

Western Traditions before 1500

History 1300 (TTh 9:30-10:45)
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“The value of a college education is not the learning of many facts but the training of the mind to think.”

Albert Einstein

TEXTS

Goodheart, Syllabus and Documents; Goodheart, *The Western World; Iliad; Trojan Women; Lysistrata; Trial and Death of Socrates; Julius Caesar; Aeneid; Meditations; Canterbury Tales; & The Prince*. (The King James translation of the *Book of Genesis* and the *Gospel of Matthew* are at www.bartleby.com.)

GRADING

Examination I	1/3
Examination II	1/3
Final Examination	1/3

Class attendance and participation are expected. Late essays (one grade demerit per day late) and the failure to take the exams (a grade of zero) on time will be penalized unless prior arrangements are made.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. An Overview of the Western Experience
Goodheart, "The Meta- Histories of Spengler & Toynbee"
2. From Hominids to the Urban Revolution, 3,500,000-3,000 B.C.
Human Ancestors Adapt to Shifts

II. ANCIENT NEAR EAST, 3000-500 B.C.

3. Civilizations of Mesopotamia & Egypt
Herodotus, "The Pyramids of Egypt" & "The Egyptians," 1,4
Epic of Gilgamesh, Code of Hammurabi, Book of the Dead, Osymandias
4. The Ethical Monotheism of the Jews, 1900-539 B.C.
The Book of Genesis: 1-4 (origins); 6-11 (Noah); 17, 19, 22 (Abraham), 37, 41-5, 47, 50 (Joseph)

III. ANCIENT GREECE, 2000-31 B.C.

5. Minoan Grandeur, 2000-1400 B.C.; Mycenaean Era, 1600-1200 B.C; and Dark Age, 1100-750 B.C.

Homer, *Iliad*: chapters I, XIX, XXII

6. Archaic Period (750-500 B.C.) & Persian War (490-479 B.C.)

Plutarch, "Growing Up Spartan" & "Solon and Democracy," 7, 11
Herodotus, "Thermopylae," 14; Persian Invasion

7. Classical Era, 500-323 B.C.: Tragedy

Aristotle, "The Nature of Tragedy," 18
Euripides, *Trojan Women*

8. Classical Era: Athenian Democracy & Comedy

Aristotle, "The Birth of Athenian Democracy," 21
Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*
Medea Bemoans the Condition of Women; Spartan Women

9. Classical Era: Peloponnesian War (431-404 B.C) & Socratic-Platonic Philosophy

Thucydides, "Pericles' Funeral Oration," 27
Plato, "The Simile of the Cave," 35
Plato, *Trial and Death of Socrates*: "Apology," "Phaedo" (114-5)

10. Alexander the Great (356-323 B.C.), Hellenistic Age (323-31 B.C.), & Aristotelian Philosophy

Aristotle, "The Golden Mean" & "The Best Political Constitution," 44, 49
Desmothenes on Philip; Plutarch on Archimedes; Sculpture

11. Exam I

IV. ANCIENT ROME, 753 B.C.-476 A.D.

12. Rise of the Roman Republic, 753-133 B.C.

Livy, "Romulus and Remus" & "Hannibal Crosses the Alps," 54, 70
Polybius, "A Greek Analyzes the Roman Constitution" & "The
Greek Phalanx vs. the Roman Legion," 57, 64
Plutarch, "A Tough Slave Master," 68
A Woman's Uprising in Republican Rome; *Julius Caesar*, 26-7, 61
Plutarch Describes a Roman Triumph

13. Decline of the Republic: Gracchan Reforms to the First Triumvir, 133-53 B.C.

Lucretius, "Atomic Theory in Antiquity," 76
Plutarch, "Spartacus Leads a Slave Revolt," 82
Civil Wars of the Late Roman Republic

14. Collapse of the Republic: Julius Caesar to the Battle of Actium, 52-31 B.C.
Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar* (1599): video - Act III
Plutarch, "Cleopatra's Suicide," 88
15. Augustan Principate, 27 B.C.-14 A.D.
Cassius Dio, "The Powers of the Roman Emperor," 90
Virgil, *The Aeneid*: I, II, IV, VI
16. The Pax Romana & Rise of Christianity, 27 B.C.-180 A.D.
Tacitus, "Nero and the Burning of Rome" & "The Jews," 94, 98
Gospel According to Matthew, 1-8, 22-28; and Bar-Kochba Rebellion; Rulers; & Vesuvius
17. Stoicism
Seneca, "Should a Philosopher withdraw from the World?" 103
Gladiator (video): Aurelius Wages War
Aurelius, *Meditations*, 1, 2, 4, 12
18. Imperial Overstretch & Triumph of Christianity (180-476 A.D.)
Ammienus Marcellinus, "The Battle of Adrianople," 107
St. Augustine, "St. Augustine Describes His Conversion," 111
Nicene Creed (325 A.D.)

