

WESTERN CIVILIZATION I

Western Civilization I: The Age of Ancient Empires

N.B. The following course was taught in 2014.

At the heart of 'Western' traditions lie concepts of order, government, justice, freedom, and faith that were forged in the great empires of the Ancient Near East. This course explores the use of **I**deology, **E**conomics, **M**ilitary conquest, and **P**olitics in ancient Near Eastern empires and their Mediterranean neighbors, from about 750 BCE to 600 CE. Tracing these four factors (**I.E.M.P.**) reveals common threads and innovative differences in how these empires exercised power, justified expansion, and imitated their predecessors' attempts to control the known world. Even as empires grew, people on the margins resisted. These rebels created some of the most enduringly influential ideas of human history, including Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. This course contextualizes the history and origins of these beliefs within the Near Eastern empires from which they emerged.

This course carefully studies ancient texts, inscriptions, art, and archaeology to reveal the enduring ideas, value systems, and social institutions that were created by the peoples of the ancient Near East and Mediterranean. These ancient sources were produced in contexts of turbulent power struggles as empires rose and fell. They remain tangled in imperialist today, having become the intellectual foundations upon which modern 'Western' nations constructed justifications for their own imperial ambitions in the early twentieth century. This course asks students to consider how power, in both past and present, relates to enduring ideas. Can modern historians separate truth from power? Why do empires, in both the past and the present, care so much about history? And, who owns the past?

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will teach you how to:

- explain the relationship between ancient imperialism and the origins of key concepts of western civilization such as democracy and freedom
- read primary source texts using the critical methods of ancient historians
- explain the key events, figures, and social processes of the ancient world, and their relationships to each other and to 'Western Civilization'
- evaluate, understand, and compare scholarly historical arguments

REQUIRED BOOKS

- 1) E. Cline & M. Graham, *Ancient Empires: From Mesopotamia to the Rise of Islam* (Cambridge University Press: 2011).
- 2) Plato, *Gorgias* (Penguin Classics: 2004).

Several assigned readings will be posted to the course website.

ASSIGNMENTS (and grades)

Online Discussion posts and class participation	(25 points)
Wikipedia article (historiography paper)	(15 points)
Primary source analysis	(20 points)
Midterm exam	(20 points)

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Final exam (20 points)
(100 points total for course)

ONLINE DISCUSSION POSTS

DUE: 10:00AM before coming to class

Reading responses must be submitted through the course website.

Everyone will complete a short response to the assigned readings **every day before coming to class**, using the course website. The goal of this assignment is to encourage critical, careful reading of the assigned texts before class, and to assist in identifying key arguments and points within the text in preparation for in-class discussion of the material. Careful, critical reading of scholarly texts is the most important skill of an ancient historian, and is essential for succeeding in this course.

These assignments will be graded satisfactory/unsatisfactory. A 'satisfactory' response demonstrates honest effort to understand the text, but does not need to be perfect or provide the 'right' answer. Careful reading is only the first step in learning; our discussions during class meetings will tackle any confusions or difficulties you encounter on your first reading before class.

You may skip six responses during the semester without penalty. Skipped responses beyond the allowed six will be graded unsatisfactory (0%).

Response format: Most responses will ask you to write a single paragraph summarizing the argument made in the assigned pages of Cline & Graham. It will also ask you to write two sentences about the primary source text(s), in which you highlight two (or more!) things in the text that you would like us to discuss in class. These could be themes or ideas in the texts which connect with themes of the course or other texts we have read, sections of the text which reveal something you find interesting (or strange!) about people in the ancient world, or parts of the text which you found confusing and want help understanding.

These responses will help us begin class discussion every day, and will be very important preparation for the midterm and final examinations.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

This class will include frequent discussions of the assigned readings. Students are expected to participate in these discussions by listening carefully to their classmates, asking questions, and giving thoughtful comments and responses.

QUIZZES

If the class regularly fails to complete the assigned readings and/or reading responses, the instructor reserves the right to give unannounced pop quizzes in class.

