

Common Course Syllabus  
History 2311: Survey of Western Civilization to 1600

Department: Social Sciences

Discipline: History

Course Number: HISTORY 2311

Course Title: Western Civilization to 1600

Credit: 3 Lecture, 0 Lab

**Foundational Component Area of Core Curriculum:** Western Civilization

Prerequisites: TSI compliance in Reading

Available Formats: Conventional

Campus: Levelland and Reese

Textbook: Varies according to instructor.

Course Specific Instructions: Each instructor will attach his/her course with specific instructions.

Course Description: This course is a survey of the history of Western Civilization from the Agricultural Revolution to the beginnings of European Global Dominance in the Sixteenth Century. Primary emphasis is placed on the development of human political, religious and social institutions that are the components of civilizations.

Course Purpose: To acquaint students with the early efforts of humanity to organize itself into civilized societies and to promote critical thinking in interrelating the past to the present. The cultural literacy of the student will also be enhanced.

Course Requirements: To maximize a student's potential to complete this course, he/she should attend all class meetings, complete all homework assignments and examinations in a timely manner, and complete all other projects or papers as assigned in the instructor's specific instructions.

Course Evaluation: See the instructor's course information sheet for specific items used in evaluating student performance.

Attendance Policy: Whenever absences become excessive and in the instructor's opinion, minimum course objectives cannot be met due to absences, the student will be withdrawn from the course. Each instructor will have additional information about attendance on his/her course information sheet.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students who have completed this course will be expected to:

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of major issues in the history of Western Civilization.

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of cause and effect of major events of the past and examine the interrelation of external and internal forces that shape Western Civilization.

Understand the nature of history as a fundamental subject in the study of humanity.

Evaluate the diversity of interpretations of the past and the quality of evidence for that interpretation.

Tolerate ambiguity in explanations of the past and realize that historical explanations will often be complex and tentative.

Apply historical knowledge with caution to current events, seeing common threads of development of the past with the present.

Through course assignments, papers, activities, and assessments, students will:

Demonstrate the ability to read and write clearly and concisely,

Value diversity and differences in people,

Explore relationships of ideas and see their similarities and differences,

Gain a basic understanding of the career fields related in the major,

Assimilate and synthesize information,

Integrate ideas across the curricula, and

Interrelate the past to the present.

## Classroom Syllabus

Term: Fall 2026

- I. Course: HIST 2311: Western Civilizations to 1600
- a. Description: This course is a survey of the history of what is termed “western civilization” from pre-history to the 1600s. The course may examine such topics as the major cultural, economic, diplomatic, political, religious and social trends as well as how they result in the rise and fall of various civilizations during this period. The overall emphasis will be on understanding and interpreting history more than just the memorization of dates.
- II. Instructor: Thomas H. Payton  
Office: Lubbock Downtown Center, office 1018  
Phone: 806-894-9611, ext. 2908  
Office hours: As posted on office door or by appointment  
E-mail: [tpayton@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:tpayton@southplainscollege.edu)  
Website: <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/faculty/payton-thomas.php>
- III. General Course Requirements:  
Textbook: Western Civilizations: Their History and Their Culture, Vol. 1, Brief 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. Cole, Symes, Coffin and Stacey, ISBN 978-0-393-26533-0.  
Additional reading materials may be recommended from time to time during the course but not generally required.
- IV. Attendance Policy: Regular attendance is very important in this course. A STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR INITIATING THEIR OWN WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COURSE, if that becomes necessary. If a student is administratively withdrawn from the class, the grade appearing on the transcript will be, at the instructor’s discretion, an ‘X’ or an ‘F’. **Administrative withdrawal may occur if the student has missed four or more classes or if the instructor feels that the objects of the class will not be met because of excessive absences from this class.** Note that each absence reduces your final grade potential. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor concerning absences. Each absence will count 0 or 10 points off, as discussed in class, depending upon timeliness with which the instructor is contacted and the reason for the absence. For example quarantine due to Covid exposure will NOT result in lost points for attendance, though the student will be required to contact the instructor in a timely manner and make up any missed work. However a student who misses class for no clear or responsible reason (as determined by the instructor) and/or does not contact the instructor in a timely manner will lose the full 10 points. **Note: The instructor is generally unable to return calls to long distance phone numbers.**

Special Pandemic Note: If classes get moved online for any reason including pandemic, it will continue through a mix of email, Blackboard postings and video conferences unless otherwise directed. The extent of use of each and final implementation will be determined at the time based upon circumstances at that point. Be sure you have working SPC email!

Related to this: If you are experiencing any of the following symptoms, please do not attend class and either seek medical attention or get tested for COVID-19.

- Cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing
- Fever or chills
- Muscles or body aches
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- New loss of taste and smell

Please also notify DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN, Associate Director of Health & Wellness, at [dedens@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:dedens@southplainscollege.edu) or 806-716-2376

1. SPC will follow the recommended 3-day isolation period for individuals that test positive.
  - a. **Please note that day 0 is the date of positive test. Day 1 begins the first full day after the date of positive result.**
2. COVID reporting
  - a. Please have students and employees notify DeEtte Edens if they have tested positive to verify dates before returning to class or work.
  - b. The home tests are sufficient but students need to submit a photo of the positive result. The date of test must be written on the test result and an ID included in the photo. If tested elsewhere (clinic, pharmacy, etc.), please submit a copy of the doctor's note or email notification. Results may be emailed to DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN at [dedens@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:dedens@southplainscollege.edu).
  - c. A student is clear to return to class without further assessment if they have completed:
    - ✦ The 3-day isolation period, symptoms have improved and
    - ✦ they are afebrile for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.
3. Please instruct students and employees to communicate with DeEtte Edens prior to their return date if still symptomatic at the end of the 3-day isolation.
4. Exposed individuals will not be required to quarantine. If exposed, SPC does request individuals closely monitor themselves. If an individual does become symptomatic, please do not attend class or work and be tested.

