

# HWC 204 WESTERN CIVILIZATION I

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**Instructor** | Daniel Alvord  
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**Office** | Bailey 205-E  
**Hours** | M/W/F 8:00-9:00am

**Semester** | Spring 2015  
**Time** | M/W/F 9:00am-9:50am  
**Place** | Lindley 401  
**Course** | #56764

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course considers some of the central ideas and key texts that have helped to shape, as well as to reflect critically upon, the western world's development since the sixteenth century.

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Organization of the Course:** This course considers some of the central ideas and key texts that have helped to shape, as well as to reflect upon, the development of Western culture since ancient times, with special attention to Greek and Roman literature and philosophy, Judaism, Christianity and Islam, and the intellectual transformation of Europe from the Middle Ages through the Renaissance and Reformation. While some aspects of this culture have been modified over the centuries and others have been abandoned, our contemporary world retains the imprint of the ideas and institutions developed before 1500. By studying carefully the deep history of our culture we are in a better position to evaluate its continuing relevance in the world and to engage constructively with its limitations.

**Required Texts:** The following texts\* are required for this course:

Plato - *The Trial and Death of Socrates: Apology* (Hackett)  
Plato - *Republic* (Hackett)  
Aristotle - *The Politics* (Hackett)  
Seneca - *Letters from a Stoic* (Penguin)  
Augustine - *Confessions* (Penguin)  
Aquinas - *On Politics and Ethics* (Norton)  
*The Koran* (Penguin)  
Machiavelli - *The Prince* (Hackett)

**Optional Text:** The following text is optional for this course:

Trulove, Woelfel, et al., *Patterns in Western Civilization*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, vol. 1

*\*For all course work, you may use only the authorized editions of the primary sources, as these editions will be referred to in lectures and discussions, required as citations in papers, and tested on the exams.*

**Learning Outcomes:** This course satisfies three KU Core Goals:

*Goal 1.1 (Critical Thinking):* Upon reaching this goal, students will be able to analyze and evaluate assumptions, claims, evidence, arguments, and forms of expression, as well as, select and apply appropriate interpretive tools.

*Goal 2.1 (Written and Oral Communication):* Upon reaching this goal, students will be able to generate, explore, organize, and convey ideas in writing, using language and other media to present those ideas clearly, confidently, and in a manner appropriate to specific communication situations.

*Goal 4.2 (Non-U.S. Culture and Diversity):* Upon reaching this goal, students will be able to examine a variety of perspectives in the global community, distinguish one's own cultural patterns, and respond flexibly to multiple worldviews.

By the end of this course, you will be able to identify the variety of figures, ideas, and perspectives within the intellectual heritage of modern western society. You will also be able to critically evaluate, analyze, and condense complex arguments, assumptions, claims, and evidence.

## **GRADING INFORMATION**

***Attendance and Participation:*** Attendance is important for any class and this class is no exception. Attendance means arriving on time and not leaving early. It also means coming prepared to class having read the material and being ready to discuss. The books we will be reading this semester are challenging and take time and discussion to work through. So it will be crucial to your success in the class to attend class regularly.

***Assignments:*** For this course you will be expected to complete the following:

*Essays (50%):* For this course you will complete two essays. Each essay will be 4-5 pages in length. The first essay will also include a presentation component. Each essay is worth 100 points and both are worth 25% of your final grade. Each essay must be submitted 1) in person and 2) online through Blackboard's SafeAssign function, a plagiarism detecting software. Emailed papers or papers left in my mailbox will not be accepted. Students will be encouraged, but not required, to meet with me prior to the due date so that I can address any questions or concerns. You are also encouraged to take advantage of the KU Writing Center ([writing.ku.edu](http://writing.ku.edu)) and/or the HWC Writing Guide, for more detailed advice on essay writing in HWC classes (<http://www.hwc.ku.edu/pdf/HWCWritingGuide.pdf>).

*Exam (25%):* You will have one exam – a final. This exam will consist of term identifications, short answers, and a long essay. The exam will cover material from lectures and the primary texts. You will be responsible for bringing your own blank blue or green essay book to the exam. The final exam will be worth 100 points and is worth 25%.

*Journal (10%):* Each week, every student is to submit online (by 11:59pm on Tuesday) a “journal entry” on that week’s reading. The journal article should consist of three basic sections. First, you should address what you think the reading is about. For example, “Plato seems to be saying...” Second, you should explain what stood out to you in the writing. What do you remember about it? Finally, you should write a question that the reading rose for you. Are you confused about something? Did the reading make you think of something else? These “journal entries” will be graded either as satisfactory or unsatisfactory. Satisfactory means that you completed the entry adequately and will receive full credit. Unsatisfactory means that you did not complete it or you did not complete it on time and will receive zero credit. There are no makeups and late entries will not be accepted. There are a total of 11 entries and you allowed one to miss without penalty. In other words, you will be graded out of 10. Completing all 11 satisfactorily will result in “extra credit.” Each entry is worth 10 points and the full set is weighted at 10% of your final grade.

