







History (HIST) 201

Western Thought and Culture I: Before the Reformation (Revision 8)

Status:	Replaced with new revision, see the course listing  for the current revision 
Delivery mode:	Individualized study online 
Credits:	3
Areas of study:	Arts or Humanities
Prerequisites:	None
Precluded:	HIST 201 is a cross-listed course. HIST 201 may not be taken for credit by students who have obtained credit for HUMN 201.
Challenge:	HIST 201 has a challenge for credit option.
Faculty:	Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences 

Overview

Here are some of the questions examined in History 201:

- When, where, and how did human beings first develop cultures worthy of being called civilizations?
- How did the classical world of Greece and Rome come into existence, and what were its finest cultural achievements?
- Which were the first Christian societies, and what were their intellectual and cultural legacies?
- What were the main features of the Romanesque and Gothic phases of medieval European civilizations?
- Why did the Renaissance happen, and what fundamental cultural and intellectual changes did it bring about?

History 201 is the first of two three-credit courses that together survey the development of Western civilization from its origins in ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt to the complicated and sophisticated post-industrial world. Although the course uses a historical framework, its overall approach is interdisciplinary, drawing on the findings of archaeologists, classical scholars, theologians, art historians, literary critics, philosophers, and historians of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.

Outline

- Unit 1: Prehistory and Ancient Mesopotamia
- Unit 2: Ancient Egypt and the Mediterranean
- Unit 3: Ancient Greece
- Unit 4: Alexander the Great and the Hellenistic World
- Unit 5: The Roman World
- Unit 6: The Rise of Christianity in the Roman Empire
- Unit 7: The Decline and Fall of the Roman World
- Unit 8: The Civilization of Byzantium
- Unit 9: Early Middle Ages and Charlemagne

- Unit 10: Medieval Synthesis, 1000—1300
- Unit 11: From Medieval to Renaissance
- Unit 12: The Renaissance

Evaluation

To **receive credit** [↗](#) for History 201, you must achieve a course composite grade of at least **D (50 percent)** [📄](#) and a grade of at least 50 percent on the final examination. The weighting of the composite grade is as follows:

Activity	Weight
Essay 1	25%
Essay 2	35%
Final Exam	40%
Total	100%

The **final examination** for this course must be requested in advance and written under the supervision of an AU-approved exam invigilator. Invigilators include either ProctorU or an approved in-person invigilation centre that can accommodate online exams. Students are responsible for payment of any invigilation fees. Information on exam request deadlines, invigilators, and other exam-related questions, can be found at the **Exams and grades** [↗](#) section of the Calendar.

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's **online Calendar** [↗](#).

Materials

Wiesner-Hanks, Merry E., Clare Haru Crowston, Joe Perry, and John P. McKay. *A History of Western Society*. Vol. 1, *From Antiquity to the Enlightenment*. 13th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's Press—Macmillan Learning, 2020.

Other Materials

All other course materials are available online. They include an extensive study guide and videos that can be streamed online or borrowed as DVDs from the AU Library.

Challenge for credit

Overview

The challenge for credit process allows you to demonstrate that you have acquired a command of the general subject matter, knowledge, intellectual and/or other skills that would normally be found in a university-level course.

Full information about **challenge for credit** [↗](#) can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Evaluation

To **receive credit** [↗](#) for the HIST 201 challenge registration, you must achieve a grade of at least **D (50 percent)** [↗](#) on the entire challenge examination.

Activity	Weight
Part I: Exam	50%
Part II: Exam	50%
Total	100%



Challenge for credit course registration form

Important links

- › Academic advising [↗](#)
- › Program planning [↗](#)
- › Request assistance [↗](#)

[> Support services](#) 

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

Opened in Revision 8, April 14, 2021

Updated January 2, 2024

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