

Western Civilization syllabus

Online assignment:

You are on an online scavenger hunt. You need to find items in four categories:

A. a piece of art (something visual). You need to provide a description (artist, dimensions, provenance, and ecphrasis) as well as an interpretation (what does it mean for its history and place, and what does it mean today?).

B. a biographical profile. Give me a name, dates, major contributions (literary, artistic, discovery, something to point back to why his or her impact is measurable - be selective, not exhaustive), and why the figure was important in history and why important today.

C. a piece of literature (with the 5-things template).

D. social history. You need to provide a name and image of money, an image (copied, or preferably drawn) of an alphabet, and one thing they ate.

These are the minimum requirements. Other images or material are optional. You will organize your findings under these headings and submit them to me as something to turn in at the following Tuesday's class. The assignment should not exceed three printed pages.

Special notes about citation:

All you need do is cite the webpage that material came from in each category. You do not need to follow a specific style (like MLA or Chicago). Just inform me that it came from <http://etc>.

This practice is all fine and well for general webpage info in such a simple assignment, but when it comes to images, you need to be more specific. Credit the photographer. If none can be found, credit its current museum home. If even this does not exist, don't waste your time on that image. Find another. It forces the internet (little by little) to become a more respectable place when you respect those who publish responsibly online.

Format:

See template and sample to see a model format for the assignment.

Evaluation:

I will collect the assignment in class the Tuesday after it is assigned. You must be in class for me to accept this assignment. I will not accept it electronically.

Each assignment is worth 10 points. It's easy to get 10 points. Just do your own work and cover all the bases. If a major piece is missing, I'll begin deducting points. This is not a scary research assignment. I will not be docking points if I disagree with your interpretation of a piece of art or if you miss Cleopatra's birthday by a year or two. I will penalize you if you don't find me an image of your art piece or if you fail to give me a piece of literature from the period. If you put in a reasonable effort, you should expect to get full credit just for doing the work.

You may work ahead on this assignment (the schedule shows you the various assignments, geographies and time periods to research). Make sure if you plan to be in a spot with no internet access on a given weekend that you complete the assignment ahead of time when you do have internet access. You have a schedule given to you far enough ahead of time in order to accommodate you whatever your circumstance (athletics, music, travel, personal needs, etc.).

Last note: this is an individual assignment (as all your others in this class). Collaboration will not be tolerated. There are enough pieces of art, historical figures, and texts to go around without expecting to see anyone doubling up. If I see three or four people citing the same Alexander the Great article on Wikipedia and using the same image, it will not go well for you. So do your own work.

Due dates for the online assignments:

Sep 8 Online assignment #1: Mesopotamia
(Sumerian, Akkadian, Assyrian, Amorite, Babylonian, or Hittite: 3500bc – 1500bc)

Sep 15 Online assignment #2: Egypt
(Lower and Upper Egypt: 3100bc – 1075bc)

Sep 22 Online assignment #3: Palestine
(Israel, Lebanon, Syria: 1300bc – 70ad)

Sep 29 Online assignment #4: Greece
(The Aegean: Crete, Peloponnese, Attica, Macedonia, Thrace, Asia Minor: 2900bc – 31bc)

Oct 6 Online assignment #5: Rome
(The Italian peninsula especially, but anywhere in the Empire from Britannia to Parthia, Germania to Africa: 753bc – 496ad)

Oct 27 Online assignment #6: Byzantium
(Empire from Turkey through the Balkans to Corsica and Sardinia: 324ad – 1453ad)

Nov 3 Online assignment #6: Arabia and Islam
(Empire from Arabia to Spain: 600ad – 1453ad)

Nov 10 Online assignment #6: Medieval France
(France: 800ad – 1400ad)

Nov 17 Online assignment #6: Medieval England
(England: 1066ad – 1400ad)

Dec 8 Online assignment #10: Renaissance and Reformation
(Anywhere in Europe: 1400ad – 1600ad)

Name
Date
Course # (get the section right)
Online assignment #x

ONLINE ASSIGNMENT TEMPLATE

A. ART

picture (with citation caption - give credit to the photographer! (this is usually included in copyright info on the page))

description (your own words: don't just cut & paste)

interpretation (your own words: don't just cut & paste)

MAKE SURE YOU CITE YOUR SOURCE(S) FOR WEBPAGE INFO!

(just use this format (without quotes):

"information obtained from the following webpages:

<http://www.xyz.com>

<http://www.abc.com>

etc.")