WIKIPEDIA ARTICLE – due Nov 10

This assignment will ask you to write a 4-5 page 'historiography' paper about an important person, place, event, or text/artifact from the ancient world. Your paper will be in the style of a wikipedia article; as such, your goal will be to synthesize and summarize the opinions of published, peer-reviewed academic scholarship, and to avoid giving your own opinion or argument in accordance with wikipedia's quality control guidelines. You will be asked to find

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and use five scholarly sources, to correctly cite these sources in your article using footnotes, and to write on a topic for which no good wikipedia article currently exists (I will have a list of suggestions available, or you may choose your own topic). **Extra credit will be given to students who publish their articles on wikipedia** before the end of class. More information about the assignment will be given in a separate handout.

PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS PAPER – due Dec 5

This assignment will ask you to write a 4-5 page analysis of a primary source text, similar to the type of analyses we will perform during our class discussions throughout the semester. Analyzing primary sources is an ancient historian's most important means for studying the past. This exercise will allow you to demonstrate your developing proficiency at this skill, due at the end of the semester. More information about the assignment will be given in a separate handout.

MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMS (Oct 15 & Dec 17)

The midterm and final examinations will ask you to identify and explain the significance of important persons, events, places, ideas, themes, and texts discussed during the semester through a mixture of multiple choice, matching, and short answer essay questions. Each may also contain a long essay question, asking you to discuss some of the major themes of the course using evidence from readings, lectures, and discussions. The examinations will be based on both class lectures and the assigned readings.

COURSE POLICIES

Late papers / makeups

Late papers and makeup exams will only be accepted by prior arrangement (before the deadline has passed), or under *exceptional* circumstances.

Attendance

Attendance in class is required. **Two unexcused absences will be permitted.** Students with more than two unexcused absences will lose 1% from their final grade for each absence. Excused absences may be granted for special circumstances, as outlined in the undergraduate catalog: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx> . Excused absences should, whenever possible, be arranged in advance. Students may be asked to provide documentation for excused absences.

Class etiquette

Please arrive on time (if you are running late, please try not to slam the door as a courtesy to your fellow classmates). Cell phones, tablets, and laptops should not be used in class except for reading assigned texts and taking notes. Students who use electronics to text, check social networking apps, or play games will be asked to remove themselves from the classroom so as not to distract their fellow classmates.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism, which is the attempt to claim someone else's writing as your own, is cheating, dishonest, and a violation of university policy and is strictly prohibited. Students who plagiarize will fail the assignment, and will be reported to the university for further disciplinary action. For more information on UF's policies on plagiarism and cheating, see the Student Conduct & Honor Code: <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/> .

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University policy on accommodations for students with disabilities:

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Course evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center:

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, or telephone 392-1575.

The University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1: The first ancient empires

August 25 – Introduction

August 27 – Key concepts: ‘Western Civilization,’ empire, and ‘the sources of social power’

- Cline & Graham: 1-9
- **WEBSITE:** M. Mann, *The Sources of Social Power*, pp. 22-32

August 29 - Sargon of Akkad and the first empires

- Cline & Graham: 10-23
- ‘Hammurabi’s Code’: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/hamcode.asp#text>

Week 2: Ancient Egypt

September 1 – Labor Day (**NO CLASS**)

September 3 – The justice of the Pharaohs

- Review your notes on Cline & Graham: 18-23
- ‘The eloquent peasant’: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/1800egypt-peasant.asp>

September 5 – Hittites, Egyptians, and the Battle of Qadesh

- Cline & Graham: 23-29
- Egyptian accounts of Qadesh: <http://reshafim.org.il/ad/egypt/kadeshaccounts.htm>

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Week 3: A new age of violence

September 8 – Changing ‘ages’ of the world: Bronze Age, Dark Age, Iron Age

- Cline & Graham: 29-37
- **WEBSITE:** C. Gosden, ‘Magic, materials and matter’ (6 pages)

September 10 – The rise and fall of Neo-Assyria

- Cline & Graham 37-54
- **WEBSITE:** ‘Pritchard: Assyria’ (pages 188-94, 218-19)

