History 1300: Roots of the Western Experience (Autumn, 2016)

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Office Hours: Mondays, 2:30-4:00pm, & by appointment

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Office Hours: Wednesdays, 12:30-2:00pm, & by appointment

Objectives: This course constitutes an overview of European culture from its origins to the early sixteenth century. In addition, it provides an introduction to the study of history and to the reading of primary documents.

Required Readings
2) Selected Readings: purchase it at the UConn Bookstore. Abbreviated below as “SR.”

Student Responsibilities
1) Class attendance: Please note that you are responsible for all material presented in lecture as well as for obtaining any handouts (e.g., outlines) distributed there. Regular attendance is strongly recommended. If you miss a class or classes, it is not the instructors’ job to brief you on what took place or to provide you with previous handouts.

2) Evaluation: The course grade will be based upon the following: (a) effective preparation for and participation in discussion sections (20%); and (b) three midterm examinations (15% each); and (c) a final examination (35%). Students will be held accountable for all reading assignments and all material covered in class meetings. For best comprehension, do the reading before the class for which it is assigned. Students must take the final exam in its assigned time slot.

*** There will be no grading curve or “extra credit.” Plan accordingly to meet your obligations for the course.

3) Academic Misconduct: See http://www.community.uconn.edu/student_code.html, Appendix “A.”

4) Policy on Cellphones: The use of cell phones, including for text messaging, is prohibited in this class. Please turn cell phones completely off, including vibration
setting, and put them away. It is disturbing to the entire class — and disrespectful to the instructor — when students get up during class to receive phone calls or when they are text-messaging during lecture. If you have a particular emergency, please inform the instructor before class that you are expecting a call, set the phone to “vibrate,” and quietly leave the room before responding to the call.

5) **Laptop Use:** Strictly prohibited. Recent research has shown that even for those students who resist the temptation to multitask when taking notes, the use of laptops “results in shallower processing.” See Pam A. Mueller and Daniel M. Oppenheimer, “The Pen is Mightier than the Keyboard: Advantages of Longhand Over Laptop Note Taking,” *Psychological Science* 25:6 (June 2014): 1159-1168. Students with a documented medical need for using a laptop in class may do so in the front row.

6) **Recording Devices:** Students who either need or wish to record the lectures are asked to submit a request in writing to the instructor via email, stating their reasons for doing so. This applies only to audio recording. Video recording will not be permitted under any circumstances.

7) **Responses to E-mails:** It is a privilege rather than a right to receive rapid responses to queries sent via email. Emails sent Wednesday evening through Sunday may not be answered until Monday.

8) **Trigger Warnings:** In keeping with AAUP policy, we do not issue trigger warnings in this class. For further details see [https://www(aaup.org/report(trigger-warnings)](https://www.aaup.org/report/trigger-warnings). See also the report of the University of Chicago’s Committee on Freedom of Expression: [https://provost.uchicago.edu/sites/default/files/documents/reports/FOECommitteeReport.pdf](https://provost.uchicago.edu/sites/default/files/documents/reports/FOECommitteeReport.pdf)

### Date | Subject | Readings
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Aug. 29 (M) | Early Civilization in the Fertile Crescent | Levack, 1-28
Aug. 31 (W) | Ancient Egypt | Levack, 29-55
*Discussion:* | Herodotus on Cultural Difference | SR I
Sep. 5 (M) | Class will not meet. (Labor Day) |
Sep.  7 (W)  The Hebrews and Judaism  Levack, 55–77

Discussion:  The Hebrew Scriptures, Genesis  SR II & III

Sep. 12 (M)  The Origins of Democracy in Athens  Levack, 78–86

Sep. 14 (W)  The Greco-Persian Wars  Levack, 87–93

Discussion:  preparation for first exam

Sep. 19 (M)  First Midterm Examination

Sep. 21 (W)  Golden-Age Athens  Levack, 93–110

Discussion:  Thucydides on Cultural Decline  SR IV

Sep. 26 (M)  The Peloponnesian War  -----  

Sep. 28 (W)  Presocratics, Sophists, & Plato  -----  

Discussion:  Plato’s Republic  SR V

Oct.  3 (M)  Aristotle  -----  

Oct.  5 (W)  The Hellenistic World  Levack, 111–37

Discussion:  Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics  SR VI

Oct. 10 (M)  The Roman Republic  Levack, 138–68

Oct. 12 (W)  Second Midterm Examination

Discussion:  Cicero & Seneca on the Good Life  SR VII

Oct. 17 (M)  Augustus & Early Roman Empire  Levack, 169–200; SR VIII (Suetonius)

Oct. 19 (W)  The Rise of Christianity  -----
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Weekday</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 24</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Why did Rome fall? (if it fell)</td>
<td>Levack, 201–31</td>
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<td>Oct. 26</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Byzantines &amp; Muslims</td>
<td>Levack, 232–61</td>
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<td>Oct. 31</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Rise &amp; Fall of the Carolingians</td>
<td>Levack, 262-95</td>
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<td>Nov. 2</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>The High Middle Ages</td>
<td>Levack, 296–327; SR XI (Crusades)</td>
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<td>Nov. 7</td>
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<td><strong>Third Midterm Examination</strong></td>
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<td>Nov. 9</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Crises of the Fourteenth Century</td>
<td>Levack, 328–51</td>
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<td>Nov. 14</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>The Italian Renaissance I</td>
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<td>Nov. 16</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>The Italian Renaissance II</td>
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<td>Nov. 28</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>The Crisis of Italy and the Ascendancy of the North</td>
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<td>Nov. 30</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Machiavelli on Politics &amp; History</td>
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<td>Nov. 28</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Historical Perspectives on Decline: Valla and Giovio</td>
<td>SR XV-XVI</td>
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Dec. 5 (M)  Humanism & Reformation  SR XVII
Dec. 7 (W)  Christendom and Europe  -----  
Discussion: Erasmus; Review for exam  SR XVIII  

Date & Time TBA:  Final Examination  

If you cannot take the final exam as scheduled, you must visit the Dean of Students Office, which will provide further instructions. Vacations, previously purchased tickets or reservations, weddings (unless part of the wedding party), and other large or small scale social events, are not viable excuses for missing a final exam. Contact the Dean of Students’ office with any questions.