



Prof. Kurt M. Boughan  
 Capers 432A \* 843.953.5053  
 Hours: MW 11-12, M 1:30-4:30

HONR 103-02  
 Fall 2009

## Course Syllabus Western Civilization to 1648

**Objectives.** This course has two aims: 1) to introduce the main political, intellectual, and social developments in the Western cultural tradition from its Greek origins to the seventeenth century; 2) to develop the mature understanding of history as an disciplined way of thinking.

**Classwork.** This course is lecture-based, with occasional class discussion of assigned readings.

**Written Work.** There will be two mid-term examinations, a short paper (6-8 pp.), and a final examination. The paper will be an analysis of *primary source reading*.

**Grading.** All written assignments will be graded on a conventional one-hundred-point scale. The three examinations each count for 22% of your final course grade. The paper counts for 24%; class participation, 10%. All four written assignments must be submitted to pass the course. If you miss an exam or fail to submit the paper, you will receive an "F" for the course. Your professor will accept no written work after the date of the final examination. He will make no exceptions to these rules. The final grade for the course, once reported to the registrar, is fixed, absolutely non-negotiable, and will only be changed in case of clerical or mathematical error. A grade of "I" (incomplete) will be given only in case of very extreme and unavoidable emergency, such as military deployment, death of a parent or sibling, major and highly debilitating illness or injury.

**Required Reading.** The books listed below contain the required reading for the course. Reading assignments and their due dates are listed on the Course Schedule that accompanies this syllabus.

*Textbook:*

Hunt, Lynn, *et al.* The Making of the West: Peoples and Cultures. Vol. I (to 1740). Third Edition. Bedford/St. Martin, 2009.

*Primary Source Readings:*

Alberti, Leon Battista. *On the Family*. Trans. R. N. Watkins. Waveland, 2004.

Sturluson, Snorri. *King Harald's Saga*. Trans. M. Magnusson and H. Palsson. Penguin, 1966.

**Responsibilities.** In this course, you are assumed to be an adult. As an adult, you are responsible for your education. Your professor's job is to coach you through the material -- to guide you through the mental exercises that you must do yourself if you wish to learn. It is your responsibility alone to attend class, prepare for class, take notes on all lectures, submit all written work on time, and strive to understand the course material as best you can. Grades will be based on performance, not effort. There is no credit simply for trying, and there is no "extra credit."

**Academic Dishonesty.** Your professor will tolerate no form of academic dishonesty, i.e., cheating, plagiarism, and the like. You are assumed to know the Citadel's definitions of cheating and plagiarism. Your professor will report and prosecute honor violations. He reserves the right to fail you automatically for the course if he discovers you to have cheated or plagiarized.

**Deadlines and Examination Dates.** Deadlines for written assignments are firm and non-negotiable. Extensions will not be granted except in cases of extreme and unavoidable emergency. You may submit the paper up to five days (including weekend days) after its due date, but your earned grade on it will be reduced by one full letter. You must take each examination at its scheduled time, unless one of two things prevent this: 1) extreme and unavoidable emergency; 2) conflict with an pre-arranged event in which you represent the Citadel in some official manner (in an intercollegiate athletic competition, for instance). In the latter case, you must inform your professor of your schedule conflict no less than two weeks in advance.

**Communication.** Your professor prefers face-to-face communication over all other forms. All grave concerns with the course or its content should be addressed in person during his office hours. Email and telephone contact should be used for less serious questions and concerns. Email should be business-like and avoid casual language. Since your professor is a busy professional with commitments that go well beyond teaching this course, do not expect an immediate response to an email or telephone message.

**Electronic Distribution of Course Materials.** Your professor will distribute all essential written course materials – e.g., syllabi, paper assignments, study guides, and the like – via the Internet. Instructions for accessing this material will be given in class.

**Attendance, Tardiness, Inattention, Sleeping.** Your professor is obligated to use the Citadel's computerized Class Absence System. You are assumed to know and understand the policies of the college regarding class absence and tardiness. Your professor will keep his own attendance records and use them at his discretion to determine your course grade for class participation. You are responsible for remaining awake and attentive in class. Your professor may penalize chronic sleepiness, inattention, or tardiness with removal from class or similar disciplinary action at his discretion. Inattention includes coming to class without the necessary materials or equipment for learning.

