SYLLABUS

**MAY CHANGE AT ANY TIME**
History 102, Western Civilization II, CRN 41408
Tuesday, Thursday 12:00-13:50 PM

IMPORTANT INFORMATION. ACT NOW.

In order to access the web site that is the cornerstone of this course, you need an ODIN account and you need to be registered for the course. TODAY, if you do not have an ODIN account, go to the basement of Smith Hall and register for your ODIN account.

To get to our website, go to www.pdx.edu and click on “Current Student.” Then click on “Blackboard.” At Blackboard you will log in with your ODIN account, and if you are registered for the course, you will see History 102. Click on that to reach our course. If you registered late, I can give you a temporary account with which you can log in. But you will need to use your name as soon as possible so that you get credit for the work you do on Blackboard.

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Office hours for both after class or by appointment. I generally hold office hours in the Student Union. See me before or after class if you wish to talk. Penny Werner will be in Cramer 490.

TEXTS:
1) Selected documents from the website: http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/, as well as other sources.
2) Required text: Coffin, Judith and Robert Stacey, Western Civilizations, Vol. 2, Second Brief Edition, W.W. Norton, 2009, ISBN 978-0-393-93265-2. I will follow the organization of this text as I prepare my class lectures. You may also use other texts, but you must be sure that you understand the topics and themes raised in this text and in the lectures.
What is Western Civilization? The “West” today is usually seen as those areas of the world that have a close cultural relationship to the earlier cultures of Europe and the Near East. “Civilization” usually refers to cultures that developed in cities. Where there are no cities, almost all people engage in food production (hunting and gathering or gardening) rather than in other endeavors. Where there are cities, we find people engaged in administration, art, technological invention, science, and warfare (among many other activities). A civilization, then, comprises a set of activities, worldviews, values, relationships, and, in general, ways of understanding and acting in the natural and human worlds. In short, a civilization is an urban oriented culture. Western Civilization is the culture of the West – where West is defined more culturally than geographically.

This course begins in 1300 AD and ends in 1800 AD. It is part of a three course series which begins in the fall around 3000 BC as civilization is first invented and ends in the spring around 2000 AD. The three parts of this series are independent. It is not necessary to take Western Civilizations I in order to understand Western Civilizations II. In Western Civilizations II we will begin with the end of the medieval world and end with the beginnings of the Industrial Revolution. We thus will study the emergence of the modern world. We will learn about the growth of European nation states and the expansion of these states through voyages of discovery into the Americas, Asia, and Africa. We will see the world view change through the Renaissance, Reformation, and Scientific Revolutions. We will see the emergence of a new set of political and social values and their birth in political and industrial revolutions. We will also look at historical materials to see just how we go about creating a narrative of the acts and ideas of people in far-off times. You will have a chance to create your own historical narrative as we go through the process of historical research and writing.

REQUIRED ACTIVITIES:

PARTICIPATION: You have to be present to participate. In addition we will engage in several activities as a class, and your participation will be noted. Be sure that you have carefully done the reading and that you have prepared questions and themes for discussion.

RESPONSE PAPERS (due almost every Thursday). The assignment for the week is to read the assigned document from the website http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/. This is a marvelous resource put together by Prof. Paul Halsall at Fordham. Prof. Halsall has collected many of
the historical documents that are in the public domain and available on-line, and he has copied these to his website. You are then to write 250-500 words in which you discuss the documents you read and relate them to the larger historical context in which they were written. Think of question the documents raise in your mind. What do these documents mean to you? This response should be posted to the discussion section of the Blackboard web site by Thursday at 10 AM. Print out your response and bring it to class so that you can use it during Thursday’s discussion. This response paper cannot be turned in late. You will be assessed as adequate if you do the assignment and your writing relates to the documents and the course. This is YOUR response, so don’t try to guess what the professor wants. All he wants is for you to creatively consider these documents. To get “more than adequate” you should respond to the responses of others of your classmates. See below for information on how these grades will be used in determining the final grade.

EXAMINATIONS: Midterm (Feb. 4) and Final (March 18 – NOTE CHANGED TIME) Both 25%

PAPER DEVELOPMENT:

1) Choose a century (between the fourteenth and eighteenth) and topic that interests you. Go to the Halsall site and find a fairly long selection that deals with that topic. Write a paragraph in which you explain which topic and selection you have chosen and what kinds of questions you have after reading the selection. DUE: JANUARY 19 5%

2) Then, develop a bibliography to help you answer your question(s) using the resources of the PSU library and using the subscription data bases to find scholarly articles (explained in class). Look for articles and books that might suggest answers to your question(s). You should have at least one book and ten scholarly articles in your bibliography. Turn in this bibliography using APA style. Then choose one of the scholarly articles and find the one or two sentences that state the thesis of the article. Copy the first two and last page of the article (and, if the thesis is not stated on these pages, copy the page(s) on which the thesis is cited. Turn in a report in which you quote the thesis of the article and summarize the evidence for the thesis in one or two paragraphs (attach the copied pages). DUE: JANUARY 26 15%

