



## History 101: Western Civilization, From Ancient to Early Modern Times

**Learning Community:** Identity Politics, Migration and Ritual: Material Culture and Text (with ART102)

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Office Hours: N651T Monday/Wednesday: 5:30 – 6:30 pm,

Tuesday: 9:45 – 10:45 am and by appointment

1102: Tues/Thurs 11-12:15, N465

**Learning Community Description:** This semester you are enrolled in a BMCC Learning Academy learning community, which links HIS 101 with ART 102 and your BLA Success Seminar. Welcome to a whirlwind tour around the Mediterranean, from Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome, to medieval and early modern Europe and the Islamic world. In this shared learning community, you will become familiar with ancient civilizations and how they remained interconnected. The connectivity between these courses is the broad study of the shared Mediterranean networks, with a focus on human activities including migration and ritual behaviors.

**History 101** will introduce you to history as a discipline and to historical thinking, teaching you how to engage with texts and images, to analyze them critically and to develop convincing arguments from historical evidence. By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Explain** the significance of different kinds of historical change.
- Evaluate** the reliability and usefulness of different forms of historical evidence.
- Locate** an event and sources in historical context
- Trace** historical trajectories

**Required Books: Pack ISBN (all books together): 9780190904623**

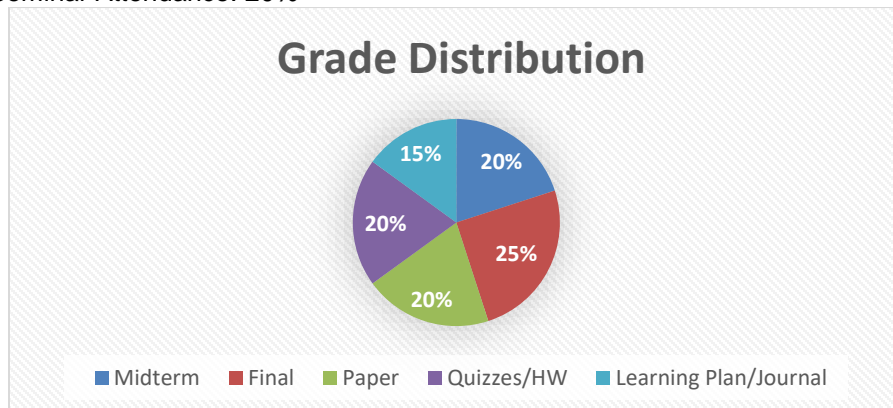
Textbook: Clifford Backman, *Cultures of the West, A History*, volume 1: to 1750, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Oxford University Press, 2016). ISBN: 9780190240462

Clifford Backman, *Mapping Cultures of the West*, volume 1 (Oxford University Press, 2012). ISBN 9780199973477

Jennifer Rhea and Liz Clark, *Perpetua's Journey: Faith, Gender, and Power in the Roman Empire* (Oxford University Press, 2017). ISBN: 9780190238711

All books are available for purchase at the BMCC bookstore, or can be purchased online. Please bring **Perpetua's Journey and the map book** to class (you can leave the textbook home). You will also be required to read primary sources, which I will provide on Blackboard.

Grades: Midterm: 20%, Final, 25%, Quizzes/Homework: 15%, Learning Community Project: 20%, Student Learning Plan/Journals & BLA Seminar Attendance: 20%



*Schedule (\*subject to change: all revisions will be announced in class and updated on Blackboard):*

*Dates*                      *Topics (Note: reading should be done **before** class sessions)*

8/28                      Introduction

### **Section 1: Early Societies in the Near East**

8/30 & 9/4              First Civilizations: 10,000-2100 BCE  
Textbook chapter 1

9/6 & 9/13              The Ancient Near East, 2100-486 BCE  
Textbook chapter 2; Primary source set 1. No class 9/11

9/20                      The People of the Covenant, 1200-350 BCE  
Textbook chapter 3, no class 9/18

### **Section 2: Age of Empires: Greece, Persia & Rome**

9/25 & 9/27              Greeks & Persians, 2000-479 BCE  
Textbook chapter 4; Primary source set 2

10/2, 10/4 &              Classical Greece & the Hellenistic World, 479-30 BCE  
10/9                      Textbook chapter 5

10/11 & 10/16          Empire of the Sea: Rome, 753 BCE – 212 CE  
10/18 & 10/23          Textbook chapter 6

