

# CUMBERLAND UNIVERSITY

## COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Title: <b>History of Western Civilization I</b>		
Course Prefix & Number: <b>HIST 111</b>	Section Number: 01	Semester: Spring 2025
Semester Credit Hours: 3	Room: Labry Hall 209	Schedule: <b>MW 8:00-9:15 AM</b>
<b>Required Course Materials:</b>  Spielvogel, Jackson J., <i>Western Civilization</i> , 11 <sup>th</sup> edition. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Purchase Required</b> (from the CU Bookstore, Amazon, publisher, etc.)</li></ul> <i>Any further readings for this course will be added to Canvas if needed.</i>		

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION	
Name of Instructor:	Dr. Miguel Angel Chavez
Telephone Number:	615.257.4402
E-mail Address:	<a href="mailto:mchavez@cumberland.edu">mchavez@cumberland.edu</a>
Office Hours:	<b>Labry 230</b> - <b>MW</b> 12:30-2 PM and 4-5 pm / <b>TR</b> 9:30-11 AM

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a survey of Western society from the earliest cultures to 1715. Starting with Agricultural Revolution in the Fertile Crescent, we will follow Western history by tracing the developments of the Greco-Roman world, Medieval Europe, the Renaissance, the colonization of the Americas, and the Early Modern Era. We will examine Western civilization by looking at the societal, cultural, technological, political, economic, and military changes over this time.

This course will grapple with the meaning of “the West” and what makes a society “Western.” We will also examine the West’s interactions with other “civilizations” and how those interactions fed into the creation of “the West.”

This course will consist of lectures, class discussions, and audio-visual presentations. Students are expected to take notes and participate in discussions in class and on Canvas.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

At the successful completion of this course, students will come away with an understanding of what history is and the various ways historians practice it as a discipline through the study of Western civilization. Students should appreciate the differences among various peoples and cultures, and the importance of cause and consequence in historical actions. Using primary and secondary source evidence, students will be required to think and write critically and logically about historical events and themes.

The goal of any study of history is more than just for enjoyment but is for students of history to understand the past and its relevancy to today, and to analyze the past critically so that they become better-educated citizens and historical actors in the present and the future.

## GRADING

---

# of Graded Course Elements	Graded Course Elements	Percentage or Point Values
3	Exams	45%
1	Final Project	20%
~13	Homework and Quizzes	30%
-	Attendance and Participation	5%

**Exams:** There will be **three exams** over the material discussed in class as well as any assigned reading. The exams will include questions (e.g. multiple choice, true-false, matching key terms, short answers) and an essay. Each exam will be 15% of your grade, or 45% in total.

**Final Project:** There will be **one final assignment** during the semester. More details will be provided in a few weeks from the start of the semester.

**Homework and Class Assignments:** Homework assignments will primarily be done on Canvas, consisting mainly as quizzes, short response papers (1-2 pages), and Canvas discussions over the week's readings. Other activities in-class assignments (such as quizzes) be implemented if needed. These assignments will constitute 30% of your grade. The two lowest grades will be dropped and will not impact your final homework grade.

**Attendance and Participation:** Students will be expected to attend class daily and arrive on-time. Roll will be taken at the start of every class, as per Cumberland University policy. Participation in class discussions is also necessary. This will count 10% of your grade.

Excused Absences: Students out for university-sanctioned events (e.g. athletics, academic events), for documented medical events, or for jury-duty will have their absences *excused*. There is no limit to the number of excused absences a student may have.

Unexcused Absences: Any other form of absence is considered *unexcused*. Students are allowed **2 free unexcused** absences in the semester with no penalty. However, subsequent absences will be deducted from the Attendance and Participation grade.

Late Arrivals: Students who do not arrive on-time will be considered late. However, late arrivals can be excused if there is documented evidence of a medical appointment, school-sanctioned activity, or meeting with a faculty advisor. If a student arrives after attendance is taken, it is the student's responsibility to notify me to update the roll sheet.

Early Departures: In short, students are expected to be in-class until dismissed at the end of the class period. Students with a documented need to leave class early must notify me *before* class starts. Unexcused early departures will automatically be counted as absences.

**Extra Credit**: Extra credit *may* be given in this course to help students add points to their exam grades. The nature of these extra credit points will be announced in class before the exam.

A = 100-93 / A- = 92.9-90 / B+ = 89.9-87 / B = 86.9-83 / B- = 82.9-80 / C+ = 79.9-77 / C = 76.9-70 / D+ = 69.9-67 / D = 66.9-60 / F = 59.9-0

**Canvas Grades**: While assignment grades will be posted on Canvas, *the course grade there is only a guidepost* until *all* assignments are posted at the end of the semester, including attendance, the final exam, and final writing assignment.

## **DROP & WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION**

---

The last day to drop or add a course (without a penalty) is Jan. 21. Last day to withdraw from a course with a “W” is Feb. 10. Last day to withdraw with a “WP” or “WF” is on Mar. 24.