*Attendance (15%):* Attendance is compulsory and consists of being present and engaged in class. Absences may be “excused” only for religious holidays or due to KU athletic participation, each of which requires notification ahead of time. With the exception of university-sanction absences, I do not differentiate between types of absences (illness, funeral, etc.). Instead, you are permitted three free absences during the semester. You will earn a “1” for attending the course and “0” if you are absent. In other words, we have a total of 43 class meetings, but your attendance grade will be calculated out of 40. Attendance above 40 will act as extra credit. Missing any more than three classes will lead to a reduction of your attendance grade. If you anticipate missing more than three meetings during the semester due to ongoing circumstances, you must contact me in the first week of the semester to discuss appropriate arrangements.

**Grade Scale:** Your grade will be determined using the CLAS plus/minus grading system:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
Attendance	15%	100 points	465-500	93-100	A
Journal	10%	100 points	450-460	90-92	A-
Essay 1	25%	100 points	440-445	88-89	B+
Essay 2	25%	100 points	415-435	83-87	B
Final	25%	100 points	400-410	80-82	B-
	<u>100%</u>	<u>500 points</u>	390-395	78-79	C+
			365-385	73-77	C
			350-360	70-72	C-
			340-345	68-69	D+
			315-335	63-67	D
			300-310	60-62	D-
			0-295	0-59	F

The following is a breakdown of the marking system and an indication of the quality of work that roughly corresponds to each grade:

A: Displays a thorough understanding of material and expresses original, text-supported opinions; clear, organized and thoughtful writing; consistent and intelligent contributions and insights. Has completed all required assignments and they have been among the best in class.

B: Displays a good factual understanding of material; very good preparation for class; ability to communicate ideas logically and clearly. Has completed all required assignments and they have been of good quality.

C: Displays an understanding of the basic points of all material, although the presentation may be unclear or disorganized; may also denote sporadic participation in class. Has completed all or most required assignments, which might suffer from small issues, but generally have been free of significant problems.

D: Displays incomplete work; slight grasp of basic ideas; disorganized, poorly presented or communicated ideas; little participation in class. Has failed to complete all required assignments and they have often suffered from problems.

F: Displays incomplete work; unclear and/or inaccurate presentation of the main themes of the course; poor written communication of ideas; numerous absences, and/or little or participation in class. Has failed to complete required assignments and they have routinely suffered from serious problems.

I do not *give* you a grade—you *earn* your grade. Thus, except in the case of a possible calculation error, please do not contact me to change the grade that you earned.

## **COURSE POLICIES**

***Classroom Conduct:*** Students are expected to behave in a respectful manner during class. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated in this class. Students who behave in any manner that interferes or has the potential to interfere with other students' opportunity to benefit from this course will be subject to the relevant University policies and procedures. Per the Electronic Devices policy, do not explore the Internet or play games on your portable computing device during class. It draws others' attention and is rude.

***Email Conduct:*** Email is a very convenient and useful means of communication. Indeed, it is the best way to get in touch with me. However, its convenience often translates into a lack of formality. There are a few email guidelines that should be adhered to during this course. First, I do not discuss grades over email. Any discussion of grades should be done during office hours. Second, unless otherwise noted, I do not read early drafts of papers or answer substantive questions by email. I am more than happy to read drafts, provide comments, and give clarification for concepts covered in class during office hours, but not by email. Finally, I am not "on call" with my email. Do not email me late at night or

the night before a paper or exam is due and expect an immediate reply. I respect that all of you will have many things going on at one time this semester, and that your time is incredibly valuable to you. I ask that you please respect that my own time is valuable as well and that I also have plenty going on in my own schedule.

***Academic Misconduct & Plagiarism:*** Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor, providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment), or the attempt to commit such an act. “Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit. Any form of cheating or academic dishonesty will be actively investigated and punished. The University defines academic misconduct in Section 6 of the University Senate Rules and Regulations: “Academic misconduct by a student shall include, but not be limited to, disruption of classes; threatening an instructor or fellow student in an academic setting; giving or receiving of unauthorized aid on examinations or in the preparation of notebooks, themes, reports or other assignments; knowingly misrepresenting the source of any academic work. . .” Cheating will possibly result in an F in the course and the filing of academic misconduct charges. As ignorance of the rules is not an acceptable excuse for academic misconduct, please consult the KU Student Handbook for further information:

[http://www.writing.ku.edu/~writing/instructors/guides/academic\\_misconduct.shtml](http://www.writing.ku.edu/~writing/instructors/guides/academic_misconduct.shtml)

For more information on what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it, please consult the following KU website: <http://www.writing.ku.edu/~writing/guides/>.

***Make-up Exams:*** Make-up exams will only be given to students with excused absences. In accord with university policies, students will be allowed to take a make-up exam if they can document that they were ill or if they had a death in the family. Absences which result from participation on a university athletic team and which are documented by the university athletic office will also be excused. Transportation problems do not qualify as a valid excuse. Students without a valid and documented excuse will receive a 0 on any missed exam. Students wishing to schedule a make-up exam must contact me by e-mail within 24 hours of the time at which the original exam was scheduled. Students must be prepared to present me with documentation explaining their absence prior to scheduling a make-up exam. Exams must be taken within a week of the original exam date. It is up to students who have missed an exam to contact me, to provide documentation and to set up a time to make up the exam.

