



HIST143: Foundations of European Thought: from Rome to the Renaissance

Fall 2021
TR 10:15-11:45

Professor Ann Moyer
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Office hours:
R 1:30-3 and by appt.

The textbook is accompanied by an online quiz module via Canvas (see below for information about grading)

Readings at bookstore: Grafton and Bell, *The West: A New History*, vol. 1

Cicero, *On Duties (De Officiis)*

Benedict, *Rule*

Boccaccio, *Decameron*

Einhard and Notker, *Two Lives of Charlemagne*

Marsilius of Padua, *Defensor Pacis*

Additional readings on Canvas site

Recommended: Gordon Harvey, *Writing with Sources*

Theme for the semester: Individual and Community. Do good people make for good governments? How do we become better people and better members of our communities? *How do our authors and our texts seek to address these issues through the act of writing? How did they intend their writings to be read and used? How do we know?*

Introduction; Roman Society and Obligations of those who Rule

Aug. 31 Introduction to the course: Introduction to the Ancient World
Textbook: Chapter 4

Sept. 2 Culture and Society in Ancient Rome

Sept. 7 **Cicero 1: with discussion**
Reading: Cicero, *On Obligations (De officiis)*

Sept. 9 **Cicero 2: with discussion**
Reading: Cicero, *On Obligations (De officiis)*

Religious Traditions and Sacred texts: Jesus, his Followers, and the Shaping of Christianity

Textbook: Chapters 5, 6

Sept. 14 **Religions of the Book**

Sept. 16 **Paul and the Church**

Sept. 21 **Jesus and the Roman World: with discussion**
Reading: NT 1: *Matthew, John*

Sept. 23 **Christian Scriptures and Practices: with discussion**
Reading: NT 2: *Acts, Romans*

Orders from Chaos

Textbook: Chapter 7

Sept. 28 **Late Rome, East and West**

Sept. 30 **Monastic communities: with discussion**
Reading: *Rule of St Benedict*

Carolingians and their Renaissance

Oct. 5 **Renovatio imperii**
Essay 1 due

Oct. 7 **Romans, Franks, and legendary leaders: with discussion**
Reading: Einhard, *Vita Caroli (Life of Charlemagne)*

Oct. 12 **Midterm Examination**

Oct. 14 **No class fall Break**

Europe Takes Shape

Textbook: Chapter 8

Oct. 19 **Europe: New Growth**

Universities

Textbook: Chapter 9

Oct. 21 **Rise of Universities**

Oct. 26 **Politics and political thought: with discussion**

Reading: Marsilius of Padua, *Defensor Pacis* Discourse 1

Oct. 28 **Politics and political thought 2: with discussion**

Reading: Marsilius, *Defensor Pacis*, Discourse 2:

Chapters 1-4, 7-10, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20-22; Discourse 3: all

Vernacular Languages and Literature

Textbook: Chapter 10

Nov. 2 **Reading for Leisure: Courts and Cities**

Nov. 4 **Story collections and authors: with discussion**

Reading: Boccaccio, *Decameron* (selections)

Nov. 9 **Reading for Devotion: Piety, Politics, Gender**

Nov. 11 **Women and letters: with discussion**

Reading: Catherine of Siena, *Letters* (selections)

Humanists

Nov. 16 **Humanist movement**

Nov. 18 **Petrarch: with discussion**

Reading: Petrarch, *On his own ignorance (and that of many others)*

Nov. 23 **The Print Revolution**

Essay 2 Due

Thanksgiving

Reformers and Rulers

Textbook: Chapter 11

Nov. 30 **Reforms: Ideals and Authorities**

Introspection and Understanding

Dec. 2	Montaigne and his world
Dec. 7	Essays for author and reader: with discussion Reading: Montaigne, <i>Essays</i> (selections)
Dec. 9	Republic of Letters
Final examination:	tba

Organization of the course:

GRADES for the course will be based on

- 20% first essay
- 20% second essay
- 20% midterm
- 20% final exam
- 5% response papers (2)
- 5% 4 InQuizitive modules completed successfully
- 10% discussion

Essays: you may choose from among assigned topics for these argumentative and analytic essays. They are based on our texts and will not call for outside sources; they will be approximately 1000-1200 words in length.

Response papers: 2 essays responding to **one** of the pre-circulated discussion questions, ca. 300 words. Due by class time on the discussion date for that text. You may choose the dates, but **1 must be submitted by September 30.**

InQuizitive modules: online modules provided by the textbook publisher. You must complete a total of 4 during the semester; **2 must be completed by October 7.**

Deadlines for the essays are firm; late submissions will be penalized. No essays will be accepted after graded assignments have been returned.

Course Goals

This course offers a broad introduction to important writings and ideas in European culture. The works will cluster around some major themes. Through lecture, discussion, and written work, those in the course will gain familiarity and skill in several ways:

- **Major texts and authors:** these works helped shape European culture and have found many years of readers. References to them will appear in many other contexts, courses, and subjects.
- **Historical narrative:** these works are examined in a broad historical context that offers a valuable introduction to major issues and events in European history.

- **Critical skills:** these books were composed with very different readerships in mind. Some have been read for entertainment, others for study, some as guidelines for organizing groups of people. We will examine not only the goals of the writers and their goals, but also the uses to which their writings have been put, sometimes over many years. In particular, this process will develop several skills:
 - Evidence and evaluation: assess and evaluate evidence as presented in written records
 - Critical analysis: analyze the argumentation and use of evidence in the writings of modern historical scholars
 - Argumentation: marshaling evidence to develop and present a convincing written argument

Our **class time** will have two main components:

- **lectures** present a synthesis of information and analysis about the topic at hand.
- **discussions** focus upon critical analysis of the week's readings, and on questions they raise. Your copy of the reading must accompany you to class discussions.

Our main readings, of course, are the texts themselves. Nonetheless, since this introductory course assumes no prior background in European history, a textbook presents the essential narrative and serves as a reference. While the textbook will not normally figure in our class time, lectures and discussions will assume that you have read and mastered this necessary background. It will be incorporated into questions on the midterm and final examinations.

Academic honesty is fundamental to our community. The Pennbook contains our Code of Academic Integrity. A violation of that Code in this course will result in failure for the course.