

Western Civilization I – Ancient Greece and Rome

Mr. Busek

Objectives

Ancient Greece and Rome are the cornerstones of Western civilization. In the first part of the course, we will be focusing on the military and political forces at work in ancient Greece, particularly at the development of the two great rival city-states, Athens and Sparta. We'll also examine the rich cultural traditions bequeathed to us by the Greeks in art, architecture and philosophy. We will then examine how Rome, an obscure city on the Tiber River in central Italy, came to dominate first the world and then all of history.

Texts

Western Civilization I: Ancient Greece (primary source document set)

Thomas R. Martin, *Ancient Greece*

The Landmark Thucydides

Plutarch, *The Rise and Fall of Athens*

Plato, *The Trial and Death of Socrates* and *The Republic*

Western Civilization I: Ancient Rome (primary source document set)

Paul A. Zoch, *Ancient Rome*

Plutarch, *Fall of the Roman Republic*

Grading

Your grade in this class will be determined in the following manner:

Class Participation: 25%

In this class, you will discuss the readings in a polite and respectful manner. Education is an active process; simply sitting and listening will benefit you very little. There will be many opportunities to talk about both the events of this period and about the study of history in general. Failure to do so will result in points taken off your final grade.

In order to facilitate discussion, I will provide you with a series of questions to guide your reading. Part of your daily homework will be to write out answers to these study questions. These written answers need not be grammatically perfect, but you should have enough information down so that you can answer the question when it comes up in class.

Writing Assignments: 35%

In the study of history, nothing is more important than the ability to write clearly and concisely. With that in mind, you will be assigned a series of short papers which will briefly answer a question based on the material we will be discussing. These questions will be included in your unit schedule of readings. We will discuss what I expect regarding your writing in a forthcoming lecture.

I will also be assigning a number of in-class essays. You may use your texts, notes and outlines to prepare these essays, but they must be written in class.

In the second and fourth quarters, you will be expected to produce a longer paper of between five and seven pages. I will be providing more information on what I expect on these longer papers at a later time.

Quizzes and Tests: 40%

During every unit, there will be a series of topic review quizzes to ensure that your grasp of the material is adequate. Typically, these quizzes will consist of a number of multiple choice questions and a short answer question and should take no more than fifteen or twenty minutes to complete.

There will also be a unit test at the end of every unit. The typical format for this test will be as follows: a section of matching, a section of identifications, and a choice of one out of a few essays. To help you prepare for these tests, I will be providing a study guide at the beginning of each unit. For the purposes of calculating your grade, each unit test will be equivalent of three quiz grades.

Administrative Records

On the last page of this syllabus, you will find a box asking for both your signature and the signature of a parent or guardian. This signifies that you understand the contents of this syllabus and the requirements listed. There is also a video-viewing permission slip that must be signed by your parent or guardian. These sheets **MUST** be signed and returned to me by the Friday of the first week of classes.

Class Schedule

Here is a basic outline of what to expect over the year. A more detailed list of readings and assignments will be given out at the beginning of every unit.

UNIT I: THE ORIGINS OF GREECE

- Topic I-A: Geography and Proto-Greek Civilizations
- Topic I-B: How the Greeks View History
- Topic I-C: Sparta
- Topic I-D: Athens

UNIT II: THE PERSIAN WAR

- Topic II-A: Athens after Solon
- Topic II-B: The Conflict Begins
- Topic II-C: The Triumph of the Greeks

UNIT III: THE EARLY PELOPONNESIAN WAR

- Topic III-A: The Rise of Athens
- Topic III-B: The Declaration of War
- Topic III-C: The First Years of the War

UNIT IV: THE END OF THE PELOPONNESIAN WAR

- Topic IV-A: Athens Cracks Down
- Topic IV-B: A Fragile Peace
- Topic IV-C: Alcibiades and the Sicilian Expedition
- Topic IV-D: The Downfall of Athens

UNIT V: GREEK PHILOSOPHY

- Topic V-A: The Pre-Socratics and the Socratic Revolution
- Topic V-B: Platonic Philosophy
- Topic V-C: Aristotelian Philosophy

UNIT VI: ALEXANDER THE GREAT AND EARLY ROME

- Topic VI-A: The Rise of the Macedonians
- Topic VI-B: Ancient Italy
- Topic VI-C: Early Rome

UNIT VII: ROMAN GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY

- Topic VII-A: Roman Government
- Topic VII-B: The Struggle between the Orders
- Topic VII-C: Roman Military

UNIT VIII: THE PUNIC WARS

- Topic VIII-A: Roman Expansion
- Topic VIII-B: The First Punic War
- Topic VIII-C: The Second Punic War
- Topic VIII-D: The Hellenization of Rome

UNIT IX: THE FALL OF THE REPUBLIC

- Topic IX-A: The Gracchi Brothers
- Topic IX-B: Marius and Sulla
- Topic IX-C: The Cataline Conspiracy
- Topic IX-D: The Rise of Pompeius Magnus
- Topic IX-E: The Rise of Julius Caesar

UNIT X: AUGUSTUS AND THE ROMAN EMPIRE

- Topic IX-A: The Reign of Augustus
- Topic IX-B: The Early Emperors
- Topic IX-C: Early Christianity

Name: _____

Class: Mr. Busek/Western Civilization I

I hereby affirm that I have read this syllabus and fully understand all the requirements for success in this class.

Student: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____