B. HISTORICAL FIGURE

name

dates

major contributions

why important in history

why important today

Again, make sure this stuff is in your own words. Don't just cut & paste!

And again, make sure you cite your source(s) for webpage info, following the above format!

C. LITERATURE

5-things:

Author

Title

Date

Location

Language

And again, make sure you cite your source(s) for webpage info, following the above format!

D. SOCIAL HISTORY

picture and name of money (make sure again that you credit photographers!)

picture (or even better a drawing) of the alphabet

one thing they ate

Again, make sure this stuff is in your own words. Don't just cut & paste!

And again, make sure you cite your source(s) for webpage info, following the above format!

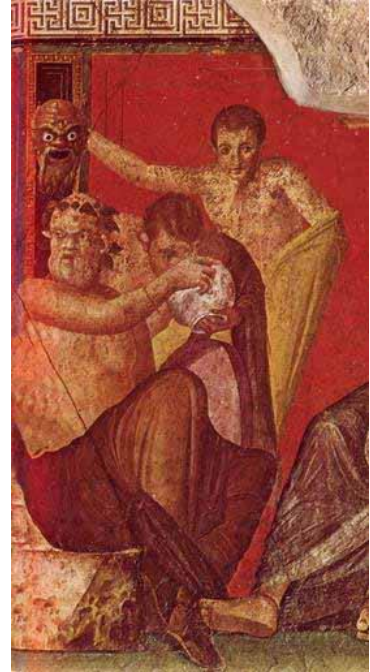
CJ Armstrong
6/15/09
Western civ 1, section 2
Online assignment #5: Ancient Rome

ONLINE ASSIGNMENT SAMPLE

A. ART

Silenus panel of Villa of the Mysteries (image by James W. Jackson)

Description: entire frieze is 2 m high by 17 m long; this is just a small section of it. It was preserved in the Villa of the Mysteries in Pompeii after the eruption of Vesuvius on August 24, 79 ad. It is part of a huge wall painting that seems to depict initiation rites to the cult of Dionysus. This panel seems to depict Silenus, a cohort of Dionysus, holding a silver bowl, which a young satyr looks into. Another young satyr holds a Silenus mask behind him.



Interpretation: The piece is part of a series that depicts a story of an initiation. This part of the initiation may evoke thoughts about aging and death: while the young men look in the bowl, they are seeing the future: they will grow old and die, just like the Silenus who holds the bowl.

information obtained from the following webpages:

<http://www.art-and-archaeology.com/timelines/rome/empire/vm/villaofthemysteries.html>

<http://www.ivc.edu/arhistory/Documents/art2526projects/05-06%20F%20Roman%20Wall%20Ptg.pdf>

B. HISTORICAL FIGURE

Marcus Tullius Cicero

January 3, 106 bc – December 7, 43 bc

Famous orator and philosopher, Roman statesman (Law speeches such as *Against Catiline*, *On Behalf of Milo*, etc.; philosophical works such as *Concerning Friendship* and *Concerning Old Age*)

Cicero was the most important orator of ancient Rome. He lived at the end of the Roman republic and died near the end of its century of civil wars. He was looked on as a conservative politician and saw himself as the savior of Roman republicanism; he was also an ancient model for rhetoric.

Cicero continues to be important today as a model for public speech. He is important today also because he wrote so much that gives us a picture of ancient Rome.

information obtained from the following webpage:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cicero>

C. LITERATURE

5-things:

Publius Ovidius Naso (Ovid)

Metamorphoses

2 bc – 8 ad

Rome

Latin

D. SOCIAL HISTORY

Roman coin depicting the god Janus, from the
Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris.

Money: coins (aureus, denarius, sestertius, etc.)

Alphabet: the Romans didn't need a J (they used the
letter I), and they didn't need a U or W (they used the V).
K, Y, and Z were rare. This gave them the 23-letter
alphabet: ABCDEFGHIKLMNOPQRSTVXYZ.



The grossest thing the Romans ate (in my opinion) was *garum*, which was a sauce used
in many dishes, made from fish waste mixed with salt water; the brine was then left for
weeks to pickle and have just the right consistency and flavor to gross me out but make
the Romans' mouths water.

information obtained from the following webpages:

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic-art/300515/6135/The-god-Janus-beardless-Roman-coin-in-the-Bibliothèque-Nationale>

http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_alphabet

http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/roman_food.htm