

## ABOUT THIS COURSE

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### HIST 21: Western Civilization to 1500

TR8 / 2160

T, Th 8:00 – 9:15 p.m.

Room 508A

Office Hours

T, Th 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Room 515A

**Course Description:** Development of Western Civilization from ancient origins to the opening of the age of exploration. Classical, Jewish, and Christian influences; the Germanic invasions; rural environment and its economy, women's roles. Christianity and the Crusades; arts, literature, and philosophy; classical revivals.

Not open to students who have completed History 11. Prerequisite: Core 2.2.

In this course we're going to explore the origins and development of civilization in general and Western Civilization. We'll look at how interactions between different aspects of society—trade, class, religion, gender, and more—and with other communities both near and far help to stimulate change.

**Goals and Objectives:** A closer understanding of our relationship to the past, and how we can better understand the people who live there; of the role of primary sources; of the ideas and movements that help to create and shape Western society and the mosaic of world cultures; of the variety of societies and peoples throughout time and space, and how the relationships between societies create change; of the transforming events that change the world, and how those transformations affected peoples in the past and us in the present day.

## CONTACT INFO

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### Mark B. Wilson

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(office hours only)

Email: [mwilson@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:mwilson@brooklyn.cuny.edu)

Web: <http://markbwilson.com/>

### History Department

Office: Room 524A

Phone: (718) 951-5303

Web: <http://depthome.brooklyn.cuny.edu/history/>

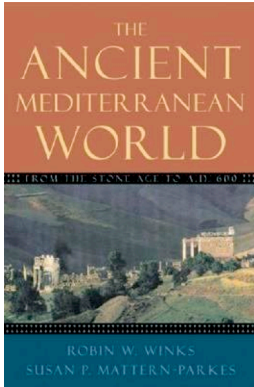
Mailbox: I have a mail box in the history dept. you can use to drop off assignments. It's UNDER my name.

**Please use me as a resource:** Come to my office hours, talk to me after class, or send me emails with any questions you have—whether they relate to the requirements of the course or ideas we're reading about or discussing in class.

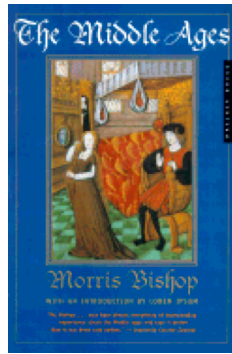
**You may email me your written assignments, *but*** it doesn't "count" unless you get an email back from me saying I received it. Unless I reply back to you, I didn't receive it. If there's any question about whether I'm receiving your emails, please talk to me about it in class.

## MATERIALS

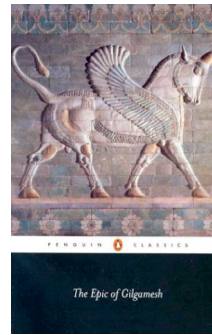
### Required Texts



Robin W. Winks and  
Susan P. Mattern-Parkes  
*The Ancient  
Mediterranean World*  
Oxford, 2004  
ISBN: 978-0-19-515563-1



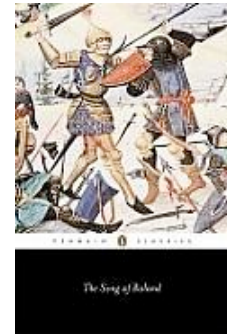
Morris Bishop  
*The Middle Ages*  
Mariner, 2001  
ISBN: 978-0-618-05703-0



Andrew George, trans.  
*The Epic of Gilgamesh*  
Penguin, 1999  
ISBN: 978-0-140-44919-8

**Version notes:** Penguin has more than one *Gilgamesh*. I recommend the Andrew George edition because he translated directly from the source. It also has a useful intro.

If you get another edition, make sure it uses the Standard Version.



Glyn Burgess, trans.  
*The Song of Roland*  
Penguin, 1990  
ISBN: 978-0-140-44532-9

**Version notes:** This is a good edition, but most versions of *The Song of Roland* will do.

### Availability

- ▶ All four books are available from Brooklyn College Bookstore, either on person or via their website: <http://whywaitforbooks.com>
- ▶ All four are also available from Amazon and other online retailers—use the ISBNs to search. Also available from the publishers' web sites. If you order online, make sure you do so enough in advance that you'll receive the books in time for the assignments.

### Online Versions

- ▶ Although summaries of various sources of *Gilgamesh* exist online, there isn't a trustworthy translation of the Standard Version on the web. Since the Penguin edition is only about \$12, I suggest you use that.
- ▶ There are numerous translations of *The Song of Roland* online, including at Project Gutenberg: <http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/391>

## EXPECTATIONS

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Don't waste this opportunity! Make the most out of this class.