10/25                      Midterm

10/30 & 11/1            The Rise of Christianity in a Roman World, 40 BCE – 300 CE  
11/6 & 11/8            Textbook chapter 7, Perpetua's Journey

### **Section 3: The Middle Ages**

11/13 & 11/15          The Early Middle Ages, 300-750  
Textbook chapter 8

11/20                      The Expansive Realm of Islam, 30-900  
Textbook chapter 9

11/22 & 11/27          Reform & Renewal in the Greater West, 750-1258  
Textbook chapter 10; Primary source packet 3

11/29                      Worlds Brought Down, 1258-1453  
Textbook chapter 11

### **Section 4: The Early Modern West: Towards a Modern World**

12/4 & 12/6              Renaissance and Reformations, 1350-1563  
Textbook chapter 12

12/11                      Worlds Old and New, 1450-1700  
Textbook chapter 13; Primary source packet 4

12/18                      Final Exam

## **Policies:**

First and foremost, I and everyone at BMCC are here to help you succeed. There are lots of resources at BMCC to help you both inside and outside of the classroom. For more information, go to the Student Hub: <http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/students/>. In particular, any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact Student Affairs for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so.

### *Student Expectation Statement:*

In order to do well in this course, all students are expected to attend class on time, do the required reading **before** the lecture for which it is assigned, participate in class discussions and complete all assignments. Although there is not a specific class participation grade, there are quizzes/short writing exercises or homework due in most classes, so if you do not come to class and do the work, it will affect your grade. BMCC's **official attendance policy** is that you can miss one more class hour than the contact hours for the class, so for this class you can miss **three classes** (see <http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/academics/page.jsp?pid=1281&n=Attendance%20Policies>). If you have any questions about the readings, assignments, or history in general, or are concerned about your progress please come see me during my office hours. If you cannot make it to office hours, please make an appointment to meet at another time, preferably by email. I am always willing to help students, but I cannot help you if I do not know you need help.

### *Make-up/Late Work/Extension Policy:*

Missing any part of this schedule may prevent completion of the course. If you foresee difficulty of any type (i.e., an illness, employment change, etc.) which may prevent completion of this course, notify me as soon as possible. Failure to do so will result in failure for an assignment and/or failure of the course. If I have not heard from you **by the deadline dates for exams**, no make-up work will be allowed (unless extraordinary circumstances existed, such as hospitalization). There are no make-ups for quizzes or in-class assignments, but I will drop the lowest grade. For take home work, including homework, Student Learning plans, and the paper, you have **two** late passes that you can use to submit the assignment up to **one week** late. You must write on the assignment that you are using one of your passes.

### *Academic Integrity*

All of your work must reflect your own thoughts, words, opinions, and work. Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in this class. Any instance will be reported to the Office of Student Affairs, and will result in a zero on the assignment. It could also result in an F in the class, and/or harsher penalties. If you are unclear about what constitutes academic dishonesty, please see BMCC's full policy on academic integrity:

<http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/academics/page.jsp?pid=1052&n=Policy%20on%20Plagiarism>, or ask me.

### *Students with Disabilities:*

Your success in this class is important to me, and it is the policy and practice of Borough of Manhattan Community College to create inclusive learning environments consistent with federal and state law. If you have a documented disability (or need to have a disability documented), and need an accommodation, the Office of Accessibility (OA) to discuss how to meet your specific needs. The OA offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Please also note that in order to obtain or use your accommodations, you must self-identify first to the Office of Accessibility, and then to your professors. For more information, please visit the OA website at <http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/accessibility/index.jsp>.

### *Academic Freedom*

The tradition of the University as a sanctuary of academic freedom and center of informed discussion is an honored one, to be guarded vigilantly. The basic significance of that sanctuary lies in the protection of intellectual freedoms: the rights of professors to teach, of scholars to engage in the advancement of knowledge, of students to learn and to express their views, free from external pressures or interference. These freedoms can flourish only in an atmosphere of mutual respect, civility, and trust among teachers and students, only when members of the University community are willing to accept self-restraint and reciprocity as the condition upon which they share in its intellectual autonomy. Academic freedom and the sanctuary of the University campus extend to all who share these aims and responsibilities. They cannot be invoked by those who would subordinate intellectual freedom to political ends, or who violate the norms of conduct established to protect that freedom (see <http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/academics/page.jsp?pid=1041&n=Henderson%20Rules>).