

MCC Distance  
Education  
HIST 134

Modern Western  
Civilization  
Fall 2015



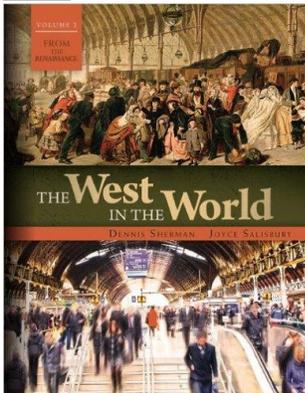
MCC in 1915 at 11<sup>th</sup> and Locust. It was the first institution of higher education in Kansas City. We continue that tradition.

Welcome to Modern Western Civilization. This is a challenging class that explores the West in relation to the larger world from the Reformation, c. 1500, to today. We will approach the subject in a number of ways from reading to discussions, to analysis of events, and, of course, tests. Throughout we will promote the highest scholarship, which is to say, honor the spirit of Clio.



Clio – The Muse of History

**Text**



Dennis Sherman, Joyce Salisbury, *The West in the World Vol 2 with Connect Plus/LearnSmart*. ISBN 9781259203022.

(You can purchase this from the MCC Business and Technology College bookstore or you can purchase an E-book from the publisher through the course Blackboard site as well.)

**Connect Website (This is required. You cannot conduct or complete the course without access to this website.)**

This is the McGraw-Hill Website that accompanies the text. You can purchase access with the textbook or you can buy access alone from the bookstore. You can also buy access from the publisher through the Blackboard course site

## What is this course about?



We study  
history from  
the  
Reformation to  
Human  
Rights



Survey of European history from the Renaissance to the present. Emphasis on Renaissance and Reformation, the emergence of the modern state, industrialism, nationalism, and the problems posed by war, revolution, and imperialism in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Relationship of European civilization to the developments in the non-European world.

## When you finish the course you should be able to “Think Like a Historian.”

1. Identify the main themes of Western Civilization from the early modern era to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
2. Identify and define key concepts, names, places, and events included in the modern world.
3. Classify how economics, social, cultural, and intellectual events influenced the modern world.
4. Analyze historical trends and events by identifying patterns, constructing parallels, and making associations.
5. Appraise how history is continuous, but neither logical nor orderly in the manner of the natural sciences.
6. Employ reflection, skepticism, and imagination in historical thinking.
7. Identify the challenges faced by historians as they attempt to reconstruct the past from often contradictory and incomplete evidence.



History is a contested,  
evidence – based  
discourse about the  
human past that lends  
perspective to the present and  
insight into the future

## **Important Policy Information**

*If you need accommodations due to a disability, contact*

**Disability Support Services**

*DSS Coordinator 816-604-4293*

*To foster a productive learning environment, the College requires that all students adhere to the*

**Code of Student Conduct**

*Published on the website.*

## **Participation Policy**

*You are expected to be an active participant in class discussions and other learning opportunities. To do this, you must be prepared so be sure to complete all reading and other assignments according to the schedule. The class activities have been carefully designed to help you achieve the learning outcomes for the course. Missing class or not actively participating will negatively impact your ability to learn the content.*

## **Academic Integrity Policy:**

### **All Students are Expected to Engage in Academically Honest Work**

*Academic integrity benefits everyone in our community. It not only helps you reach the real goal of this class- learning, but also allows for the program to be perceived positively by others. When students are dishonest, they lose out on valuable learning that will help them perform well in their career. It can also negatively impact all of the students in the program and at the institution by creating negative mindsets which may result in fewer outside learning opportunities for students. Academic dishonesty is any attempt by the student to gain academic advantage through dishonest means, to submit, as his or her own, work which has not been done by him/her or to give improper aid to another student in the completion of an assignment. Such dishonesty would include, but is not limited to: submitting as his/her own a project, paper, report, test, or speech copied from, partially copied, or paraphrased from the work of another (whether the source is printed, under copyright, or in manuscript form). Credit must be given for words quoted or paraphrased. The rules apply to any academic dishonesty, whether the work is graded or ungraded, group or individual, written or oral. Engaging in academically dishonest acts can result in a failing grade on the assignment, failing course grade and/or an official code of conduct charge being filed.*

