

# Western Civilization Look back so you can look forward

Mr. Eric Thimsen  
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Fall Semester

Office hours 7:35 – 8:00 Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

As a coach, I am rarely available after school but if I am there, feel free to see me

## **Course Mission:**

Western Civilization is an academically challenging content rich course that is coordinated in many areas with the Jefferson Academy literature program. This course serves as the foundation for future social studies courses in both high school and college. Throughout the semester, this course will provide a balanced look at the humanities by exploring the history, geography, civics, and economic aspects of modern world societal development. Challenging assignments that involve reading, analysis, synthesis, writing, public speaking, simulations, Socratic seminars, and groups will be used to track these developments. Lecture, discussion, art, music and video technology will also be used to enhance the learning.

## **Course policies and procedures:**

1. You should be to class daily and on time. I will enforce the absent and late policies outlined for you in the JA student handbook
2. Students may have closed drink containers and light snacks. The ability to have this policy is directly related to the ability of students to throw trash away and keep food or drink off of the floor.
3. Students are only permitted to use personal electronic devices in the classroom on a limited basis. Mobile phones will be stored in the 'phone jail' on the wall. If a student chooses to use electronic devices during times when it is not allowed, the device may be confiscated following the procedures outlined in the student handbook. For the first confiscation, I will simply have a word with you and give the phone back after class. For the second confiscation, I will take the phone to the office for the remainder of the day. For subsequent confiscations, you will be assigned to Friday school and additional consequences may be assigned by administration.
4. Make up work for those serving a suspension will follow JA policy on suspended students.
5. Academic honesty and integrity is central to the JA course of study. There is a ZERO tolerance policy for those that engage in academic dishonesty. Cheating, copying, or plagiarizing will result in a zero for that assignment. When writing or doing projects, it is important to attribute all ideas, words or thoughts of another, to that person. JA and district policies apply in all cases of plagiarism.
6. Respect for others ideas and items are paramount to a safe learning environment. All communication should be honoring and respectful. There is to be no hazing, no unwanted communication or harassing, and no touching things that don't belong to you as per JA and district policy.
7. All work and presentations should be turned in on time and done to the best of your ability. As a rule, I do not accept late work unless the student has pre-cleared the reason for the late assignment. As a J.A. student, it is paramount that you begin to submit things in a timely manner. When this isn't possible, communication is essential if you hope to have the assignment accepted.

## **Grading**

Grades in this class are determined on a weighted basis. The categories and weights attached to them are as follows:

- Homework, class work - 35%
- Tests, quizzes, assessments and projects - 35%
- Essays and writing assignments - 20%
- Final exam - 7%
- Serving in the Community – 3% *One of the themes that we will be focusing on in our studies is the effect of civic engagement on a society. Social studies students at Jefferson Academy are to take partial responsibility for the quality of their school by participating in the things going on at it. Students are therefore required to attend at least five school events during the fall semester. This requirement is lowered to three if they are playing a sport or involved in a school club outside of the regular school day. School things to be involved in or whose events are attendable include but are not limited to sporting events, dances, art shows, drama productions, and board meetings. Other activities will be considered if mentioned to the instructor.*

Students should monitor their own grades continually as they will be updated regularly. The grading scale is as follows:

A = 90 – 100%          B= 80 – 89%          C= 70 – 79%          D= 60 – 69%

Although this is a fairly standard scale, I have built in ways to assess performance that can enhance the grading scale. Students that participate in class and discussions and work hard will never fail regardless of percentage.

## Homework Policy

All homework is to be turned in on the assigned date. Late work will not be accepted. Students that have excused absences will be subject to school rules for the makeup of their work (2 days for each excused absence). Makeup work for unexcused absences will be allowed, but will be penalized one letter grade from the grade earned. It is also monumentally important that in this class, students pre-read and continue to keep up on reading prior to assigned tasks. By following the basic topic calendar that follows, all students should generally know what is expected and what needs to be read.

## Supplies

The supply list for this class is as follows:

- 1) A bound notebook. They can be spiral bound or perforated or be a three ring binder.
- 2) Pens and pencils
- 3) One tissue box or one container of disinfecting wipes

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(please detach and return)

## Parent Signature

I have read and understand the rules, regulations, and calendar associated with Mr. Thimsen's Western Civilization class. My signature indicates that I will help my student adhere to the requirements needed to be successful in the course; mainly pre-reading the assigned topics and writing the assigned papers but also community service and other class related items.

As we move into the modern era, I give my student permission to view video clips of films that *may* be graphic or contain language that may be offensive *but not sexual in nature*. I understand that the teacher will exercise professional judgment as we possibly view important scenes about Nineteenth Century revolution (Les Miserables), WWII (various scenes or footage including Saving Private Ryan, Pearl Harbor or Flags of our Fathers), and the Holocaust (Schindlers List).

I understand the desire for such footage, but please let my student know ahead of time so that he/she can go straight to the library to work on the writing piece assigned for that topic.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Topic Calendar

This is a fairly firm but tentative schedule of topics that will be covered, including the reading that will take place. Understand that quizzes may take place at any time without notice to ensure that reading is being done. The calendar is subject to change with notice:

<b>Dates:</b>	<b>Topic:</b>	<b>Reading:</b>	<b>Major Assessments</b>
August 14 - 17	The Renaissance	Pages 37 – 53 (Renaissance)	Ch. 1 Test The Prince, Loved or Hated summary/Response
August 20-31	The Age of Exploration (ch. 3)	Pages 95 - 141	Age of Exploration Exam (ch. 3 &4) The High Price of Sugar Doc. analysis
Sept. 4-12 (no school Sept. 3)	The Age of Absolutism	Pages 155-183	Absolutism Test Ch. 5 James I summary/Response essay
Sept. 13 – 21	Enlightenment and Revolution	Pages 189 – 211	Enlightenment Test Enlightened Salons Info/ 1pager
Sept. 24 – Oct. 3	The French Revolution	Pages 217 - 241	French Rev. Test
October 4 - 10	Nationalist Revolutions	Pages 247 - 269	Ch. 8 Test
Oct. 15 - 19	Industrialization	Pages 283 - 307	Industrial Revolution Webquest Urban game reflection
Oct. 22 – Nov. 2	Imperialism	P. 339 - 390	Age of Imperialism Test Traditional vs. Modern writing
Nov. 5 - 9	The Great War (WWI)	P. 407 - 427	WWI Test
Nov. 12 -16	Totalitarianism and Nationalist revolutions	P. 433 - 459	Letter to your Totalitarian
Nov. 19-23	Thanksgiving break		
Nov. 26 - 30	Years of Crisis	Pages 463 - 485	
December 3-7	WWII	Pages 491- 517	WWII Test
Dec. 10-14	The Cold War	531 - 553	
Dec. 17 - 21	Finish Cold War Finals week		Course Final