3) Now state a thesis that YOU could develop based on your work thus far and outline what evidence you might use to support your thesis. Be sure to use material from the Halsall selection you read as well as secondary sources. The
best theses will relate the selection to other material studied in the course.  
DUE: FEBRUARY 25  5%

4) Now write a 4-7 page paper in which you a) write an introduction at the end of which you state your thesis; b) give evidence in support of your thesis based on the Halsall selection, other selections, scholarly articles and books, material developed in class, and logic; c) write a conclusion in which you summarize your paper and suggest how this paper might be important. Be sure, as you write the body of the paper, to imagine the points raised by people who do not agree with your thesis and to answer them. DUE: MARCH 4.  25%  NOTE: If you turn in the paper on March 2, we will return it in time for you to rewrite it in light of the suggestions on it. The grade will be that of the rewritten paper.

NOTE: All writing must be your own. The ideas and words of others must be properly cited (see the Writing Center handouts). Late assignments will be penalized.

GRADING: Your basic grade will be determined by an average of the two examinations and the set of assignments described above under “Paper Development.” This grade will be reduced if your participation (attendance is a prerequisite for an adequate participation assessment) and “Response Papers” are less than adequate, and the basic grade will be enhanced if participation and response papers exceed adequacy (as described above). To get an adequate evaluation on the response papers, you must have four papers turned in (that is, I will drop one paper) at an adequate level. This will maintain the grade determined by averaging the examinations and paper assignments. Fewer than four papers or an inadequate set of responses will lower your grade. Some papers assessed as more than adequate will raise the grade.

TOPICS BY WEEK:

On Tuesday I will usually lecture on the topics covered and will briefly discuss some of the documents. On Thursday I will usually lecture for part of the period, and we will discuss the evidentiary documents in the latter part of the class. The themes for the week refer to titles of chapters in the recommended text: The West.

Week 1 Jan 5, 7, Later Middle Ages: Documents found at: http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook1w.html#Calamitous%20Century.  
Specific documents to be treated in discussion found in “Course Content.”
Week 2 Jan 12, 14, Commerce, Conquest and Colonization: Documents found at: http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbooks/book1z.html. Specific documents to be responded to and treated in discussion found in “Course Content.” RESPONSE PAPER DUE AT 10 AM ON THURSDAY. POST IT ON BLACKBOARD.

Week 3 Jan 19, 21, The Civilization of the Renaissance: Documents found at: http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbooks/book1x.html. Specific documents to be responded to and treated in discussion found in “Course Content.” PARAGRAPH ON TOPIC AND SELECTION DUE ON JAN 19 RESPONSE PAPER DUE AT 10 AM ON THURSDAY. POST IT ON BLACKBOARD.

Week 4 Jan 26, 28, Reformations of Religion: Documents found at: http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook02.html. Specific documents to be responded to and treated in discussion found in “Course Content.” BIBLIOGRAPHY, SCHOLARLY ARTICLE AND THESIS ASSIGNMENT DUE JAN 26. RESPONSE PAPER DUE AT 10 AM ON THURSDAY. POST IT ON BLACKBOARD.

Week 5 Feb 2, 4, Religious Wars and State Building. MIDTERM ON THURSDAY

Week 6 Feb 9, 11, Absolutism and Empire, Documents found at http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook05.html. Specific documents to be responded to and treated in discussion found in “Course Content.”

Week 7 Feb 16, 18, Scientific Revolution: Documents found at: http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook02.html This week we will concentrate on Copernicus, Galileo, and philosophies of science. RESPONSE PAPER ASSIGNMENT: READ TWO OF THE ARTICLES THAT YOU WILL USE IN WRITING YOUR PAPER AND SUMMARIZE THEIR FINDINGS. POST ON BLACKBOARD BY THURSDAY 10 AM.
Week 8 Feb 23, 25, Scientific Revolution: Documents found at: http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook02.html. This week we will concentrate on Classical physics, the new medicine, and scientific institutions. No Response paper. THESIS AND OUTLINE DUE IN HARD COPY ON THURSDAY.


Week 10 Mar 9, 11, Revolutions: http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook14.html. Specific documents to be responded to and treated in discussion found in “Course Content.” I would like you to concentrate on the industrial revolution. RESPONSE PAPER DUE AT 10 AM ON THURSDAY. POST IT ON BLACKBOARD.

EXAMINATION: THURSDAY MARCH 18, 10:15-12:05 **NOTE CHANGED TIME**