Western Civilization to 1500 (H)
Tuesday/Thursday: 12:30-1:45 p.m.
Dr. Phyllis Soybel
Fall, 2014

Course Description: This course is an historical survey of the ancient civilizations of Egypt, Greece, and Rome, through the Middle Ages to the Renaissance. Emphasis is placed on cultural developments, political trends, economic and social issues that have influenced the direction of Western Civilization.

The above is the official description of what Western Civilization to the Renaissance will study. However, along the way we will explore what the idea of culture and civilization is and look at the development of our own ideas of what government and society are and what we consider society to be.

This is the Honors section of the Western Civilization to 1500 survey. In this class, we will have different reading from the regular surveys, although we will cover much of the same material, and there will be different kind of assignments.

Instructor Information:
Name: Dr. Phyllis Soybel

Contact Information:
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Office hours: Hours are subject to change on short notice.
Monday: 8:00-11:00 a.m.
Tuesday: 8:00-9:15 a.m.; 2:00-3:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 9:00 a.m.-Noon.
Thursday: 8:00-9:15 a.m.; 2:00-3:00 p.m.
Or By Appointment

Course Themes:
1) What is civilization? What does it mean to be called one?
2) We will examine two distinct periods within the human history of what is referred to as the West: the ancient western world (the Fertile Crescent, the Eastern Mediterranean, Classical Greece, and the Roman World) and the Middle Ages (also known as Medieval Europe). We will also need to define the “West”? 

Within these two periods: we will examine the following:
3) How do the institutions of western society develop: governance, religion, social structure and economy develop? What are the agents of change and what are the agents which strive to maintain status quo?
4) We will examine the changing role of religion on the development of identity and societal structure within the West?
5) We will look at the development of a “western” culture and law within ancient and medieval societies and discuss how this evolves and devolves through time.
6) Along the way, we touch upon military advances, scientific and medical knowledge, philosophy, the development of historical inquiry and many other such concepts.
Textbooks: There are no required textbooks to be purchased for this class. All readings will be available either as a handout, but more likely as a file on BB. It is up to you whether you print these files out or read them online. I am trying to reduce my paper footprint, by uploading them.

Blackboard: All primary sources (PS) reading will be located on Blackboard under the External Links tab. The readings are divided among folders. At the beginning of the week, you will find a reminder of the textbook chapters and the primary source readings for that week. These PS will serve as points for discussion in class.

Class Expectations: I expect you to be the adults you are (or pretend to be, if you are like me). I expect you to treat me, this class, as well as your classmates and, perhaps as importantly, yourself with respect. While school may seem different than work; the expectations really are no different in their general nature. The expectations that follow are matters of conduct and behavior, as well as late policy and cheating/plagiarism penalties. I expect discussion, lively exchange of ideas. Strangely, I do believe in the notion that active participation promotes learning.

Attendance: You are expected to come to class and to participate in class discussions and to ask questions. This class does have class discussions and students do ask questions. I do not put recorded lectures on BB, unless they are meant to replace a cancelled face to face class. In addition, I do emphasize class themes in exam questions, relying on in class lectures and discussions for essay questions. PowerPoint slides are uploaded, but they are minimal and not all are online. If you are often absent from class, it will negatively impact your final grade. As honors students, you have elected to take the class; you have already discovered that your reasoned opinions have merit. Do not be afraid to ask questions. The mathematician, Charles Steinmetz, once said that “There are no foolish questions, and no [person] is a fool until [they] stops asking questions.”

Discussion: I hope that you will engage not only yourself in the material, but to hopefully engage your fellow students. In order to do so, I expect that you will come to class prepared, having read the material for the day. Perhaps, after reading the text or the secondary readings, you will prepare some questions or comments, which the reading has fostered. Contrary to popular opinion, history is not a spectator sport. We are all participating in its making. If we think in this mode, then hopefully reading the primary source documents of the previous civilizations in whose footsteps we follow will make greater sense.

Keep up with assignments: You must keep up with the reading, as there is really no time to fall behind. Instead, keeping up with the reading will give you a basis for understanding the lectures and the broader picture. Failure to turn in a major assignment or to take an exam will result in a grade no higher than a C. Just as your workplace (and going to school is a job) requires projects to be finished in a timely fashion, so does this class. You cannot pick and choose which assignments to do. Nor can you pick and choose how you do assignments. While the assignments allow for some flexibility, there are a number of “set in stone” requirements.

If you will be absent due to illness or family emergency, please let me know. Studies show that Attendance may not seem like much; but it can be the difference between a higher or lower grade. My email is listed above under administrative information. Should you not have access to email, you must inform me the day a paper is due that you are absent due to illness and when you expect to have the paper in. Late Papers will only be accepted for the following reasons: if there is a death in the family, you are in the hospital or some other act of nature (or G-d if you prefer.) If this is the case, you need to see me or contact me as soon as is possible to discuss when the paper will be in.
Cell Phones and other electronic devices: As we become more connected to the world around us and increasingly informal with each other, it has become easier to forget basic common courtesy. **Cell phones or other electronic devices, not including laptops, must be silenced and placed in book bags/backpacks, purses, or coat pockets before you come into class.** With little exception, you should not answer your cell phone (and that goes for the surreptitious look at your text messages. I see you) during class as this is disruptive to both your instructor and to your classmates. Such behavior is also disrespectful. If I catch doing this once, I will issue a reprimand. If it happens a second time, I will have you leave class for the day. However, should you be expecting a phone call addressing a serious situation (i.e. waiting on a doctor’s phone call), please notify me prior to class, sit close to the door and step out of the classroom to take the call should you receive it during the class period. I do allow that sometimes weather gets in the way or there is an occasion which requires you to leave early, please at the beginning of class if you need to leave early.

