

HH215

The West in the Premodern World

MWF

Required Texts

Simon Price and Peter Thonemann, *The Birth of Classical Europe: A History from Troy to Augustine* (New York: Viking, 2010) (ISBN 978-0143120452)

Chris Wickham, *Medieval Europe* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2016) (ISBN 978-0300228823)

Plato, *The Last Days of Socrates* (New York: Penguin, 2003) (ISBN: 978-0140449280)

Giovanni Boccaccio, *The Decameron*, trans. Mark Musa and Peter Bondanella (New York: Signet Classics, 2002) (ISBN 978-0451531735)

Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, *The Narrative of Cabeza de Vaca* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2003) (ISBN 978-0803264168)

* Additional readings will be posted to Blackboard. You are responsible for printing them out and having them in class each day.

Course Requirements

- **Participation** (10%) – including attendance, participation in class discussion and debate, bringing your readings to class each day, answering “cold call” questions, and occasional in-class writing activities.
- **Primary Source Essays** (35%) – 2 short papers based on your primary sources. The first will be 4-6 pages; the second, 6-8 pages.
- **Final Reflection Paper** (10%) – 3-4 pages, due at the end of the semester. Instructions to follow.

Each paper must be written using footnotes, if it is not, it will be handed back to be rewritten. (See my handout on “Footnotes made easy...” for guidance.)

- **Reading quizzes** (10%) – at least one per week. I will drop the two lowest scores, one before and one after the midterm.
- **Midterm exam** (15%) – A midterm during the eighth week of class. I will provide a study guide for the midterm exam.
- **Final exam** (20%) – A final exam covering material from the midterm to end of the course. I will provide a study guide for the final exam.

Course Calendar

[Tuesday, Jan. 9]

Introductions

Review of the syllabus and expectations

In class: Writing History

Wednesday, Jan. 10

Life, Death, and Ethics in the Ancient Near East

Selections from the *Laws of Hammurabi*

Selections from *Gilgamesh*

Selections from *Leviticus*

Distribute in class: "Footnotes made easy..."

Friday, Jan. 12

The Early Greeks

Selections from Homer, *The Illiad*

Price and Thonemann, pp. 77-85, 100-112.

Monday, Jan. 15

MLK day – no class

Wednesday, Jan. 17

The Persian Wars

Selections from Herodotus, *The Histories*

Price and Thonemann, pp. 113-131.

In class: Book check

Friday, Jan. 19

Athens vs. Sparta

Thucydides, Pericles's "Funeral Oration"

Thucydides, "The Plague of Athens"

Thucydides, "Melian Dialogue"

Price and Thonemann, pp. 131-144.

Monday, Jan. 22

Philosophizing Life and the State

Plato, "Phaedo," in *The Last Days of Socrates*, pp. 31-70.

Selections from Plato, *Timaeus*

Wednesday, Jan. 24

Socrates, Sage or Fool?

Selections from Aristophanes, *The Clouds*

Plato, "Apology," in *The Last Days of Socrates*, pp. 195-198.

Friday, Jan. 26

Plato's Cave and Aristotle's Logic

Selections from Plato, *Republic*

Selections from Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*

Monday, Jan. 29

Ancient Empires

Selections from Plutarch, "Alexander," at least pp. 312-321.

Price and Thonemann, pp. 145-163.

Wednesday, Jan. 31

War, Politics, and Expansion

Livy, "The Career of a Roman Citizen Soldier," from *The History of Rome*

Livy, "The War with Hannibal," from *The History of Rome*
Price and Thonemann, pp. 205-216.

Friday, Feb. 2

The End of the Roman Republic

Caesar, "The Gallic Wars" (web link)

Selections from Suetonius, "Julius Caesar" (parts 1-11, 18-22, 24-29, 34-45, 50, 65-70, 76-77, and 81-89, corresponding to pp. 1-5, 7-10, 11-14, 16-22, 24, 30-32, 34-35, and 38-42)

Price and Thonemann, skim pp. 217-235, read pp. 236-242.

Monday, Feb. 5

Pax Romana

Selections from Tacitus, *Annals*

Selections from Virgil, *The Aeneid*

Augustus, *Accomplishments of the Deified Augustus*

Price and Thonemann, pp. 257-261.

Wednesday, Feb. 7

The Roman Emperors: The Moderate, the Bad, and the Insane

Selections from Suetonius, "Caligula," parts 22-50, 58-60
(corresponding to pages 156-172, 176-177).

Selections from Suetonius, "Nero," parts 20-29, 33-35, 38, 40-57
(corresponding to pages 216-223, 225-229, 230-231, 232-241).

Friday, Feb. 9

Science and Medicine in the Ancient World

Vivian Nutton, "Rome and the Transplantation of Greek Medicine," in *Ancient Medicine* (New York: Routledge, 2004), pp. 160-173.

Selections of documents on Roman Medicine

First paper due Friday, Feb. 9 by midnight

Monday, Feb. 12

Edges of Empire

Selections from the "Gospel According to Matthew"

Selections from "Paul's Letters to the Romans"

Perpetua, *The Passion of St. Perpetua and Felicity*

Wednesday, Feb. 14

The Later Roman Empire

Selections from Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations*.

Price and Thonemann, pp. 262-291.

