

# NorthWest Arkansas Community College

## Western Civilization to 1650 WCIV 1003

### Catalogue Description

A survey of western development from pre-historic times to 1650. Emphasis is on the cultural, scientific, religious, economic, and political contributions of the ancient, medieval, and early modern periods in western civilization to 1650.

### Prerequisites:

None

### Credit Hours/Contact Hours/Load Hours

3/3/3

### Target Audience & Transfer

Designed for students seeking an Associate of Arts degree and one of the required course options in various programs. Course can be transferred to the University of Arkansas.

### General Course Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Gain Historical Knowledge by studying western civilization, students will acquire a knowledge of certain facts concerning all aspects of western civilization (arts, sciences, religion, economy, politics, society)
2. Academic Skills:
  - a. skill of critical thinking (analysis, synthesis, evaluation)
  - b. skill of communication (listening, reading, writing, discussion)
  - c. skill of lifelong learning (curiosity, initiative, openness, research)
3. Cultural Awareness:
  - a. students will gain exposure to diverse ethical, political, economic, historical, and social perspectives in history.
  - b. students will learn about various religious viewpoints concerning the history of western civilization.

### Textbook:

Mortimer Chambers, et. al., *The Western Experience* vol. 1, seventh edition. McGraw-Hill College, 1999.

## Topic/Unit Outline

1. Earliest Peoples
  - Paleolithic Cultures
  - Neolithic Cultures
2. The Egyptians
  - Egyptian Religion & Science
  - Egyptian Society & Economy
3. The Mesopotamians
  - Origins of society
  - Mesopotamian Law
  - Mesopotamian Religion & Politics
4. The Hebrews
  - Hebrew origins & interactions with other ancient peoples
  - Hebrew religion & its prophets
5. The Greeks
  - The Athenians & Spartans
  - War & Politics
  - Greek Mythology
  - The Greek Genius (philosophy & science)
6. The Romans
  - Geography & the origins of Rome
  - Monarchy, the Early & Late Republics, & the Empire
  - Roman government, law, society, economy, & conquest
  - The Fall of Rome
7. Christianity
  - Jesus Christ & the origins of a new religion in Rome
  - Early Church organization, hierarchy, & women
8. Byzantium
9. The Great Religions & Philosophies
  - Hinduism
  - Buddhism
  - Confucianism
  - Taoism
10. Islam
  - Muhammad & the origins of Islam
  - The Spread of Islam
11. Medieval Europe
  - The Early Middle Ages, 500-1000
    - Charlemagne & the Holy Roman Empire
  - The High Middle Ages, 1000-1300
    - Agricultural innovations & manorialism
    - Growth of national monarchies & feudalism
    - Christendom & the Crusades
    - The intellectual revival
  - The Late Middle Ages, 1300-1500

Economic depression & social dislocation  
The Hundred Year's War  
Technological achievements

12. The Renaissance
  - The Italian Renaissance
  - The Northern Renaissance
13. The Age of Exploration
  - Overseas Expansion & the implications
  - Two worlds meet
14. Early Modern Europe
  - The Protestant Reformation
  - The Catholic Reformation
  - The Thirty Year's War
  - Commercial Revolution
  - Science & Society

Required Methods of Instruction:

Individual teachers may design the course in any number of ways, keeping the course objectives in mind. These methods may include lecture, audio-visuals, field trips, classroom discussions and debates, guest speakers, and oral presentations.

Required Form of Assessment:

Individual instructors have a wide latitude in modeling assessments. However, each instructor will be instructed to use some form of essay writing to test students to emphasize skills of critical thinking and analysis.