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class, and work which is plagiarized will receive a failing grade and may involve further action on the part of the college, up to and including reporting the infraction to the appropriate authorities, which may impose further penalties. **Cheating** is using someone else's work or looking at someone else's test and using their information. The thing about cheating is that you never know if the person you are cheating off of actually has the right answer. **Plagiarism** is the intentional use of someone else's words, thoughts, or ideas without giving the source proper and due credit, such as through the use of citation or footnote, as well as bibliographic notation. I will do my best to make you aware of how to avoid plagiarizing, but it is up to you to actually make the commitment. The rules on plagiarism are applicable to ALL written work you hand in. One way to avoid plagiarism is to footote (or use parenthetical citations) in all your written work for this or any social science class. Failure to provide such will result in an F on the assignment, quizzes or exam. If it occurs again on either an exam or subsequent paper, you will fail this class. Both cheating and plagiarism are violations of student conduct found in the Student's Rights and Responsibilities Handbook, which can be found online. When you enroll at CLC, you are bound by this handbook in your actions and behavior.

College Information:

The Last Day to Withdraw with a grade of W: The last date you can withdraw yourself from this class is November 12, 2014. After this date, the instructor strictly adheres to the college's policy concerning requests to withdraw from classes after the deadline. Unless there is a medical emergency which arises after the date to withdraw, please make sure you follow all the steps and withdraw from the class, as failure to do so will result in a failing grade on the final grade rosters. An incomplete is an option only under extenuating circumstances; and, if the student is passing the course at the time of the request.

Students with disabilities: If you are a student with a documented disability and may need academic accommodations, such as extended time for exams and/or an in-class note-taker; please present documentation to the Office for Students with Disabilities in L112 at the Grayslake Campus. To schedule an appointment, please call (847) 543-2474. If you have already contacted the Office for Students with Disabilities and have completed the Instructor Notification Form, please make sure that I have all appropriate paperwork as soon as possible.

IV. Withdrawal Dates:

The Last Day to withdraw from this class without grade and with refund (will not show up your transcript) is September 11, 2014. The Last Day to Withdraw from this class with a grade of W (will show up your transcript) is November 12, 2014. It is your responsibility to withdraw if you decide that you can no longer do the work and are in
danger of failing. You can do so up the dates above. The instructor may withdraw you administratively prior to this and it may affect your financial aid. This would be done for non-attendance. Just a note: If you find yourself having questions or doubts, do not simply drop the course. Come talk to Dr. Schevera or me.

The instructor adheres to the college's policy concerning requests for withdrawals after the deadline. **Unless** there is a medical emergency which arises after the date of withdraw and you are a student in good standing (and you must have the instructor's signature), you will not be allowed to withdraw and you will receive a grade of F on your transcript. Please avoid all of this and, if you decide to withdraw, take all the necessary steps to properly withdraw from this class and to do so in a timely fashion. I will not be reminding you.

**V. Important Dates to Remember**

- **Class begins:** **August 26, 2014**
- **Last Day to Withdraw with Refund and without Grade:** **September 11, 2014**
- **Last Day to Withdraw with Grade of W:** **November 12, 2014.**
- **Last Day of Class:** **December 16** (Final Exam)

**VI. Course Work**

- Exams
- Various assignments utilizing writing, critical thinking, technology, among other things.
- Quizzes: Face Value. One quiz may worth 30 points, another 20.
- Attendance and participation will be calculated in.
- Final grades will be calculated by dividing the total points earned by the points possible when all assignments, exams and such are added together. (ex: Final point total 500; student accumulated points 440; 440/500=88% and thus a B.)

**Weekly Topics and Textbook Chapters:**

August 26: Pre-History and The Near East, 3000-500 B.C.E. Read, Soybel, Chapter 1 (found on Blackboard).

September 4: The Eastern Mediterranean between 1200-500 B.C.E. Labor Day Week; There are no classes on September 1 or 2. Continue with Soybel, Chapter 1, 2. As well as, French and Poska, Chapter 1 (Posted on Blackboard).


September 16: Classical Greece, 500-350 B.C.E.

September 23: The Hellenistic Era and the Macedonians.

September 30: The Roman Republic, 500 B.C.E to 31 C.E.

October 6: The *Pax Romana*: The Roman Peace.
October 14: The *Pax Romana* Continued. Midterm, October 16.

October 21: Late Antiquity and the Devolution of the Roman Empire, 287-500 C.E.

October 28: The East: The Byzantine Empire; the Rise of Islam.

November 4: The Barbarians Take Over in the West and the Spread of Christianity, 500-1000 C.E.

November 11: Feudalism, the Church and Society, 476 C.E. to 1000 C.E.

November 18: Europe’s Revival, 1000-1350 C.E.

November 25: Europe’s Revival Continued. We have class on Tuesday, November 25, but November 26-28 is part of the Thanksgiving Holiday.

December 2: Disease, War and Change, 1350-1500 C.E.

December 9: The Renaissance, 1350-1500 C.E.

Assignment One: Due Thursday, August 28 due by 9 a.m. and on Blackboard.

Sources:

1) Blackboard (hereafter referred to as BB). Log on and click on Tab: Course Documents. Then click on Folder: Pre-History. Read the Article from Scientific American. (or go to: http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/why-paleo-diet-half-baked-how-hunter-gatherer-really-eat/)

What to Do:

2) Read said Article by clicking on the link. You can download it or print it out. Check out the comments.
3) On Blackboard, go into the Journal tab. Answer the questions you find there. Assignment is worth 10 points and is required. It must be completed by 9 a.m. on Thursday, August 28. There will be NO late papers accepted.

***Note: I do not give extra credit assignments. So, pay attention when these small, required assignments are given. They can be the difference between an A or a B or passing and failing.***