## **Penalties for Academic Dishonesty**

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- *If academic dishonesty is clearly demonstrated on any assignment or more than one assignment, the student may fail the assignment, fail the course, or be subject to even more severe consequences up to and including expulsion from the College.*
- *Attendance The Metropolitan Community Colleges attendance policy states that a student will be withdrawn from a course if they miss two consecutive weeks or one-third of the semester. This policy will be enforced in this course, and your online activity will be monitored. Please let the instructors know, if problems arise that will affect your ability to participate in the class for any extended length of time.*
- **Attendance in online classes is determined by successful completion of assigned work.** *Simply visiting the website does not constitute attending the class. Late Work and Due Dates Late written work will be accepted but it will be reduced by one letter grade per day that it is late. Please contact the instructor, if you are going to have a problem with an assignment.*
- *Quizzes must be completed in the week they are assigned. **No late quizzes are permitted.***

### **Late Work/Missed Exam Policy:**

#### **All Students are Expected to Complete Learning Tasks on Schedule**

*It is important to stay on track with your assignments- not only will this help you feel less stressed but it is also an important skill you will need in your career. Being able to meet deadlines and juggle many tasks is an important career and life skill. Thus, you will need to complete all exams, and assignments according to the schedule. If you have a personal situation that prevents you from doing so, you will need to discuss this with me prior to the due date.*

### **Attendance Policy:**

#### **All students are Expected to Attend Classes**

*In an online class, attendance means completing assignments in a timely way. Simply dropping in to the class does not fulfil that requirement. However, you will find that the more time you dedicate to the class and to your peers in it, the better you will do.*

### **Online Class Requirements – Time and Skills**

*We want you to do well in the course. To do so you should be prepared to work hard and to possess a set of skills that make it possible for you to thrive in an online environment.*

**Time required for this Class:** *This course has been designed for delivery in as flexible a manner as possible, but this does not mean that you will be able to leave it alone for more than a week. This is a 3 credit hour class that would meet for 3 hours a week and have approximately 5 hours of outside work and study. While this course will not meet in the traditional sense, you should plan on spending that much time each week on this course. If you should "miss" a week of course time, recognize that you will need to schedule appropriately to make up the material.*

**Required Student Skills:** *Just as you must have certain equipment and skills to succeed in a regular class, on-line courses are created with the expectation that you possess the technology and skills to function in the internet environment. In this class you will need the following:*

*Access to the internet (the faster and more reliable that access, the better.)*

*The ability to conduct internet searches.*

*The ability to use the following Blackboard software tools*

*Announcements - Always read the Announcements when you log-on to Blackboard. They will let you know any news about the course.*

*Messages (send and receive) The Message function is our email site for the course. Please do not send messages to my college email address.*

*Discussion Forums - post comments on the Discussion Board, read the comments of other students, and respond to them.*

*Assignments - submit written work using the assignment function*

*Timed Tests - multiple choice tests*

*View Grades*

*Word Processing software (preferably Microsoft Word) and the ability to work efficiently with it.*

### ***Instructor Responsibilities***

- 1. The instructor will respond to your communications within 24 hours during the work week of Monday – Friday. (Most will be available on weekends as well though.)*
- 2. Instructors will grade your work in a timely fashion. Written work is time intensive though and you should allow at least one week to ten days for it to be returned.*

## **Course Evaluation**

**Reading:** Assignments are indicated on the tentative course outline. Reading should be completed before each class meeting.

**LearnSmart** Each week there are one or two assignments from LearnSmart on the Connect Website. The computer assisted program will help you to understand significant material in the text. You can review this material as frequently as you like. Your grade will represent the percentage of the assignment you complete. This kind of course work has been shown to be very effective in helping students understand the reading found in the text. The assignments are due on the days given on the course calendar. They are open from the first day of classes.

**Discussions:** There are five regular discussions in the class. You will be assigned readings and other materials to review and then answer a question or questions about that material. You will post your answers on the Discussion Board. Then you need to make two comments about what others have posted. A full description of how to conduct a discussion and how it will be graded are given below. There are two “Short Discussion” in the class which are abbreviated versions of Discussions as just described.