Friday, Feb. 16

The "Desert"

Selections from Athanasius, *The Life of St. Antony*

Selections from Benedict of Nursia, *Regula*

Monday, Feb. 19

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY – no class

- Wednesday, Feb. 21 ***Byzantium, Persia, and Arabia***
 Selections from the *Codex Justinian*
 Selections from Procopius of Caesarea, *Secret History*
 Wickham, pp. 43-60.
- Friday, Feb. 23 ***The Rise of Islam***
 Selections from Wali al-Din 'Abd ar-Rahman ibn Khaldûn, *The Muqaddimah*
 Surahs from *Al-Qur'an: A Contemporary Translation*
 "The Tale of the Hunchback," in *Tales from the Thousand and One Nights*
 Wickham, pp. 50-60.
- Monday, Feb. 26 **MIDTERM EXAM**
- Wednesday, Feb. 28 ***The Early Middle Ages***
 Selections from Æthelbert of Kent, *The Laws*
 Selections from Theodore, *Penitential* (Read Book One: I, II, IV, V, VII, VIII, X, XIV, XV and Book Two: X, XI, XII, XIII)
 Selections from Einhard, *The Life of Charlemagne*
 Wickham, pp. 61-75
- Friday, Mar. 2 ***Sagas, Explorers, and the Expansion of Christian Europe***
 Selections from "Eirik's Saga," in the *Vinland Sagas*
 Selections from *Beowulf*
 Wickham, pp. 80-98
- Monday, Mar. 5 ***Europe in the Age of Crusades***
 Selections from Fulcher of Chartres, *Chronicle*
 Selections from Ibn al-Athir, *Chronicle*
 Wickham, pp. 99-120
- Wednesday, Mar. 7 ***Saintly Kings and Misguided Missions***
 Selections from Willem Van Ruysbroeck, *The Mission of Friar William of Rubruck: His Journey to the Court of the Great Khan Möngke 1253-1255*
 Selections from Jean de Joinville, *The Life of Saint Louis*
 Wickham, pp. 141-151.
- Friday, Mar. 9 **NO CLASS – half day schedule, no classes after 11:45**
- Monday, Mar. 12 **SPRING BREAK – no class**
- Wednesday, Mar. 14 **SPRING BREAK – no class**

- Friday, Mar. 16 **SPRING BREAK – no class**
- Monday, Mar. 19 ***Medieval Logic and Learning***
 Selections from Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Contra Gentiles*
 Letters from Abelard and Heloise
- Wednesday, Mar. 21 ***Medieval Church and State***
 Selections from Dante, *Divine Comedy*
- Friday, Mar. 23 ***Sublime Order and Heretical Depravity***
 Selections from Bernard Gui, *Practica inquisitionis heretice pravitatis*
 Selections from Jacques Fournier, *Register*, “Confession of Béatrice widow of Othon de Lagleize of Dalou”
 Wickham, pp. 162-169.
- Monday, Mar. 26 ***Gender and Medieval Society***
 Selections from Margery Kempe, *The Book of her Life*
 Selections from Geoffrey Chaucer, “The Miller’s Tale” in *The Canterbury Tales*
 Wickham, pp. 186-195, 198-209.
- Wednesday, Mar. 28 ***“The Life We Lead is a Sleep”: The Black Death***
 Giovanni Boccaccio, “Prologue,” in *The Decameron*
 Selections from Rosemary Horrox, *The Black Death*
- Friday, Mar. 30 **NO CLASS – I will be away at a conference**
- Monday, Apr. 2 ***The Social World of Renaissance Italy***
 Selections from Giovanni Boccaccio, *The Decameron*
- Wednesday, Apr. 4 ***The Social World of Renaissance Italy***
 Selections from Giovanni Boccaccio, *The Decameron*
- Friday, Apr. 6 ***The Rise of the Spanish Empire***
 Ferdinand and Isabella, “Letter on the Inquisition (1480),”
 Hernando Pulgar, “*Crónicas de los reyes de Castilla* (1492)”
Capitulations of Granada (1492)
Documents on the Expulsion of the Jews
 “Royal Edict of Expulsion of the Muslims” (1502)
- Monday, Apr. 9 ***Iberia and the Atlantic World***
 Selections from Eannes Gomez de Azurara, “The Conquest of Guinea”
 Christopher Columbus, “Letter on the New World (1493)”

Wednesday, Apr. 11

Sixteenth Century Europe

Selections from Andrew Pettegree, *Europe in the Sixteenth Century* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2002).

Selections from Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*.

Friday, Apr. 13

Witches and Witch-hunting

Selections from Brian Levack, *Witch-hunting in Sixteenth-Century Europe*

Selection of French and German witchcraft confessions

“The Confession of María de Endara”

Second paper due Sunday, Apr. 15 by midnight

Monday, Apr. 16

Religious Reformations

Martin Luther, “Ninety-Five Theses”

Michel de Montaigne, “Of Cannibals”

Wednesday, Apr. 18

Persecution and (In)tolerance

“The Trial of Marina Gonzalez,” in Lu Ann Homza, *The Spanish Inquisition*

“Auto de Fe Celebrated in Granada,” in Lu Ann Homza, *The Spanish Inquisition*

Friday, Apr. 20

Destruction of Empires

Selections from Stuart Schwartz, *Victors and Vanquished*

Cabeza de Vaca, *Narrative*, chps. 1-6.

Monday, Apr. 23

Narratives of Conquest, Gone Horribly, Horribly Wrong

Cabeza de Vaca, *Narrative*

Wednesday, Apr. 25

Arranging the New World

Selections from Francisco Hernandez, *The Mexican Treasury*

In class: *Relaciones de Indias*

Friday, Apr. 27

Science and Enlightenment on the Colonial Frontier

Take a look at the paintings posted to Blackboard and be prepared to answer the posted questions

Monday, Apr. 30

Review for final exam

Final reflection paper due Tuesday, May 1 by midnight

FINAL EXAM

Exam period, check schedule for exam times