V. EARLY MIDDLES AGES, 476-1000 A.D.

19. Early Medieval Culture (Latin West & Byzantium), 476-750 A.D.
Gregory of Tours, "The Life of Clovis," 114
Anonymous [Beowulf], "Anglo-Saxon Heroism," 120
Justinian, "Sexual Harassment in Ancient Rome," 129
Byzantium
20. Rise of Islam, Holy Roman Empire & Feudalism, 570-1000 A.D.
The Koran: "The Believer's Duties," 131
Einhard, "The Emperor Charlemagne," 136
Life of Charlemagne

21. Exam II

VI. HIGH MIDDLES AGES, 1000-1350 A.D.

22. Economic Revival & The Roman Catholic Church
Boniface VIII, "The Superiority of Spiritual Authority," 144
Anonymous, "The Death of Roland," 147
Francis of Assisi, "In Praise of God's Creation," 154
Medieval Trade Routes, Early Medieval Merchant, Marx & Engels, Pope Urban II

23. The Nation-State & Cultural Resurgence
Abelard, "Forbidden Love and Its Punishment," 156
Aquinas, "Proofs of God's Existence," 167
Dante Alighieri, "Dante Begins His Journey," 176
Magna Carta (1215), Philip II Augustus

VII. EUROPE IN TRANSITION, 1350-1513

24. The Long 14th-Century: A Time of Troubles
Shakespeare, Henry V (video): Battle of Agincourt (1415)
Boccaccio, "The Black Death," 182
Joan of Arc Refuses to Recant
25. Mariolatry, Misogyny, and Medieval Women
Christine de Pizan, "In Defense of Women," 191
Chaucer, Canterbury Tales (1380-1395), "Wife of Bath," 1-2, 15-16, 103-125
Castiglione, "What Women Want," 204
Gothic Cathedral
26. Renaissance Humanism and Technological Innovation
Castiglione, "The Ideal Courtier and Ideal Court," 207
Mirandola, "The Dignity of Man," 213
Erasmus, "The Unity of Classical and Christian Learning," 218
27. Italian Civic Chaos & Raison D'etat
Machiavelli, The Prince (1513): chapters V, VI, XVII, XVIII, XXV, XXVI

VIII. THE ATLANTIC WORLD

28. Western Imperialism, Genocide, & Atlantic Slave Trade
Columbus, "Letter on Discovery of the New World," 223
Spain Banished the Jews (1492); Marx & Engels

Final Exam History 1300 – TBA

ESSAYS AND EXAMS

ESSAYS must be typed, double-spaced, and about 1,000 words for a full four pages. Develop an explicit thesis, a coherent argument with supporting evidence (including brief quotations with page references), and a conclusion that makes clear the significance of the thesis. Be sure to set the essay in historical context (time, place, and circumstances). Cite all sources; include page references for quotations; and avoid plagiarism. Carefully proofread to avoid errors in spelling, grammar and syntax. Essays with abundant errors in the correct use of language and late essays will be penalized. Please see me with questions.

The EXAMS will consist of one take-home essay (the same format as above) that is due at the time of the test. The essay is 50 per cent of the exam, and objective questions are the remainder.

TAKE HOME ESSAY QUESTIONS

Exam I: Men and Women in Ancient Greece

Discuss Greek gender roles in Homer's *Iliad*, Euripides' *Trojan Women*, and Aristophanes' *Lysistrata*.

Exam II: The Romans on Duty

What characterizes the Roman sense of duty in regard to Brutus in Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, Aeneas in Virgil's *Aeneid*, and Aurelius in his *Meditations*?

Final Exam: Gender Roles in Late Medieval Europe

Create a conversation between Abelard, "Forbidden Love and Its Punishment," Christine de Pizan, "In Defense of Women," Alison (the wife of Bath) in Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, Machiavelli in *The Prince*, and Baldesar Castiglione, "What Women Want." What does the conversation tell us about gender roles in late medieval Europe? (In your essay, make use of appropriate documents from class #25 on "Mariolatry, Misogyny and Medieval Women.")