History 4A: Western Civilization I: From the Prehistory to the Reformation in Europe, 20 Million Years Ago to 1550

Days/Times: Mondays-Wednesdays: 7:45-9:10 AM

Instructor: Mr. Melvin H. Pritchard
Office: Social Science 2e
Office Hours: TBA
Phone: 408-741-4024
Email: melvin_pritchard@westvalley.edu
Web page: www.instruct.westvalley.edu/pritchard

Course Summary: This course will focus course attention on the major economic, intellectual, political, social developments from Prehistory to the Reformation in Europe. We will also examine cultural and religious developments when appropriate. Another major focus of the course will be on the development of reading, writing, and other research skills.


Grading: Class Field Trip Assignment (50 points), Rough draft (50 points), Book Review (100 points) 2 Midterm (200 points), Class Discussions/Attendance (200 points) and Final Examination (200 points).
Total: 900 points

*Note to student*: Student grades will be based on: class attendance/participation in class discussions, two take home midterms and a final examination, field trip assignment and a book review (rough and final draft). Failure to take the final examination will result in the student failing the course. Incompletes will only be earned if the student has a serious illness or family emergency. It will be the students’ responsibility to complete coursework in this case.

*Please do not bring pagers, ipods, or cell phones to class. Use in class is prohibited.*
Class Schedule-Spring 2006

First Day of Class, January 29, 2006: Introduction to course requirements, syllabus and texts. Class discussion of what is history? What is historical writing?

Reading Assignments


Week 4: Greek Expansion and Decline. Kishlansky, Chapter 3, Perry, (Greek Drama, Status of Women in Greek Society, Socrates, and Greek Culture and the Jews: Jewish Resistance to Forced Hellenization).

Week 5: The Romans from the Etruscans to the Roman Republic. Kishlansky, Chapter 4. Perry, Chapter 4 (The Spread of Greek Philosophy to Rome, Rome’s March to World Empire and Women in Republican Society), and On Reserve in the WVC Library (Documents of the Spartacus Revolt/Roman Slavery).

Week 6: Crisis of the Roman Republic to Imperial Rome. Kishlansky, Chapter 5. Perry, Chapter 4 (The Decline of the Roman Republic), Chapter 5 (The Imperial Office, Imperial Culture, Roman Law, Roman Peace), and Chapter 6 (The Teachings of Jesus).


**Week 9:** The Early Middle Ages: the establishment of the Feudal order. Kishlansky, Chapter 8. Perry, Chapter 7 (Converting the Germanic Peoples to Christianity, The Transmission of Learning, The Carolingian Renaissance, The Feudal Lord: Vassal and Warrior)


**Week 11:** The Late Middle Ages. Kishlansky, Chapter 10. Perry, Chapter 8 (The Status of Women in Medieval Society, Medieval Contribution to the Tradition of Liberty, The Medieval World-View).

**Week 12:** The Italian Renaissance. Kishlansky, Chapter 11. Perry, Chapter 9.

**Week 13:** The Renaissance of European Empire, Kishlansky, Chapter 12. Perry, Chapter 11 (The Age of Exploration and Conquest), On Reserve in WVC Library (Documents of the Spanish Conquest of the Aztecs (Mexico)).

**Week 14:** Reformation. Kishlansky, Chapter 14. Perry, Chapter 10.

**Week 15:** Reformation. Kishlansky, Chapter 14. Perry, Chapter 10.

**Examinations, Essay due dates**

Museum Field Trip Report, due February 22, 2006

Midterm 1 (take home): due March 1, 2006

Midterm 2 (take home): due April 10, 2006

Book Review, Rough Draft due: April 26, 2006


**Wednesday, May 24, 2006, 7:30-9:30AM:** Final Examination.