

**Western Civilization 2311.901 & 921**  
**Course Syllabus**  
**Fall 2024**

**Clarendon College**

Division of Liberal Arts  
History Department

**Instructor:** Dr. Ken McIntosh

**Classroom Location:** Clarendon Campus, Admin. 202

**Class Time:** Tue/Thur 9:30 to 10:55 AM

**Office Location:** Admin. 108

**Office Hours:** 7:00 to 9:00 am; Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays  
8:00 to 9:30 am; Tuesdays, Thursdays

**Contact Information:** Phone: 432-466-5034

Email: [ken.mcintosh@clarendoncollege.edu](mailto:ken.mcintosh@clarendoncollege.edu)

**Course parameters:** August 27 through December 5. (Finals week of 12/9)  
The last day to drop with a "W" is November 14

**Required Text**

Brooks, Christopher. *Western Civilization: A Concise History*, Vol. 1. Portland, Oregon. Last Updated 2024. [Western Civilization\\_ A Concise History - Volume 1 - Google Docs](https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/698) The Open Education Network, University of Minnesota. <https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/698>  
In addition, I will provide some primary source documents that will require your analysis in the form of a paper.

**Course Description**

This course is a survey of the social, political, economic, cultural, religious and intellectual history of Europe and the Mediterranean world from the earliest civilizations to the Middle Ages. Topics include the civilizations of Mesopotamia, ancient Egypt, Persia, Greece and Rome and early European civilization. It is a lecture discussion, reading, research and writing course with the expectation that students will participate in the education with many opportunities to engage the professor and each other in classroom discussions.

## Statement of Purpose

This course partially satisfies the requirements for the state of Texas core curriculum requirements, and the requirements for the Associate Degree at Clarendon College.

## Methods of Instruction

This course centers upon lecture, discussion, critical analysis of primary sources, and in-class work. Discussion is important for learning concepts and a better understanding of the course content. Therefore, regular assessments will be utilized to help students keep up with the material. The learning environment in the classroom is based on students reading and learning material outside of class. Historical documents, videos, and PowerPoint presentations will be utilized as part of the instructional process.

## Core Objectives

In accordance with recommendations from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, all American History courses at Clarendon College will address the following core objectives:

- Critical Thinking Skills - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- Communication Skills - to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
- Personal Responsibility - to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making
- Social Responsibility: to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global issues

## Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Create an argument through the use of historical evidence.
  - a. Assesses CT, COM, PR, and SR with a historical opinion paper.
2. Analyze and interpret primary sources.
  - a. Assesses CT with document analysis of sources used for paper.
3. Analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on this period of United States history.
  - a. Assess PR through quizzes and major exams.

## Attendance

Attendance is taken at the beginning of each class. Class attendance and participation is expected. Poor attendance does not affect your grade, but good attendance can help improve your grade. Good attendance is three or less unexcused absences. An excused absence must be validated by a doctor's note, word from either a Coach or the Academic Dean, or instances of extreme emergency as determined by the instructor. All other absences will be unexcused. It is vital to student success for each student to be involved in the learning process by attending class. Three or less absences mean you will be bumped up to the next grade level if your points are in the 8-9 % range (a 68 = 70; 78 = 80, etc). Four or more unexcused absences simply results in receiving the grade you earn. **If you have an excused absence and you want to still catch the class, you can zoom the class at 806-874-4816.**

## Switching from F2F to Online

It is the policy of the Liberal Arts Division at Clarendon College that any student enrolled in a face-to-face Liberal Arts course must remain in the scheduled face-to-face course through the end of the semester unless the student chooses to drop the course. No student may choose to transition from face-to-face to remote or online. Extenuating circumstances that warrant a transition to online learning can override this policy if determined by the Vice President of Academic Affairs in consultation with the Division Chair and the course instructor. This transition will be communicated in writing to all parties: student, instructor, Division Chair, and Vice President of Academic Affairs.

**If you want to make this switch you must do it by the Friday of the first week of school (8/30/2024).**

## Grade

The grade for this course will be earned through performance on quizzes, exams, and writing a term paper. There will be a quiz every Tuesday. These will happen at the beginning of each class period. Only **excused** absences on Tuesdays will receive a make-up quiz. There will be an exam after each unit. You will have some extra credit opportunities throughout the semester.

