 309-320)

**March 27**

Chapter 14 – “The Abyss Also Looks into You”: War and Holocaust (pp. 321-350)

**Week 13 – World War II (continued)**

**April 1**

Easter Break

**April 3**

Chapter 14 – “The Abyss Also Looks into You”: War and Holocaust (pp. 351-368)

**Week 14 – The Cold War**

**April 8**

Chapter 15 – The Cold War (pp. 369-390)

**April 10**

Chapter 15 – The Cold War (pp. 391-406)

**Week 15 – The World Today**

**April 15**

Chapter 16 – The Post-Cold War World (pp. 404-422)

**April 17**

Chapter 16 – The Post-Cold War World (422-437)

**Exam III – Monday, April 22, 3:15-5:15**