

WESTERN CIVILISATION I

1. MODULE SUMMARY

Aims and Summary

This course is an introduction to European Civilisation and society since antiquity until 1788 (before the French Revolution). It centers on interpretation of fundamental ideas and processes which shaped European identity, while facts and pure history are of secondary importance. The students are expected to know the basics from previous education, but the course has no formal pre-requisites. Workshops are an integral part of the entire course. They are to help the students to understand the topics reviewed during lectures as well as to review some extra material not covered by the lectures. They also help the teachers to check students' work. The course aims to show the birth and growth of principal ideas, concepts, institutions, and trends such as authority, liberty, equality, citizenship, limited vs. absolute power, state, society, and economic development in each of Europe's main epoch, Antiquity, Middle Ages and Early Modern Europe.

Module Size and credits

CATS points	15.0
ECTS credits	7
Total student study hours	150
Number of weeks	12
School responsible	Łazarski University, Faculty of Economics and Management
Academic Year	2021-2022

Entry Requirements (pre-requisites and co-requisites)

N/A

Excluded Combinations

None

Composition of module mark (including weighting of components)

Coursework 60%, composed of two in-class exams 30% each;

Final examination 40%

Pass requirements

To pass the course a student must score at least 40% of the overall weighted average and not less than 35% for each assessment component (i.e. final exam and coursework). Re-assessment: coursework component(s) and/or examination as appropriate.

Special Features

None

Course stages for which this module is mandatory

BA Year 1 International Relations

Course stages for which this module is a core option

None

2. TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

Intended Module Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students should be able to:

1. Trace the origins of Western Civilisation and indicate the main sources of its uniqueness;
2. Critically evaluate the growth and decline of authority and liberty at each stage of European

- history and identify the forces which supported that growth or were against it;
3. Observe the evolution of state, its concept and practise throughout ages, and define differences between mediaeval and early modern European society;
 4. Compare and discuss basic developments in Western and Eastern Europe

Indicative Content

- Prehistoric Man and Woman and the Oldest Civilizations: Egypt & Mesopotamia and Crete; Ancient Roots of European identity: Israel, Greece, Rome and Christianity. Main features of Greek and Roman civilisations. Byzantium and Islam.
- Middle Ages: “Barbaric Europe”; feudalism; state; estate and provincial rights; the growth of High Middle Ages and the crisis of Late Middle Ages; freedom in the Middle Ages
- Nation State; Renaissance and Reformation; Absolutism vs. Constitutionalism; Town and village—daily life
- East Europe: Case of Russia and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth
- The Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment

Teaching and Learning

This module will be taught by means of lectures, workshops, and self-directed study.

Formative Assessment: Comments will be given on assessments, and tutorial guidance will be provided for coursework and exam.

Student activity and time spent on each activity comprises:

Guided	0 hours	(0%)
Lecture	45 hours	(30%)
Self-guided	90 hours	(60%)
Seminar	0 hours	(0%)
Workshop	15 hours	(10%)
Total	150 hours	

Method of Assessment (normally assessed as follows)

Two in-class exams (60% – 9 Credits): 60 minutes each; contribute to learning outcomes 2, 3

Final exam (40% – 6 Credits): 100 minutes; contributes to learning outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4

Date of last amendment

17-09-2014

3. MODULE RESOURCES

Essential Reading

McKay, J.P., et all (2008, or an earlier editions). *A History of Western Society* (§ 1-18, 20). New York: Houghton Mifflin.

or any other textbook on Western Civilization (our library has a rich choice of such textbooks).

Recommended Reading

Huppert, G. (1998 or later eds). *After the Black Death: A Social History of Early Modern Europe*. New York. § 1-5, (library, teaching material on reserve under my name).

Hays, D., 1968. *Europe – The Emergence of An Idea*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Kirk, R., *The Roots of American Order*, 11-38 (class on Israel); 60-73 (class on Greece); 177-192 (class on the Middle Ages); library, teaching material on reserve under my name.

Lazarski, C., 2012. ‘Liberty’s Ancient Roots: From Ancient Israel to the Fall of the Roman Empire’, in Lazarski, C. (ed), *Power Tends to Corrupt: Lord Acton’s Study of Liberty* (available also in our student resources).

Moore, T., 1999. 'Utopia', in Bruce, S. (ed), *Three Early Modern Utopias*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Pericles, *Funeral Oration* (fragments from Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*) – online

Weber, M., 1992. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, New York: Routledge.

Required Equipment

None

4. MODULE ORGANISATION

Module leader

Name Prof. Christopher Łazarski

E-mail k.lazarski@lazarski.edu.pl

Length and month of examination

100 minutes in February

Expected teaching timetable slots

Note that some tutorials/seminars may be provided at times other than those shown below. Timetable information should be verified with the School responsible for the module

No timetable information available

Subject Quality and Approval information

Board of Study Faculty Collaborative Provision Committee

Subject Assessment Board Faculty Council, Faculty of Economics and Management

Shortened title

Date of approval by FCPC 2 March 2018