<http://cumberland.smartcatalogiq.com/Current-Catalog/Current-Catalog/Academic-Affairs/Registration-Policy/Drop-Process>

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

---

Students are expected to follow all rules and regulations found in the “Academic Integrity Policy” section of Cumberland University’s 2024-2025 Catalog:

<https://cumberland.smartcatalogiq.com/en/Current/Current-Catalog/Academic-Affairs/Academic-Integrity-Policy>

Further, students are to live up to the *Cumberland Creed*: “Academic honesty is essential to effective learning. Therefore, we as seekers of knowledge hold these as our core values: personal integrity, individual worth, critical and independent thinking, discipline, community responsibility and accountability.”

Academic integrity violations include (but are not limited to): **plagiarism, cheating, re-submissions of prior assignments, using AI programs** (e.g. Chat GPT), **classroom disruptions, and damaging and destroying academic material**. **Violations will result in a grade of zero for the given assignment. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students, to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and/or the Provost.**

You will be given the opportunity to re-do the assignment for partial credit. **Additional violations will result in an automatic F for the course grade.**

**Cite your sources carefully when writing!** Remember to use quotation marks when quoting from a primary or secondary source. Do not copy-and-paste information from Wikipedia or the textbooks and pretend it is your own work. Do not lend your writing to your classmates: numerous cases of plagiarism have been reported by that method.

## **TECHNOLOGY USE IN THE CLASSROOM**

---

I highly recommend you take your lecture notes on paper. However, given the needs of students with accessibility issues to use laptops and recorders, I will allow students to use laptops and tablets for note taking. But do not be disruptive with your technology use. In addition, do not use your smartphone in class. If you end up distracted and miss part of the class, that's ultimately your responsibility.

## **STATEMENT ON COMMUNITY HEALTH CONCERNS**

---

As we are all aware, the COVID-19 virus continues to circulate in our communities. At the same time, other communicable illnesses are also present. Members of the Cumberland University community are asked to help maintain a campus that is safe for all by undertaking appropriate health precautions. We encourage community members to be vaccinated against COVID-19 and to practice good hygiene, including frequent handwashing.

If you do experience symptoms of COVID-19, the flu, or other ailments, we encourage you to seek medical attention through the University Health Services by making an appointment at <https://cumberland.edu/health-services/> or through your personal health provider. Students may be excused from class attendance with a note from University Health Services or a private health provider, though anyone receiving an excused absence will continue to be responsible for completing all required course assignments.

For further guidance on how to respond to COVID-19, please review the University's statement on health protocols at: <https://www.cumberland.edu/coronavirus/current-health-protocols/>.

.....

## COURSE SCHEDULE – HIST 111: Western Civilization I

---

This schedule is tentative and subject to change.

Textbooks:

- Spielvogel = *Western Civilization*

Homework Assignments are found on Canvas under the “Assignments” page. The below schedule does not include any assignments done in class.

Dates	Topics	Readings	Homework
<b><u>Week 1</u></b> Jan. 13-17	Introduction / Prehistory and the Neolithic Revolution	Spielvogel, 1-1 to 1-3	Introduction Thread <b>Due:</b> Jan. 22
<b><u>Week 2</u></b> Jan. 20-24	The Fertile Crescent, Egypt, Europe, & the Indo-Europeans	Spielvogel, 1-4 to 3-1	Canvas Quiz <b>Due:</b> Jan. 29
<b><u>Week 3</u></b> Jan. 27-31	The Bronze Age Collapse and the Early Greeks	Spielvogel, 3-2 to 3-5	Short-Response Essay <b>Due:</b> Feb. 5
<b><u>Week 4</u></b> Feb. 3-7	Classical Greece and the Hellenistic Age	Spielvogel, 4-1 to 4-5	Canvas Quiz <b>Due:</b> Feb. 12
<b><u>Week 5</u></b> Feb. 10-14	The Romans: (753 BCE to 27 BCE)	Spielvogel, 5-1 to 5-5	Short-Response Essay <b>Due:</b> Feb. 19
The <b>First Exam</b> is on <b>Feb. 20</b>			
<b><u>Week 6</u></b> Feb. 17-21	The Roman Empire, Christianity, and the Fall (27 BCE to 476 CE)	Spielvogel, 6-1 to 6-5	Canvas Quiz <b>Due:</b> Feb. 26
<b><u>Week 7</u></b> Feb. 24-28	Post-Roman Europe and Byzantium (200 CE to ca. 700)	Spielvogel, 7-1 to 7-4	No Homework! Study for the Midterm!
Spring Break! March 3 to March 7			
<b><u>Week 8</u></b> Mar. 10-14	The Islamic Conquests and Early Middle Ages	Spielvogel, 7-5 to 8-7	Canvas Quiz <b>Due:</b> Mar. 19
<b><u>Week 9</u></b> Mar. 17-21	The High Middle Ages	Spielvogel, 9-1 to 10-4	In-Class Assignment <b>Due:</b> Mar. 19