**Critical Mission Discussions:** There are three Critical Mission Discussion in the class. Each of these will give you an opportunity to read primary documents from the period we are studying. In your reading you will be guided by a “Mission” described at the beginning of the assignment. You will consider Cortez and Moctezuma, Imperialism in Africa, and the Dropping of the Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima in this way.

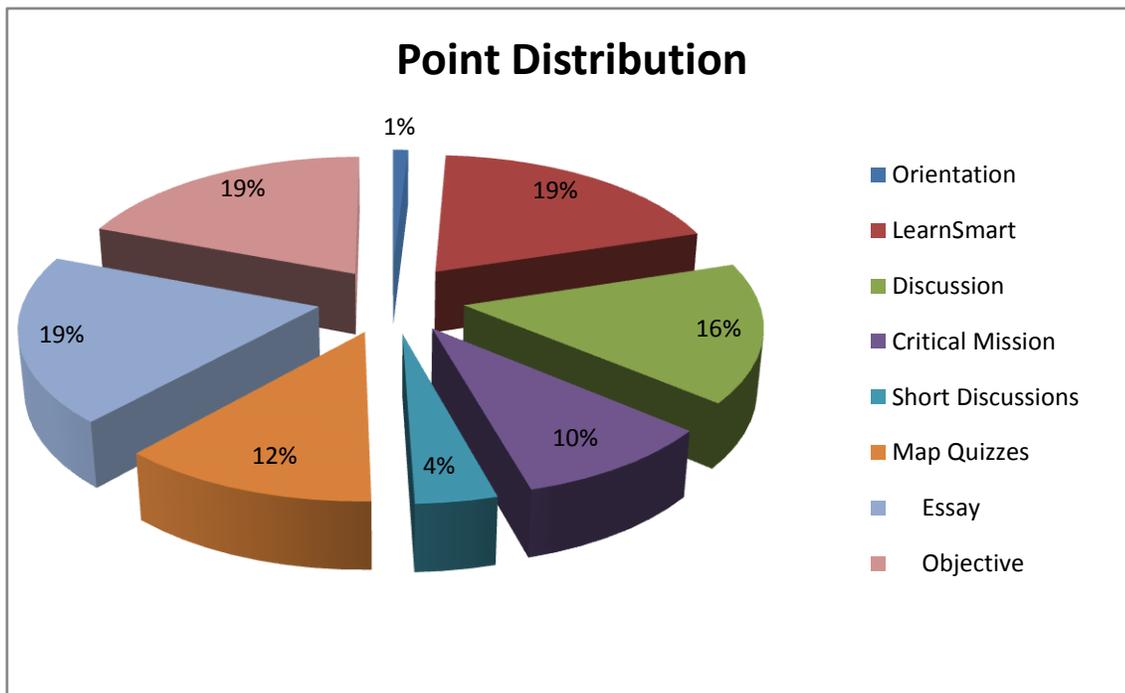
**Map Quizzes:** A knowledge of geography is crucial to understanding history so there are 19 map quizzes. Each focuses on maps in the chapters of the text we are studying at the time. The focus of the quiz is identified in the title of the quiz.

**Tests:** There will be three (3) Summary Tests. Each test will consist of a combination of multiple choice, essays.

## Point Distribution for Class Assignments

Type of Assignment	Number Given	Points for Each Assignment	Total Points for the Course
Orientation	1	15	15
LearnSmart Reading	15	20	300
Discussion	5	50	250
Critical Mission Discussions	3	50	150
Short Discussions	2	30	60
Map Quizzes	19	10	190
Exams			
Essay	3	100	300
Objective	3	100	300
<b>Total</b>			<b>1565</b>

*Please note, through the LearnSmart Assignments and Map quizzes, you control about one third of your grade in the class. These are mastery activities. For example, you can work on the LearnSmart readings as long as you like in order to get perfect scores. The map quizzes are very focused as well, so that studying the maps will result in very good grades. Consequently, these grades are completely within your control. See the chart below.*



## Grading

All assignments are graded on a percentage basis.

90-100% = A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

60-69% = D

Below 59% = F Each assignment has a point value, indicated on the Course Outline and in the Grade book (under Grades.)