***Late Assignments:*** Unless otherwise noted, all assignments must be submitted by the beginning of class on the assigned due date. Late submissions will be penalized at the rate of 10%, or one letter grade, per day (including weekends).

***Extra Credit:*** There will be no extra credit opportunities in this course.

***Electronic Devices:*** The use of any handheld electronic devices will not be tolerated. Cell phones and other mobile devices are to be silenced and stowed away during all 75 minutes of class. The use of laptop computers will be allowed only in situations where the student can provide documentation from the Academic Achievement and Access Center (<http://www.achievement.ku.edu/>) attesting to their need for the device in class.

***Recording & Auditing:*** As per the Electronic Devices policy, the use of handheld personal recorders will only be allowed in class in situations where the student can provide documentation from the Academic Achievement and Access Center (<http://www.achievement.ku.edu/>) attesting to their need for the device. Any student wishing to record lecture must consult with me before class. Additionally, course attendance is exclusively restricted to members of the class, and you need explicit permission from the instructor to attend any class sessions if you are not formally enrolled in the course.

***Religious Holidays:*** Attendance is required for every class session. If class requirements conflict with religious holidays that you observe, this needs to be discussed with me in advance. Notification after the fact is not acceptable and will count as an unexcused absence.

***Disabilities:*** Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him/her from fully demonstrating her/his abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so that we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate educational opportunity. To do this you must first be registered with the Disability Resources office (22 Strong Hall, 785-864-2620), which coordinates accommodations and services for KU courses. *No special needs will be accommodated without proper documentation and recommendations supplied by this office.* For further information and contact information, please consult the Disability Resources website: <http://www.disability.ku.edu/>.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

<b><i>Week</i></b>	<b><i>Date</i></b>	<b><i>Topic</i></b>	<b><i>Read</i></b>	<b><i>Due</i></b>
One	January 21	Introductions	N/A	N/A
	January 23	Introductions	N/A	N/A
Two	January 26	Socrates & Plato	Trial & Death of Socrates	N/A
	January 28	Socrates & Plato	Trial & Death of Socrates	Journal 1
	January 30	Socrates & Plato	Trial & Death of Socrates	Discussant (2)
Three	February 2	Plato	The Republic	N/A
	February 4	Plato	The Republic	Journal 2
	February 6	Plato	The Republic	Discussant
Four	February 9	Plato	The Republic	N/A
	February 11	Plato	The Republic	Journal 3
	February 13	Plato	The Republic	Discussant
Five	February 16	Aristotle	Politics	Essay 1 Draft
	February 18	Aristotle	Politics	Journal 4
	February 20	Aristotle	Politics	Discussant
Six	February 23	Aristotle	Politics	N/A
	February 25	Aristotle	Politics	Journal 5
	February 27	Aristotle	Politics	Discussant
Seven	March 2	1-1 Writing Meetings	N/A	N/A
	March 4	1-1 Writing Meetings	N/A	N/A
	March 6	1-1 Writing Meetings	N/A	N/A
Eight	March 9	Seneca	Letters from a Stoic	
	March 11	Seneca	Letters from a Stoic	Journal 6
	March 13	Seneca	Letters from a Stoic	Essay 1 Due / Discussant (2)
Nine	March 16	<i>No Class – Break</i>	N/A	N/A
	March 18	<i>No Class – Break</i>	N/A	N/A
	March 20	<i>No Class – Break</i>	N/A	N/A

Ten	March 23	Christianity	Video – From Jesus to Christ	N/A
	March 25	Christianity	Video - From Jesus to Christ	N/A
	March 27	Christianity	Video - From Jesus to Christ	N/A
Eleven	March 30	Christianity	Gospels	N/A
	April 1	Christianity	Gospels	Journal 7
	April 3	Christianity	Gospels	Discussant
Twelve	April 6	Augustine	Confessions	Essay 2 Draft
	April 8	Augustine	Confessions	Journal 8
	April 10	Augustine	Confessions	Discussant (2)
Thirteen	April 13	Aquinas	Politics & Ethics	N/A
	April 15	Aquinas	Politics & Ethics	Journal 9
	April 17	Aquinas	Politics & Ethics	Discussant (2)
Fourteen	April 20	Islam	The Koran	N/A
	April 22	Islam	The Koran	Journal 10
	April 24	Islam	The Koran	Discussant (2)
Fifteen	April 27	Machiavelli	The Prince	N/A
	April 29	Machiavelli	The Prince	Journal 11
	May 1	Machiavelli	The Prince	Essay 2 Due / Discussant (2)
Sixteen	May 4	Toward Modernity	N/A	N/A
	May 6	Final Exam Review	N/A	N/A
	May 8	<i>No Class – Stop Day</i>	N/A	N/A
Seventeen	TBD	Final Exam	N/A	Final Exam

***\*I reserve the right to alter or amend the course syllabus during the semester within reason.***