The <b>Second Exam</b> is on <b>April 3</b>			
<b><u>Week 10</u></b> Mar. 24-29	Crises of the High Middle Ages	Spielvogel, 11-1 to 11-5	Short-Response Essay <b>Due:</b> Mar. 26
<b><u>Week 11</u></b> April. 1-29	The Renaissance	Spielvogel, 11-1 to 11-5	Canvas Quiz <b>Due:</b> Apr. 2
<b><u>Week 12</u></b> April. 10-14	Conquests and the Age of Exploration	Spielvogel, 12-1 to 13-1 and 14-1 to 14-5	TBD <b>Due:</b> Apr. 9
<b><u>Week 13</u></b> April. 17-21	The Reformation & the Early Modern World (1300-1500 CE)	Spielvogel, 13-2 to 13-6	None! Finish the final project!
Final Project is due on <b>April 18</b> by <b>11:59 PM</b>			
<b><u>Week 14</u></b> April. 17-21	The Scientific Revolution, Enlightenment, & Absolutism	Spielvogel, 15-1 to 17-1	None! Study for the final exam!
The <b>Final Exam</b> is on <b>Tuesday, April 29</b> from <b>8:00 AM</b> to <b>10:00 AM</b>			

---

## CAMPUS SUPPORT

---

**Disability and Accessibility:** Students with a disability can register with the **Office of Accessibility**, located in **Labry Hall 226**, to discuss the possibility of accommodations. A “Registration for Accommodation Services” form should be completed as soon as possible, preferably by the end of the second week of the course. Documentation entailing a diagnosis is required. Once registered and approved, an electronic copy of the accommodations will be sent to the student and the professor. The Office of Accessibility can be reached by phone (615-547-1286), by email ([mcurtis@cumberland.edu](mailto:mcurtis@cumberland.edu)), or in person (Labry Hall 226). For more info, visit: <https://www.cumberland.edu/accessibility/>.

**Counseling:** The **University Counseling Center** is in Labry Hall 225. Appointments for individual personal counseling sessions, which may be in-person or virtual, can be scheduled by calling or emailing Eddie Christian at 615-547-1397 and [echristian@cumberland.edu](mailto:echristian@cumberland.edu), or by emailing Sandy Fields (virtual appointments only) at [sfields@theratribe.com](mailto:sfields@theratribe.com). The Counseling Center website also contains additional information that may be helpful: <https://www.cumberland.edu/office-of-counseling-services/>.

**Library:** The **Doris and Harry Vise Library** is very helpful in your studies for obvious reasons. The regular Fall 2024 hours of the library are:

*Sunday 5 to 9 p.m.; Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.; and Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.*

The library website can be very useful as well: <https://library.cumberland.edu/home> - scroll down to "Quick Links" to find the Vise Library Catalog and other resources. If you need help from off campus, please call the library at 615-547-1299 or email: [library@cumberland.edu](mailto:library@cumberland.edu).

**Computer Labs:** There are computer labs available to students, faculty, and staff, located in the basement of Labry Hall. There are also selected workstations available in the University Library and above the atrium on the second floor of Labry Hall, as well as on the second floor of Memorial Hall and in the Learning and Career Commons. If you have problems with any of these computer workstations, printers/copiers, or have other account issues, please submit an IT Service Request by emailing [support@cumberland.edu](mailto:support@cumberland.edu). Student passwords can be reset by visiting: <https://cams3.cumberland.edu/rptool/index.html?s=1>

**Academic Support:** The **Office of Student Retention and TN Promise Support** exists to offer encouragement, support, and guidance as you navigate life at CU. Among other services, they can offer referrals to the Office of Student Success (Tutoring and Writing Center) as well as the Counseling Center and the Office of Accessibility, when needed. This office houses three academic coaches, who can offer one-on-one sessions to help with things like time management, study skills, etc. Additionally, TN Promise students will receive reminders about important deadlines and requirements from this office. Contact Student Retention and TN Promise Support by visiting LCC 202, calling 615-547-1206, or emailing: [retention@cumberland.edu](mailto:retention@cumberland.edu).

**Student Success:** The **Office of Student Success** is located in the Learning and Career Commons, room 122. This office oversees tutoring and testing services for all actively enrolled Cumberland University students, including the Writing Center (LCC 116) and subject-based academic tutoring labs that are widely available. You can sign up for individual tutors in most CU courses or small group sessions for foundations courses as well. Virtual tutoring sessions are also available for online students. You can visit LCC 122 or LCC 116 directly or email [OfficeofSTudentSuccess@cumberland.edu](mailto:OfficeofSTudentSuccess@cumberland.edu) or call 615-547-1238 for a referral. Additional information is also available on the website: <https://www.cumberland.edu/academics-2/office-of-student-success/>

**Career Services:** The **Office of Career Services**, located in the Learning and Career Commons, room 225, supports students and alumni in the development and achievement of career decisions and goals. Services are provided to all Cumberland students and graduates and include: Self-Assessment and Career Planning, Internship and Job Postings, Resume and Cover Letter Review, Graduate School Preparation, and Career-Related Workshops.

Remember to check out the Cumberland App and the website *HireCU* at <https://cumberland-csm.symplicity.com/> for part-time, full-time, and internship job opportunities! For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact the Career Services Director, Dixie Rury, by phone (615-547-1308) or via email ([drury@cumberland.edu](mailto:drury@cumberland.edu)) or visit the website: <https://www.cumberland.edu/office-of-career-services-and-internships/>

---