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ASSIGNMENT Grades reflect the percentages given above. For example, on a Discussion worth 50 points:

45-50 = A

40-44 = B

35-40 = C

30-34 = D

below 30 = F

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COURSE GRADE

A = 1408 – 1565 Points

B = 1252 – 1407 Points

C = 1095 – 1251 Points

D = 939 - 1094

F = Less than 939

## Evaluating Discussions

There are three basic things you need to do to complete a Discussion.

- *Make three significant contributions to the discussion.*
- *Make those three contributions on at least two different days*
- *Treat everyone in the discussion with respect*

**How to make Three Significant Contributions:**

**First Contribution - Answer the question(s) by doing the following.**

- Make a clear argument
  - This means that you make your position about the issues in the question clear. Start with a statement that gives your answer to the question. The rest of the work should support and illustrate that answer.
- Respond to the question(s)

- Your first contribution should focus on the question itself. It should answer all things asked by the question.
- Support your claims with evidence
  - This means that you draw upon the information in the readings that is relevant to the question and supports your line of reasoning. There is a lot of evidence in the readings. You cannot bring all of it in to your comments. However be sure to draw upon a representative sample of what is found in the readings. As a rule, review the text and two other sources.

## Second and Third Contributions

The second objective in a discussion is to engage the other students in a professional discussion of the issues.

- This requires you to comment on the historical reasoning of your peers. When you comment, indicate what part of their work you are focusing upon. Then indicate how you view. Be sure to bring in the history in the assigned readings to explain your position.
- Always support your comments with evidence from the readings.
- A significant comment may start with a compliment like, "good point" or taking a position like, "I agree with you." It does not end there though. Now explain why it is a good point or why you agree. If you do not develop your line of reasoning you have not made a significant contribution.

## Penalties

If you do not make three contributions, do not make your contributions on different days, or do not treat your peers with respect, you will be penalized.

Your work is evaluated using the following rubric:

Name		Discussion Rubric Final				
Description						
Rubric Detail						
Criteria	Levels of Achievement					
	Novice 	Competent	Proficient	Excellent 	Superb 	
Answers Question - Argument	0 Points No main point. Points not related. No conclusion.	7 Points Main point made but not specific. Sub points made but not related to the main point. Ends well.	8 Points Main point clear made. Sub points are logically developed. Draws a conclusion	9 Points Main point clear. Logically developed argument. Draws a conclusion.	10 Points Perceptive main point and logically precise argument	
Answers Question - Responds to question	0 Points Response to the question not clear. Few parts of the question addressed.	7 Points Response mentions the question. Response addresses parts of the question.	8 Points Response either addresses the question or addresses all parts of the question.	9 Points Response directly addresses the question. Response addresses all parts of the question.	10 Points Response summarizes all of the available material about the questions.	
Answers Question - Evidence	0 Points Little evidence. Few sources used.	7 Points Main points supported with evidence. Some evidence sources used.	8 Points Most assertions supported with evidence. Most relevant sources of evidence used	9 Points All parts of the response supported with evidence. Evidence taken from all relevant sources	10 Points All sources are consulted and evidence drawn from each.	
Comments - Significant	0 Points Vague comment. Compliment or criticism unsupported.	7 Points Mentions a point. Makes sense in comment.	8 Points Comments on an issue. Develops the point. Does not add to our knowledge.	9 Points Comments on an important point. Develops the thought. Adds to our knowledge about it.	10 Points Perceptive comments that are developed to educate the class about the subject.	
Comments - Evidence	0 Points Little evidence. Few sources used.	7 Points Main points supported with evidence. Some evidence sources used	8 Points Most assertions supported with evidence. Most relevant sources of evidence used.	9 Points All parts of the response supported with evidence. Evidence taken from all relevant sources.	10 Points Comment summarizes all of the available material about the questions.	
3 Postings	-5 Points Less than three contributions to the discussion.	0 Points	0 Points	0 Points	0 Points Three or more contributions	

Basically it evaluates

Your Response to the Question(s)

1. Your line of argument in responding to the question
2. Whether you answered all of the questions asked in a thorough manner.
3. Whether you supported your points with evidence from the readings.

Your Comments on the thoughts of your Peers.

1. Did you make a significant contribution that was well reasoned and explored the history?
2. Whether you supported your comments with evidence from the readings.