

The ideas of philosophers, historians, social scientists, and political analysts as to how society may best be ordered, what causes the development and breakdown of civilization, and the highest ideals on which human life may be built. – Manchester College Catalog

Philosophy of Civilization covers a wide spectrum of cross-disciplinary topics from the metaphysics of history to futurism. Past courses have encompassed traditional philosophers (Plato, Augustine, Rousseau, Hegel, Marx); more recent philosophers of civilization (Spengler, Schweitzer, Sorokin, Whitehead, Toynbee); and futurism, utopian/dystopian theory and literature. This fall's offering intends a critique of technology, consumerism, patriarchy and violence which are so omnipresent in our daily lives that, like the air we breathe, we seldom stop to think critically about them. The course is intended to do that through readings from both social sciences and the humanities.

Phil 44: Phil. of Civ.meets critical connections (GE-L) requirements for graduation; writing (W) credit and core requirements for peace studies majors. Written papers are checked against references by TurnItIn. Students should enroll in www.turnitin.com , course number 1336529. Password for the site is "Toynbee." Hacker, *A Writer's Reference*, provides MLA guidelines for written submissions.

Texts:

- Quinn, *Ishmael: An Adventure of the Mind and Spirit*. NY: Bantam, 1995. ISBN 0-553-37540-7.
Postman, *Technopoly: the Surrender of Culture to Technology*. NY: Vintage, 1993. ISBN 0-679-74540-8.
Durning, *How Much Is Enough? Consumer Society and the Future of the Earth*. NY: Norton, 1992. ISBN 0-393-30891-x.
Mander, Jerry. *In the Absence of the Sacred: the Failure of Technology and the Survival of the Indian Nations*. San Francisco: Sierra, 1991. ISBN 0-87156-509-9.
Eisler, *Chalice and the Blade: Our History, Our Future*. San Francisco, Harper, 1997. ISBN 0-06-250289-1,
Hedges, Chris. *War is a Force that Gives Us Meaning*. NY: Anchor, 2003. ISBN 1-58648-049-9.

Reading Assignments:

Aug 31 Philosophies of Civilization: Greek, Christian, Spengler, Schweitzer, Toynbee.

Sept 5	Quinn, <i>Ishmael: An Adventure...</i>	Parts 1-3	pp. 3-63
Sept 7		Parts 4-7	pp. 67-122
Sept 12		Parts 8-9	pp. 125-184
Sept 14		Parts 10-12	pp. 187-263
	Critique Quinn's understanding and opinion of Takers and Leavers throughout history. 3pp. Turnitin. Due by 7pm		
Sept 19	Eisler, <i>Chalice and the Blade</i>	Introduction, Chs 1-3	
Sept 21		Chs 4-6	

Sept 26	Eisler (continued)	Chs 7-10
Sept 28	Quiz on Eisler	Chs 11-12, Epilogue
Oct 3	Mander, <i>In the Absence of the Sacred</i>	Intro, 1-7; Pt. I, 12-50; Pt. II, 53-74
Oct 5		TV, 75-119; Corp. & Space, 120-60
Oct 10	Mander (continued)	Genetics, Space, 161-93; Native Americans, 195-224; Democracy, 225-45.
Oct 12	Quiz on Mander homecoming	Economics, 246-62; Epilogue, 377-395.
Oct 17	Film: "Education of Little Tree" fall break 20-21	Extended session, no assignment
Oct 24	Postman, <i>Technopoly</i>	Intro, xi-xii, Chs. 1-3, 3-55
Oct 26		Chs 4-5, 56-91
Oct 31	Medical, Computer, Invisible Technologies or if you are a social science major:	Choose one, Ch 6, 7, 8 Ch 9, "Scientism"
Nov 2	"Great Symbol Drain;" "Loving Resistance.." Essay on a selected technology, "scientism," or resistance. Include two or more web references that are actually used in the essay, properly credited (in-text citation or end-notes), and listed in bibliography. 3-4 pp. Due by Nov 4.	Chs. 10, 11; 164-99
Nov 7	Durning, <i>How Much Is Enough?</i> Assessing Consumption	Forward, 11-13; Part I, 19-61
Nov 9	"Searching for Sufficiency"	Part II, 65-101
Nov 14	"Taming Consumerism"	Part III, 105-150.
Nov 16	Happiness	Quiz on Durning.
Nov 21	Tucker, "Marx and the End of History," from <i>The Marxian Revolutionary Idea</i> .	
Nov 23	Thanksgiving	
Nov 28	Hedges, <i>War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning</i>	"Myth of War" Ch 1, 1-42
Nov 30		"Plague of Nationalism," Ch 2, 43-61 & "Destruction of Culture," Ch 3, 62-82
Dec 5	"Seduction of Battle & Perversion...83-121; & "...Memory" Ch 5, 122-41	
Dec 7	Conclusions	"The Cause," Ch 6, 142-156; "Eros and Thanatos," Ch 7, 157-185
Dec 12	Paper: Drawing on Hedges' critique of nationalism, patriotism, and war; and insights from other course readings, what are the prospects for the future of humankind? 5pp. to Turnitin. Submit by Monday, Dec. 12, 6:30pm, and bring a hard copy to final.	

Grading: Papers are to be MLA format, typed, double-spaced, 12pt font. Late submissions will be penalized 5 pts. for each day overdue.

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| 1. Quinn paper | 10% |
| 2. Eisler quiz | 15% |
| 3. Mander quiz | 15% |
| 4. Postman essay | 15% |
| 5. Durning quiz | 10% |
| 6. Final | 20% |
| 7. Participation | 15% |

Participation grades include consideration of attendance. More than four absences results in D or F, excepting crises beyond one's control, in which case remedial assignments will cover missed work. Journaling is recommended for your own reference as a significant aid in reviewing and preparing your final paper on prospects for Western Civilization. Grades are confidential, by federal FERMA legislation. Institutional standards as to academic and personal requirements apply. A first detection of partial or unintentional plagiarism will result in the failure of that assignment; a second instance will result in failure of the course. Blatant, deliberate copying results in failure of the course. **All papers are to be submitted directly to Turnitin.com as instructed.** Anything in this syllabus is subject to revision, by announcement. Always feel free to ask for clarification of content or assignments. Infallibility is not applicable either to this syllabus or its instructor.

Office A216b hours: 11-12 a.m. daily; 3:00pm TW; other times and evenings by appointment. Telephone office 5543; home 982-4315.

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