- ▶ **Be on time and prepared.** By prepared, I mean you should come into class having done the readings for that day and thought about them. Come in ready to talk about your reactions to the readings and the questions they raised in your mind.
- ▶ **Class attendance is required.** Missing classes will damage your grade. The textbook is designed to just give you the basics; it's in class that we try to make sense of things and sift out what's important. Missing classes means you miss out on a key part of our trying to put things together. Plus, if you miss classes, you'll miss quizzes, which will put a big crimp in your grade for the course. Religious observances that affect your class attendance should be discussed in advance.
- ▶ **Cell phones and electronics need to be silenced and stowed.** A phone ringing during class is hugely disruptive. Texting during class is just as rude and insulting as talking on the phone. For 75 minutes, you can unplug.
- ▶ **Late assignments will be marked down.** Written assignments will be marked down one letter grade per class meeting after the assignment due date, up to a maximum of 30 points. That means you're still better off turning in your paper late, and having it be marked down, than not turning it in at all, and getting a zero.
- ▶ **Check your email.** Make sure I have a good email address for you and check it, as I occasionally send information and updates by email. If you have not gotten an email from me within the first week after school begins, check your spam folders. If you can't find an email from me, email me to let me know.
- ▶ **Plagiarism will result in a zero.** CUNY, like all academic institutions, does not tolerate academic dishonesty. Single instances of plagiarism will yield a zero for the assignment. Multiple instances will result in a zero for the course and disciplinary action from the College. (See below.)
- ▶ **Talk to me if you're struggling.** Come to me in office hours or after class, and the sooner the better. Don't wait until it's too late to turn things around.

### Academic Dishonesty

The faculty and administration of Brooklyn College support an environment free from cheating and plagiarism. Each student is responsible for being aware of what constitutes cheating and plagiarism and for avoiding both. The complete text of the CUNY Academic Integrity Policy and the Brooklyn College procedure for implementing that policy can be found at this site: <http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/bc/policies>. If a faculty member suspects a violation of academic integrity and, upon investigation, confirms that violation, or if the student admits the violation, the faculty member **MUST** report the violation.

### Center for Student Disability Services

In order to receive disability-related academic accommodations students must first be registered with the Center for Student Disability Services. Students who have a documented disability or suspect they may have a disability are invited to set up an appointment with the Director of the Center for Student Disability Services, Ms. Valerie Stewart-Lovell at 718-951-5538. If you have already registered with the Center for Student Disability Services please provide your professor with the course accommodation form and discuss your specific accommodation with him.

## ASSIGNMENTS AND COURSE GRADE

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Your course grade will be based on the following:

### 15% **Quizzes**

We'll have very short quizzes at the start of class roughly once a week (they will not be on a regular, predictable schedule) to help gauge our relationship with the material in the readings.

- ▶ Quizzes are based on any and all of the readings for that class. If you did your reading for the class, you should be prepared for the quiz.
  - ▶ Missed quizzes are not made up. If you come late to class and thereby miss a quiz, you'll get a zero for that quiz. Therefore, please make sure you come to class on time and prepared.
  - ▶ Quizzes are always based on the readings listed on the assignment sheet, even if I am slightly behind the syllabus in the topics I discuss in class. Make sure you do the assigned readings.
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### 10% **Primary Source Essays (2)**

There will be two short, 2–3 page essays, one on *The Epic of Gilgamesh* and one on *The Song of Roland*.

- ▶ These essays will be due after we've read and discussed the books and their meaning and context in class.
  - ▶ I give out a handout with the specific assignments for the essay a couple of weeks before the due date.
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### 20% **Position Paper**

Over the course of the semester you'll do some research on a particular topic (from a list of topics I'll provide later) and write a 5–7 page paper that takes a position on that topic. In other words, you'll be telling me what your opinion is on some controversy related to the topic you've researched, and supporting your opinion with evidence and reasoning from your readings.

- ▶ If you've never done anything like this before, don't worry. I will be talking to you in class about approaching the research, how to structure the paper, and other things that will help you put this together. I'll also have handouts and examples.
  - ▶ You'll turn in (a) a proposal, tell me what you're going to write about; (b) an optional draft, which will allow me to give you some guidance before you turn in the paper; and (c) the final paper.
  - ▶ Because I accept drafts, I do not allow students to submit revised versions of their final paper after the final due date.
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20% **Midterm Exam** Thursday, March 25, regular class meeting

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35% **Final Exam** Thursday, May 20, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

# IMPORTANT DATES

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## Course Dates

- Tuesday, March 2                    Position Paper: Proposal Due
- Tuesday, April 13                   Position Paper: Optional Draft Due
- Tuesday, April 27                   Position Paper Due
  
- Tuesday, March 9                   Essay #1 Due (*Gilgamesh*)
- Tuesday, May 11                    Essay #2 Due (*Roland*)
  
- Thursday, March 25                Midterm Exam
- Tuesday, May 20                    Final Exam (8:00 – 10:00 a.m.)

## College Dates

- Wednesday, February 3            Last day to add a course
- Wednesday, February 10        Last day to file Pass/Fail application
- Wednesday, February 17        Last day to drop a course without a grade
- Thursday, February 18            Conversion Day — MONDAY CLASSES
- Monday, March 15                Last day to file for Spring 2010 Graduation
- March 29–April 6                Spring Break
- Tuesday, April 20                Last day to apply for withdrawal from a course with a W (non-penalty) grade

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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28						

March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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28	29	30	31			

April						
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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May						
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					