Points will be awarded as follows:

EXAM I	100 points	20% of grade
EXAM II	100 points	20% of grade
EXAM III	100 points	20% of grade
Quizzes	100 points	20% of grade
Paper	100 points	20% of grade

A = 100 – 90%	500 -- 450
B = 89 -- 80%	449 -- 400
C = 79 – 70%	399 -- 350
D = 69 – 60%	349-- 300
F = 59% or less	299 - 0

## Exams and Quizzes

Each exam will consist of thirty-three multiple choice items. It will be taken during class in the Success Center. Exams are given online. Quizzes will be given each week at the beginning of class every Tuesday. You will have approximately 5 minutes to take it. There should be a total of 14 quizzes this semester. Each quiz is worth ten points. The last few quizzes are extra credit. ***Special Incentive: Each student who scores a raw exam score of 90% or better will receive a \$25.00 VISA Gift Card.***

## **Make-Up and Paper Deadlines**

Missed Exam I and Exam II can be made up. It is up to the student to schedule the make-up exam. Make up exams must be completed by December 2. **There will be no make-up for Exam III.** Missed deadline for the term paper will be penalized by a grade letter. Exams and Paper parts will receive a 0 after December 6.

## **Withdrawal:**

If you decide that you are unable to complete this course or that it will be impossible to complete the course with a passing grade, you may drop the course and receive a “W” instead of a grade. Withdrawal from a course is a formal procedure that the student must initiate. If you do not go through the withdrawal procedure, you will receive whatever grade you earn on your transcript. Keep in mind that students are only allowed to drop the same course twice before he or she will be charged triple tuition for taking the class a third time or more. Furthermore, students in Texas may only drop a total of six courses throughout their entire undergraduate career. No drops allowed after 6 dropped courses no matter where you attend college in Texas.

## **Americans with Disabilities Act**

Clarendon College provides reasonable accommodations for persons with temporary or permanent disabilities. Notify the Office of Student Services if you require special accommodations. (806-874-3571). I will work with you to make whatever accommodation needed to help you succeed in this course.

## **Student Rights and Responsibilities**

<http://www.clarendoncollege.edu/Resources/Student%20Services/StudentRightsResponsibilities.pdf>

## **Grievance/Appeals**

If you have a dispute concerning your grade or policies in this class, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to discuss the matter. Should things remain unresolved, please follow the procedures described in the Clarendon College Student Handbook or College Policy Manual.

## **Classroom Decorum**

The following behaviors will be observed in class:

- Be on time. Tardy results in loss of 3 points per tardy.
- Turn off phones and pagers during class; your phone goes off, you lose 5 pts. My phone goes off and everyone in class gets 5 extra credit points each.
- If you must leave class, do so quietly.
- No ear phones or headsets allowed during class. Failure to remove them may result in dismissal from class for that day.
- No unrelated reading/study during class. Go to the library if you have to prepare for something else during class.
- Please refrain from packing up notes until I say class has ended.
- Cheating is not cool. Anyone caught cheating will receive a “0” on the exam and will be reported to their coach; this includes plagiarism.
- You cannot leave the classroom during quizzes or exams.
- No hats, caps, or head coverings of any kind will be allowed during exams. This

includes all students.

- No sleeping in class. Sleeping in class will receive special attention from me. It could result in embarrassment, being kicked out of class, or given an extra assignment.

### **Disclaimer on Course Content:**

College-level courses may include controversial, sensitive, and /or adult material. Students are expected to have the readiness for college-level rigor and content. This course may be amended by the professor when necessary.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

The course schedule is subject to change. You will be notified in class and by email if changes are made.

### **UNIT I**

#### **Week 1 (August 27-29)**

- Definition and scope of Western Civilization
- Orientation to course
- The Neolithic Revolution

#### **Week 2 (September 3 – 5)**

- The Rise of City-states and Empires
- The Sumerians

#### **Week 3 (September 10 – 12)**

- The Babylonians
- The Akkadians and Assyrians

#### **Week 4 (September 17 – 19)**

- Ancient Egypt

#### **Week 5 (September 24 – 26)**

- Finish Ancient Egypt
- **EXAM I (9/26)**

### **UNIT II**

#### **Week 6 (October 1 – 3)**

- The Minoan Civilization
- The Mycenaean Civilization

#### **Week 7 (October 8 – 10)**

- The Rise of City-states (Athens & Sparta)
- The Development of Democracy, Philosophy and the arts in Ancient Greece'

#### **Week 8 (October 15 – 17)**

- Alexander the Great
- The Hellenistic World

**Week 9 (October 22 – 24)**

- Ancient Israel

**Week 10 (October 29 – 31)**

- **EXAM II (10/29)**

**UNIT III**

- The Roman Republic

**Week 11 (November 5 – 7)**

- The Transition from Republic to Empire
- Governance, economy and society in Ancient Rome

**Week 12 (November 12 – 14)**

- The Rise and Spread of Christianity

**Week 13 (November 19 – 21)**

- The Rise and Spread of Islam
- The Fall of the Western Roman Empire

**Week 14 (November 26)**

- The Role of the Church in early Medieval Europe

**Week 15 (December 3 – 5)**

- The Crises of Medieval Europe (Famine, Black Death, Crusades)
- **Analysis due 12/5**

**EXAM III TBA**