

HIST 2312

Social Sciences Department

Division of Arts and Sciences

South Plains College

Lubbock Downtown Center

Spring 2025

Sanford B. Hunt

Common Course Syllabus  
History 2312: Survey of Western Civilization from 1600

Department: Social Sciences

Discipline: History

Course Number: HISTORY 2312

Course Title: Western Civilization to 1600

Credit: 3 Lecture, 0 Lab

Satisfies a core curriculum requirement? Yes.

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 later stages of the Age of Discovery through the Industrial Revolutions and Colonial/Imperial Era and the Age of Petroleum to the advent of modern Globalism. 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 efforts of humanity to accommodate to an increasingly complex global network of diverse cultures and civilizations and to further develop 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excessive and in the instructor's opinion, minimum course objectives cannot be met due to absences, the student will be withdrawn from the course.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.

**Dropping a Course:** Students may drop courses through Texan Connect, the Admissions and Records Office, or Advising and Testing Center through the late registration period.

After late registration has closed, a student must complete the online [Student Initiated Drop Request](#) to drop a course.

Students may also drop courses in person at any campus location by completing a Student Initiated Drop Form. Complete a [Student Initiated Drop Form](#) and return the signed form to the Levelland Admissions and Records Office, the Student Support Center at the Lubbock Downtown Center, the Lubbock Career and Technical Center, or Plainview Center. You must have a picture ID to complete the drop.

A mark of "W" will be given for student-initiated drops that occur prior to and through the last day to drop as indicated in the online Academic Calendar found here:

<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/academiccalendar/index.php>.

**Syllabus Statements:** For information about Artificial Intelligence, Disabilities, Non-Discrimination, Intellectual Exchange, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation) Team, Campus Concealed Carry, and COVID-19, please use this link:

<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>.

**HIST 2312.601****Western Civilizations II**

Classroom: 1012 Lubbock Downtown Center      Time: 4:00-5:15 PM, Monday & Wednesday  
 Instructor: S. B. Hunt  
 Contact: 806-716-2463; [shunt@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:shunt@southplainscollege.edu)  
 Office: LC 125C (Lubbock CTE Center)  
 Office Hours: **Career & Technology Center, Room 125C:**  
                   **8::50 – 9:50 AM, Monday and Wednesday**  
                   **9:00 – 11:00, Tuesday and Thursday**  
                   **11:00-12:00, Friday**  
**Lubbock Downtown Center, Room 1015D:**  
                   **2:50 – 3:50, Monday & Wednesday**  
**Meetings can also be conducted on ZOOM by appointment.**

Required Texts & Materials: ***Cultures of the West: A History*** (vol.2). Clifford R. Backman. New York: Oxford University Press, 2019. [ISBN-10: 0190070439; ISBN-13: 9780190070434]. **Any edition is ok.**

This course will focus on the development of political entities (nation-states), the development of political relationships within those entities as well as the relationships between those entities ranging from diplomacy to war in competition for the economic and natural resources of the world. Although it focuses on the so-called “Western World,” it will include, as it must for the sake of completeness, civilizations well beyond that Western World.

**Exam Structure and Assessment Policy (Grading):**

**Exams (55%):** There will be three major exams during the semester, two unit exams and a final. These will cover materials in the lectures and readings. Each will consist of essay or id questions and 20-40 multiple choice questions. Also, there may be a Special Assignment (something like a three-paragraph essay question) assigned in the class with an equal grade value to an examination. Your exam average will account for 55% of your overall grade.

**Reading quizzes and “in-class” quizzes: (20%):** Students will be tested weekly on assigned readings and current class materials. Readings assigned in the class schedule must be completed by the indicated class. The average of the quiz scores will constitute 20% of your final grade.

**Book analysis (20%)** A roughly 5-page analysis of a book approved by the professor on a subject with relevance to the subject matter of the course.

**Class Participation (5%):** This class is one in which the student is required to **think** about the concepts being discussed and to participate in discussions. *Mere presence in the classroom in no way guarantees a passing grade.*

Grade Scale: The grade scale will be as follows: 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; 59 or below = F. Grades will be assessed on the following:

**Attendance:** Regular attendance is mandatory; attendance will be taken. It is in **your best interest** to attend class regularly and on time. Material that will be covered in class goes well beyond the assigned reading, i.e. many questions that will be on exams come exclusively from lectures rather than the book. If you **DO** miss a class, **you and you alone**. A student who has more than 5 absences from class will be dropped without further notice with either a “no grade” or “failing grade,” depending on what grade that student had achieved in the class thus far. Students who have approved absences for athletic or other university sponsored activities should provide a schedule within the first two weeks.

**Student Performance:** You must maintain your standards throughout the duration of the semester. There will be no extra credit and there will be little time for playing “catch-up.” **If you fail four (4) quizzes, you will be dropped from the class with a failing grade with no further warning.** If you fail to submit required work on time, you may also be dropped from the class at the discretion of the instructor.

**ANALYTICAL PAPERS**

Some history classes have long essay questions on their exams; some require formal term papers. This class combines a minimal degree of independent study, reading, and analysis into a relatively painless exercise that I call “analytical essays.” While you **do** have to read a book, **you** choose the book, there is much less time wasted deciding what to write, and there is a greater opportunity to get help, revise and earn an excellent grade. Directions and a more detailed explanation of the essay can be found on Blackboard in the course

**The analytical paper will constitute 20% of your overall grade for this course.**

Book selection deadline: 20 January (request approval no later than 11:30 PM)

Final submission deadline: 11 April (no later than 11:30 PM)

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

For information on special considerations, for example, accommodation for disability, firearms policy, religious holidays, etc., please go to the following URL:

<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>