

INTERPRETING THE EUROPEAN PAST

crn. 31694

History 102H

MW, 10:45am-12:20pm, BAL 1003

Instructor: M. Carhart (mcarhart@odu.edu)

<http://www.odu.edu/~mcarhart>

History dept. phone: 757/683-3949

Instructor's office hours: by appointment
@ BAL 8032

Course description: We are Western Civilization. We are not merely influenced or shaped by that civilization. We are products of it. Our nation's tradition of civil rights, our ideas of virtue, the good life, affluence, music, and fashion are the culmination of events and ideas that have been shaped over three thousand years. It is important to understand who we are, what we assume about ourselves and others, and why we think what we think. This course attempts to sort out these aspects of our individual and collective identity.

From Babylon to Baghdad this course surveys the values and identities of European civilization. Who did these peoples think they were? Who did they think they were not? What was the relationship between humanity, God (or the gods), and Nature? What were the ideals of male and female virtue? We will explore these ideas and more through religion and philosophy, literature and art from the different ages and societies spanning three millennia.

Requirements

1. Short papers 30%
 - Thurs. May 19 (Euripides, *Medea*, 2pp.)
 - Mon. June 20 (Christa Wolf, *Medea*, 2pp.)
2. Quizzes 20%
3. Final Exam 40%
4. showing up 10%

Procedure: Lecture and discussion. Questions are encouraged. Attendance is your responsibility. Please plan to attend all lecture and discussion sessions. Skipping classes will ruin your ability to do well in this course. Papers, quizzes, and other obligations may not be made up after the fact.

Bring the relevant readings to all class meetings.

Books:

Lynn Hunt, et al., *The Making of the West*
Euripides, *Medea*
Christa Wolf, *Medea*
+ other readings posted to the course website

COURSE SCHEDULE

Wk. 1	May 16	Jason & Medea	Hunt, 33-126
	May 17	Greek Dark Ages	Sources #1.5, 2.1, 4.3
	May 18	Freedom and Despotism	Euripides, <i>Medea</i>
	May 19	Classical & Hellenistic Greece	Due: <i>Medea</i> (Euripides) paper (Thurs.)
Wk. 2	May 23	Dido and Aeneas	Hunt, 129-256, 275-93, 309-37
	May 24	Republicanism	Sources, #1.2, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 7.3
	May 25	Monotheism	Livy, <i>Rape of Lucretia</i>
	May 26	Fall of Rome, Rise of Christianity	Livy, <i>Cincinnatus</i>
Wk. 3	May 30	Memorial Day	Hunt, 337-448
	May 31	Charlemagne	Sources #7.4, 8.1, 8.2, 9.2, 10.1, 11.1
	June 1	Monarchy	
	June 2	Tumultuous Fourteenth Century	

Wk. 4	June 6	Art	Hunt, 448-63, 473-565
	June 7	Renaissance	Sources #11.3, 10.3, 9.5, 11.4, 14.4
	June 8	Reformation	(Luther); 14.5 (Calvin); 14.6 (Loyola)
	June 9	Huguenot resistance	<i>Resistance Theory</i> anthology
Wk. 5	June 13	Absolute Monarchy	Hunt, 651-795
	June 14	Science of Society	+ Hunt (music), 377-79, 419-24, 459-60,
	June 15	Music	513-17, 559-68, 586-89, 622-23, 627-28,
	June 16	Two Enlightenments	789-92, 836-38, 898, 1008
			Sources #15.1 (<i>Edict of Nantes</i>),
			16.1 (Hobbes),
			16.2 (Locke),
			18.5 (Frederick II),
			19.1 (Sieyès, <i>3rd Estate</i>),
			19.3 (<i>Rights of Man & Citizen</i>),
			24.4 (Pankhurst),
			25.3 (Lenin to Rozhkov),
			26.3 (La Pasionaria),
			27.3 (Ho, <i>Vietnamese Decl. of Indep.</i>)
Wk. 6	June 20	Age of Revolutions	Due: <i>Medea</i> (Wolf) paper (Mon.)
	June 21	Irrational Forces	Hunt, 797-1068
	June 22	Myth of the Nation-State	
	June 23	Final Exam	Th. 10:45am – 12:20pm

Grades and other hassles

Short papers - On the two supplemental books, 15% each. Specifications forthcoming under Study Guides.

Midterm Exam - In-class. One long essay, plus map and chronology. Covers Antiquity and the Middle Ages. A study guide will be provided.

Final Exam - In-class. Comprehensive. Details coming in April.

Discussions - Quizzes and other interrogative devices will be used to encourage you to keep up with the reading. Participation in the weekly discussions is crucial to success in this course.

Special Needs: Any student who has special needs, including but not limited to documented disabilities, is encouraged to identify himself or herself to the instructor so that those needs can be accommodated. If appropriate, such students might wish to contact Disabilities Services, which can provide assistance beyond this immediate course.

Fair Play: Plagiarism - failing to give credit for words or ideas that are not your own - is considered a crime in the university. Plagiarism constitutes theft of intellectual property. Even worse is the dishonesty of submitting someone else's work as your own.

Plagiarism is easier to spot than one usually expects. To those of us who routinely read scholarly writing, phrases and ideas that do not sound like the ones we expect from students practically leap off the page. Recent advances in Internet search capabilities make it as easy for faculty to locate the plagiarized source as it is for students.

The consequences of being caught cheating are severe: immediate failure of the course. Appeals can be filed through the Office of Student Conduct & Academic Integrity. See pp. 14-18 of the Old Dominion University Catalog for 2010-2011 (under "Disciplinary Policies and Procedures") for further information.