



History of Western Civilization in a Christian Perspective (6 cr)

Level: Basic

Subject Area: General Education

Course code: TE104

Semester: Fall 2022

Requirements

General eligibility for academic studies

Course goals and course objectives

This course is designed to introduce the student to the history of culture and ideas in the Western world, beginning with the early cultures of Ancient Near East ending with Postmodernism of our own day. After successfully completing the course, the student will be able to do the following:

- demonstrate a thorough and accurate knowledge of basic facts concerning the history of culture and ideas in the Western world,
- critically analyze and discuss the major themes, issues, and trends in the history of Western civilization, from the cultures of Ancient Near East to the different cultural epochs of the Modern and the Postmodern Era.
- show an acquaintance with the Classical texts of Western culture,
- synthesize the materials covered in this course in a chronological and comprehensive fashion,
- critically analyze and discuss the history of Western civilization from theological and philosophical perspectives,
- demonstrate an accurate understanding of important concepts of historical research on culture and ideas, for example civilization, idea, epoch, style, genre and context,
- distinguish styles, genres, motifs and ideas in written sources and cultural artefacts and show how they are related to their historical context,
- demonstrate an ability to skillfully present his/her knowledge and understanding in writing and orally,
- apply a relevant historical perspective on ideas, being able to contextualize ideas and thought structures in the history of Western civilization and our contemporary situation.

Course content

The course has three parts:

Part 1. The cultural history of Ancient Near East and European Middle Ages

This part of the course provides a foundational survey of the cultures and ideas of the Ancient Near East and the Early and High Middle Ages in Europe until AD 1300. The Classical Greek and Roman Civilizations and the Medieval Christian civilization of Europe are the major emphasis of this survey. The survey holds a discussion about the relationship between these cultures and other cultures of the world in their day. There is also an introduction to the analysis of historical sources.

Part 2. The cultural history of Early Modern Europe: the Renaissance, Manierism, the Baroque, and the Enlightenment.

This part of the course provides a basic orientation in the history of culture and ideas of Early Modern Europe, its cultural epochs and their theological and philosophical background, from the 15th century until the later part of the 18th century. The different styles of art, architecture, music and literature and their background in philosophy, politics, social and economic conditions are discussed and analyzed. Center of this part of the course is European thought but there is also a discussion about the relationship to cultures in other parts of the world. Source texts exemplifying different cultural trends are read and analyzed.

Part 3. The cultural history of the Late Modern Europe until present.

The third part of the course holds a survey of the history of culture and ideas of the Western world in a global context in the 19th and 20th centuries. The following cultural epochs are covered: Romanticism, Realism, Modernism and Postmodernism. Currents and trends in art, architecture, music, literature, theology and philosophy are discussed and analyzed in relation to their social, economic and political contexts. The ongoing interaction between ideas, cultural trends and social, economic and political factors is emphasized. Source texts exemplifying different cultural and philosophical trends are read and analyzed.

Course procedures

- Course teaching is based on or complement the course literature.
- Work with source texts (40 x 2 p = 80p)
- Synthesis papers (4 x 50p = 200p)
- Total number of points available: 280p

Course Literature

Hooykas, R: *Religion and the Rise of Modern Science*, Regent College, 2000, 149p
McGrath, A: *Reformation Thought. An Introduction*. Wiley-Blackwell, Oxford, 2012, 275p
Niebuhr, H. Richard: *Christ and Culture*, HarperCollins, New York, 2002, 200p
Olson, Roger E. & English, Adam C: *Pocket History of Theology*, InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, 2005, 108p
Perry, Marvin: *Western Civilization. Ideas, Politics, and Society*. Wadsworth Publishing, 2015, 900s
The Gutenberg Project: Source texts from different epochs,

Grading

- A = 100–90% (280–252) , B = 80% , C = 70%, D = 60%, F = 0–59%