- V. Examination Policy: There will be four (4) major tests given, of which the lowest grade will be dropped. Because one test will be dropped in any case, no makeups are allowed except in rare and extreme cases (at the discretion of the instructor) or as required due to an accommodation (see *Accommodations* below).

VI. Grading Policy:

There is a total of 600 points possible for the course. Grades will be determined as follows:

Discussion posts (12 @ 10 points each)	120
Exams (4, but I drop lowest, so 3 @ 100 points each)	300
Project	120
Attendance (10 points off each absence, if appropriate)	60
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>600</b>

I will grade on the following scale (normal rounding rules apply):

600 - 537 (100%-90%)	<b>A</b>
536 - 477 pts (89%-80%)	<b>B</b>
476 - 417 pts (79%-70%)	<b>C</b>
416 - 357 pts (69%-59.5%)	<b>D</b>
356 - 0 pts (59.49%-0%)	<b>F</b>

Participation points will be assigned in class based upon discussion postings submitted by the start of each chapter. Each student will be required to submit a minimum of 12 postings (at least 1 each for 12 different chapters or sections – see Rules at end for clarification) during the semester based upon the reading. Further requirements and clarifications will be provided in class (see also rules on last page of syllabus). Any posting not meeting these requirements will NOT count towards the 12 needed to successfully complete this assignment. These 12 postings will be worth 120 points total. Participation in the classroom is also expected and will contribute to the final grade.

VII. **General Course Outline:** The following course outline is subject to change during the semester as may be necessary.

Chpts. 1 - 4

Test 1

Chpts. 5 - 7

Test 2

Chpts. 8 - 11

Test 3

Chpts. 12-14

Test 4 (FINAL)

Tests will generally follow the pattern of 80% multiple choice, True/False, matching; and 20% short answer or fill in the blank (spelling and grammar WILL be graded). The final will not be comprehensive.

Class project/presentation: look over table of contents then get with me within the first 2 weeks of the semester on a topic related to this class you would like to cover. If the topic is approved, I'll give you the date when that presentation would tie in. Each presentation will consist of a 3 to 5 page paper plus bibliography and a PowerPoint presentation of your topic to the class. This presentation will include Q&A at the end.

VIII. **SPC Policy regarding "standard English":** All written assignments should be presented using the conventions of Standard Written English. South Plains College requires all students to become proficient in "academic English," a form of English that is typically used in academic, professional, and business contexts. While slang, regional idioms, and informal kinds of self-expression are appropriate in some contexts, they are out of place in academic writing. Writing instructors and professors in courses across the campus expect all students to demonstrate proficiency in using the conventions of academic English in their written work, whether it is in-class exams or take-home essays.

IX. **Student Privacy:** South Plains College is bound by the Texas Open Records Law and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. Information regarding these topics can be found in the South Plains College Catalog. As far as this class is concerned, I will NOT release or discuss your class performance, grades, averages, or attendance with anyone but you. This means that your parents, class counselors, principals, or any other interested party will not gain this information from me – if they need this sort of information they must ask you for it.

- X. **ACCOMMODATIONS:** For information regarding official South Plains College statements about intellectual exchange, disabilities, non-discrimination, Title V Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE Team, and Campus Concealed Carry, please visit <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/> .
- XI. **Academic Integrity:** It is the aim of the faculty of South Plains College to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of any student to present as their own work any work which they have not honestly performed, is regarded as a most serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences, up to and including possible suspension. Students should refer to the SPC General Catalog policy regarding consequences for cheating and plagiarism (see “Academic Integrity” and “Student Conduct” sections). **NOTE:** Use of AI in any form is considered plagiarism and will be treated accordingly.

### The Rules

1. All postings must be original – if you duplicate a question, comment, etc already posted by someone else in the class, your posting **MAY NOT COUNT**.
2. All postings must be original – if you plagiarize from the book or another source, your posting **WILL NOT COUNT** (you can quote another source, just don't use their questions as your question).
3. All postings must be posted prior to the start time of the related class.
4. Be sure to note page numbers related to your question/comment if applicable.
5. Be sure to note sources (external or otherwise), if you are answering a previous posting (you do not need to do formal notation, simple references will be satisfactory).
6. The 12 postings must be from 12 different chapters or sections. If an entire chapter is assigned, it may only be used once; some chapters will be divided in half and covered over two classes – in these cases, a posting may be made relative to each section covered. The Discussion area in Blackboard will be labeled accordingly. You may post more than 12 but not fewer.
7. Each posting must be relevant to the chapter and the course.
8. Each posting should be limited to 100 words or less.
9. Each posting should help to further the understanding of the material (please, no “please define this word” type questions – that’s what a dictionary is for ☺).
10. Failure to meet these requirements may result in the posting being disqualified (that means it won't count).
11. **USE OF AI, in any form, is considered plagiarism and will be treated accordingly.**
12. Any additional clarifications made in class supersede these rules.