September 12 – Resisting the Neo-Assyrians

- Cline & Graham: 55-79
- Bible: The Book of Amos (from any Bible translation, or find it online)
- Bible: 2 Kings chapters 17-22 (from any Bible translation, or find it online)
- ‘Pritchard: Israel’ (pages 195, 199-201)

Week 4: Persia, and the Greek barbarians

(MEETINGS THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS WIKIPEDIA ARTICLE TOPIC)

September 15 – A new empire in Babylon

- Cline & Graham: 80-90
- ‘Pritchard: Babylon’ (pages 202-203)
- Bible: 2 Kings chapter 23-25 (from any Bible translation, or find it online)

September 17 – The Persia Empire

- Cline & Graham: 90-102
- **WEBSITE:** Herodotus, *Histories*. Book 1, sections 108-130, 133-140

September 19 – Ancient Greece

- Cline & Graham: 103-112
- Homer, *Illiad*, Book 7, sections 1-365 (<http://records.viu.ca/~johnstoi/homer/iliad7.htm>)

Week 5: The Greco-Persian War

September 22 – The Greek Colonies

- Cline & Graham: 112-116
- **WEBSITE:** Herodotus, Book 1, sections 1-5
- ‘Fragments of Heraclitus’:
<http://web.archive.org/web/20021202030359/http://plato.evansville.edu/texts/heraclit.htm>

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September 24 – ‘Then we will fight in the shade!’

- Cline & Graham: 117-25
- **WEBSITE:** Herodotus, Book 7, sections 127-152, 173-234

September 26 - **Our class will not meet this day**

Week 6: Democracy or tyranny? The Greek empires

September 29 – Athens: A democratic empire?

- Cline & Graham: 126-34
- Sophocles, *Antigone*: <http://classics.mit.edu/Sophocles/antigone.html>

October 1 – ‘This is SPARTA!’

- Xenophon, ‘The Polity of the Spartans’: <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/ancient/xeno-sparta1.asp>
- Xenophon, ‘The Spartan War Machine’: <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/ancient/xenophon-spartanwar.asp>
- Plutarch, on ‘the Krypteia’: <http://www.csun.edu/~hcfll004/krypteia.htm>
- Aristotle, ‘On the Lacedaemonian Constitution’: <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/ancient/aristotle-sparta.asp>

October 3 – The Peloponnesian War

- Cline & Graham: 134-142
- Read **TWO** of the following three speeches (all available at <http://mccandlessa.people.cofc.edu/Thucydides.htm>):
 - Pericles' Funeral Oration
 - The Mitylenian Debate
 - The Melian Dialogue

Week 7: Democracy fails?

October 6 – Plato

- Plato, *Gorgias*. **Read the entire text**, but focus especially on the following pages:
 - pp. 53-63 (part B, section 6)
 - pp. 64-79 (part C, sections 1-3)
 - pp. 94-108 (part C, sections 6-8)
 - pp. 115-136 (part C, sections 10-12)

October 8 – Barbarians from the north: the Macedonia invasion

- Cline & Graham 142-148
- Demosthenes, *Public Orations*. Read **ANY TWO** of the speeches from this collection: http://en.m.wikisource.org/wiki/The_Public_Orations_of_Demosthenes

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October 10 – Alexander the Great

- Plutarch, 'Life of Alexander': <http://classics.mit.edu/Plutarch/alexandr.html>

Week 8: The Hellenistic World

October 13 – Alexander's aftermath

- Cline & Graham: 149-172

October 15 – **MIDTERM EXAM**

October 17: **NO CLASS** (Homecoming)

Week 9: Mediterranean empires and the rise of Rome

October 20 – Roman origin myths, and the western Mediterranean world

- Cline & Graham: 173-181
- **WEBSITE:** Livy (sections from Book 1)
- **WEBSITE:** Virgil (sections from Aeneid, Book 4)

October 22 - From petty tyranny to republican empire

- Cline & Graham: 181-198
- 'The Law of the Twelve Tables': <http://thelatinlibrary.com/law/12tables.html>
- **WEBSITE:** Polybius, 'The Roman Constitution'

October 24 – Hannibal and the Second Punic War

- Cline & Graham: 199-204
- **WEBSITE:** Livy, 'The Second Punic War' (excerpts from Book 21)
- **WEBSITE:** Polybius, 'Hannibal'

Week 10: A doomed Republic?