**Digital Devices.** All digital devices – such as laptop computers, portable music and gaming platforms, calculators, and cellular phones – must be shut off and stored out of sight during class time. Take notes the old-fashioned way, with pen and notebook. Failure to shut off and stow may result in removal from class or other disciplinary action at your professor's discretion.

**Special Accommodation.** If campus disability services have determined that you qualify for special accommodation for examinations, and you wish to have these special accommodations, let your professor know by the second week of class. If you provide the necessary documentation, your professor will make every reasonable effort to meet your needs.

**Spirit of the Course.** Real history is about real life – and “real life” includes what is controversial, unhappy, or uncomfortable in human experience. This course will shy away from no part of what it is to be human. That includes such touchy areas as religion, sexuality, and political ideology. You should be prepared to confront, to comprehend, and to discuss ideas and values that are quite foreign to your own. You will be expected to do this in a mature and respectful fashion. Your professor does not require you to *believe* or *embrace* any of the religious teachings, philosophical concepts, or cultural practices presented in this course. But he does expect you to *understand* and to *explain* such things as best you can. Learning how to do this is fundamental to an education in the liberal arts – and key to gaining intellectual and moral maturity. It is essential to any honest, meaningful notion of the “whole person” and “principled leadership.”

**K. M. Boughan \* HONR 103-02 \* Fall 2009 \* The Citadel**  
**Course Schedule**

All reading for the week is to be completed by the first class meeting of the week unless otherwise noted. Reading due dates are marked in **blue**. The dates of examinations are marked in **red**. Paper due dates are marked in **green**. This schedule is subject to minor modification as your professor sees fit.

Key:

**H** = Lynn Hunt *et al.*, *The Making of the West*

**S** = Snorri Sturluson, *King Harald's Saga*

**F** = Leon Battista Alberti, *On the Family*, Book III.

Week I (8/26, <b>8/28</b> )	<b>H</b> ch. 2, pp. 42-67.	
Week II ( <b>8/31</b> , 9/2, 9/4)	<b>H</b> chaps. 3 and 4.	
Week III ( <b>9/7</b> , 9/9, 9/11)	<b>H</b> chaps. 5 and 6.	
Week IV ( <b>9/14</b> , 9/16, 9/18)	<b>H</b> ch. 7; ch. 8, pp. 245-259.	
Week V ( <b>9/21</b> , 9/23, 9/25)	<b>H</b> ch. 8, pp. 232-237; ch. 9, 268-272.	
Week VI ( <b>9/28</b> , <b>9/30</b> , 10/2)	<b>H</b> ch. 9, pp. 272-293.	First mid-term exam, 9/28.
Week VII ( <b>10/5</b> , 10/7, 10/9)	<b>H</b> ch. 10; <b>S</b> pp. 45-107.	
Week VIII ( <b>10/12</b> , 10/14)	<b>H</b> ch. 11; <b>S</b> pp. 107-163.	
Week IX ( <b>10/19</b> , 10/21, 10/23)	<b>H</b> ch. 12.	
Week X (10/26, <b>10/28</b> )	No reading.	Second mid-term exam, 10/28.
Week XI ( <b>11/2</b> , 11/4, 11/6)	<b>H</b> ch. 13; <b>F</b> pp. 153-183.	
Week XII ( <b>11/9</b> , 11/11, 11/13)	<b>F</b> pp. 183-245.	
Week XIII ( <b>11/16</b> , 11/18, 11/20)	<b>H</b> ch. 14.	
Week XIV ( <b>11/30</b> , 12/2, <b>12/4</b> )	<b>H</b> ch. 15.	Primary source analysis paper due, 12/4.
Week XV (12/7)	No reading.	Final deadline for all written work, 12/8.
Final Exam ( <b>12/14</b> )		Final Exam begins at 1pm.