

# NorthWest Arkansas Community College

## Western Civilization since 1650 WCIV 1013

### Catalogue Description

A survey of western development from 1650 to the present. Emphasis is on the cultural, scientific, religious, economic, and political developments of modern western society.

### 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. 2, seventh edition. McGraw-Hill College, 1999.

## Topic/Unit Outline

1. The Age of Absolutism
  - Divine-Right Monarchy
  - Absolute Monarchy
  - Constitutional Monarchy
  - Western versus eastern Europe
2. The Intellectual Revolutions
  - The Scientific Revolution
  - The Enlightenment
  - The conflict with religion
  - Laws of nature
  - The implications for western society
3. Liberalism, America, & France
  - Enlightenment ideas & government
  - The emergence of the United States
  - The French Revolution & the rise of Napoleon
    - The liberal revolution
    - Congress of Vienna
4. Conservatism & Romanticism
5. The Industrial Revolution
  - Its origins in Great Britain
  - The emergence of new classes
  - Technological developments
  - Economic, social, political, & environmental consequences
6. Nationalism & Independence Movements
  - Latin America
  - Italy & Germany
  - Britain & Russia
7. Science & Society
  - Karl Marx & communism
  - Charles Darwin & evolution
  - The New Imperialism
8. Victorian Europe
  - Industrial capitalism & society
  - Changing roles for women & men
  - Social responsibility, poverty, & religion
9. The Emergence of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century
  - Nationalism & world war
  - A worldwide arms race
  - The rise of the consumer society
  - Science & society
10. World War I, the 1920s, & the 1930s
  - Causes & consequences
  - The failed peace process
  - The rise of fascism

- The Great Depression
- 11. World War II
  - Causes & consequences
  - Technological innovations
  - Horrors & the holocaust
  - The rise of the superpowers
- 12. The Cold War world
  - The United States & the Soviet Union
  - World war averted, wars fought locally
  - The end of the Cold War & its implications
- 13. Contemporary Society
  - Science & technology
  - New times & new directions
  - The post-Cold War world?

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.