October 27 – Rome and Greece

- Cline & Graham: 204-210
- Polybius, 'The Roman Manipule vs. The Macedonian Phalanx':
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/polybius-maniple.asp>

October 29 – Riots and Revolt: Slaves and the urban poor

- Cline & Graham: 210-220
- 'The War with Spartacus':
<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/ancient/3slaverevolttexts.asp> (skip the beginning, and scroll down to the section titled 'The War with Spartacus')

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- Appian, Book 1, sections 7-17:
http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Appian/Civil_Wars/1*.html

October 31 – Julius Caesar: savior, or tyrant?

- **OPTIONAL: WIKIPEDIA ARTICLE DRAFT DUE**
- Plutarch, 'Life of Julius Caesar':
http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Plutarch/Lives/Caesar*.html

Week 11: Pax Romana

November 3 – Emperor Augustus

- Cline & Graham: 221-232
- Virgil, Fourth Eclogue: <http://classics.mit.edu/Virgil/eclogue.4.iv.html>
- **WEBSITE:** Tacitus, Annals of Imperial Rome, Book 1, sections 1-4
- Suetonius, 'The Life of Augustus' (pay special attention to sections 28, 33, 54, & 58):
http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Suetonius/12Caesars/Augustus*.html

November 5 – Peace and law, prosperity and violence

- Cline & Graham: 232-39, 244-57

November 7 - The city of Rome

- No reading, so you can finish your papers

Week 12: Praying and paying: religion and economy in the Roman Empire

November 10 – Iron & fish sauce: Economic empires

- **WIKIPEDIA ARTICLE DUE**

November 12 - Roman religions

- **WEBSITE:** Excerpts from Appuleius, *The Golden Ass* (sections from Book 1, Book 3, Book 11)
- Curse tablets (read the examples on these pages):
 - http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bath_curse_tablets
 - <http://www.livescience.com/17589-ancient-curse-translated-greenrocer.html>
 - For more information (optional), see: <http://curses.csad.ox.ac.uk>

November 14 – Philosophers and Christians

- Bible: Acts chapters 10-11, 15:1-35, 17:16-34 (from any Bible translation, or find it online)
- Bible: Romans chapter 2 (from any Bible translation, or find it online)

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Week 13: The empire under siege: internal and external threats

November 17 – Revolt!

- Cline & Graham: 258-266
- **WEBSITE:** Tacitus, Annales, Book 14, sections 29-39
- Cassius Dio, Book 62, sections 1-12:
http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Cassius_Dio/62*.html (scroll down to section titled 'LXII', and read 1 – 12)

November 19 – Barbarians and the Roman Frontier

- Cline & Graham: 239-243
- **WEBSITE:** Tacitus, Germania (selections)

November 21 – The third century crisis

- Cline & Graham: 267-77
- 'The Life of Elagabalus':
http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Historia_Augusta/Elagabalus/1*.html

Week 14: 'I'm not dead yet!': The fourth-century recovery

November 24 - Diocletian and Constantine save the day

- Cline & Graham: 283-93
- Eusebius: 'The conversion of Constantine':
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/conv-const.asp>

(THANKSGIVING BREAK)

Week 15: 'The decline and fall of the Roman empire'?

December 1 – Late Antique Christianity

- Cline & Graham: 277-283
- 'The Passion of Saints Perpetua and Felicity':
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/perpetua.asp>
- The Nicene Creed: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/nicene Creed.asp>

December 3 – The fifth century crisis and the fall of the Western Roman Empire

- Skim texts on the primary source analysis handout

December 5 – Giving up on empire

- Skim texts on the primary source analysis handout
- **PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS DUE**

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Week 16: Late Antiquity

December 8 – New, old empires: Byzantium and the Sassanids

- Cline & Graham: 294-318

December 10 - The last ancient empire: the Umayyad Caliphate

- Cline & Graham: 319-340

FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, December 17, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 pm