



Veritas Academy

A Center for Classical Christian Learning
Savannah, Georgia

Omnibus I History -- Syllabus

Term: 2011-12

Teacher: Mr. Eric Darrow
padre-teach@comcast.net

Course Description: This history class is a component of the Omnibus I course of study. It will cover the period Biblical and Classical Civilizations. Material presented in this course is based on the presupposition that the study of history (One might say "His-story".) be studied through the prism of a Judeo-Christian lens and of the Christian Gospel message. The use of chronological history affords students a thorough study of geography and of thematic history, such as the Hebrew covenant with Yahweh, the rise of democracy in ancient Athens and of its demise in imperial Rome. Students also will learn history as story-telling: the stories of Exodus and the Hebrew prophets; Xerxes bridging the Hellespont; the battles of Marathon and Thermopylae; the famous demise of the Athenian navy at Syracuse; the legend of Aeneas; the story of Hannibal crossing the Alps; the assassination of Julius Caesar. At the same time, they will obtain a substantive understanding of larger questions, such as those surrounding the struggles between plebeians and patricians which shaped laws and the structure of government handed down to us, or those involving the cultural clash between Athens and Sparta, or between Carthage and Rome. The study of geography will also be an important part of the course. The class format will be variously lecture and note-taking, frequent reading quizzes and/or group discussions of the reading, and both group and individual presentations. The history of this time period corresponds to the historical material found in the primary books read in the Omnibus I Theology and Literature classes. For example, while the students are reading *The Odyssey*, they will also be studying the history of the Greeks in this class. Many primary sources will be used to bring history alive. The study of history combined with the reading of original sources from this period is thus intended to give the students a fuller and richer understanding of Antiquity.

Text: *Western Civilization* by Jackson J. Spielvogel, 2nd edition

Required Supplies:

- College-ruled paper (loose-leaf)

- Sections in a three-ring binder to be used for organizing notes and other papers—**no spiral notebooks please**. A lot of handouts will be given in this class.
- Blue or black pens (never another color except for map work or creative projects; never pencil)

Evaluation: Tests	45%
Quizzes/Papers	45%
Homework/Participation	25%

Veritas Academy

Omnibus I History Syllabus 2011-12

2

Course of Study:

First Semester

Week

- 1 Overview: The Ancient Near East; the Epic of Gilgamesh
- 2-3 *Genesis*; Creation in *Genesis*; The Hebrews; Noah; God's Covenants with Abraham and with Moses
- 4 Codes of Hammurabi; Comparison with the Laws of God given through Moses, the idea of Covenant
- 5 I Samuel, history of establishment of Israel, instructions about a king; II Samuel, Israel as a nation of imperfect people—the mistakes of a king
- 6-8 The Minoans, Crete, Atlantis, The Mycenaeans, early Greek mythology, associated with the island of Crete; discussion of Homer
- 9 Greek migrations; Dorians, Ionians, Aeolians; Greek colonization; the Olympic Games; Greek sculpture and architecture
- 10-11 The Birth of Democracy in Athens; Solon, in Plutarch's *Lives*
- 12-13 The Persian Wars
Herodotus: The Battle of Marathon; Greek warfare
Herodotus: Xerxes
- 14 The Athenian Empire and the Peloponnesian Wars; Thucydides; excerpts from *The Peloponnesian Wars*

- 15-16 Overview: Greek philosophy and literature: Socrates/Plato/Aristotle;
sophists/stoics/epicureans
Aeschylus/Sophocles/Euripides/Aristophanes
- 17 Alexander the Great; the legacy of Empire
- 18 Review for Semester Exam

First Semester Exam

Veritas Academy

Omnibus I History Syllabus 2011-12

3

Week

Second Semester

- 19 Early Rome; legend of Aeneas; introduction to *The Aeneid*; early Roman myths and stories (Romulus & Remus, Veii, Cincinnatus, the Horatii, etc.). Read excerpts from Livy on the early history of Rome.
- 20 Plebeians vs. Patricians; The Twelve Tables; establishment of the Republic
- 21-22 Roman Expansion: The Punic Wars: various excerpts from Livy
- 23 Students will participate in a Mock Peace Conference between Rome and Carthage
- 24 The reform efforts of Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus
- 25 A Century of Turmoil: Civil Wars; Marius and Sulla
- 26-27 Cicero and Catiline; Caesar and Pompey; the story of Cleopatra; the Fall of the Republic; read excerpts from the writings of Caesar, the letters of Cicero
- 28-31 The Pax Romana; overview of the emperors through Marcus Aurelius; read excerpts from Suetonius' *The Twelve Caesars*; the letters of Pliny on Pompeii
- 32 Diocletian and Constantine; the divided Empire
- 33-35 Early Christianity: various primary readings: the letters of Pliny to the emperor Trajan; the story of St. Basil and emperor Valens; the "fall" of Rome; excerpts from the writings of St. Augustine

36 Review for Final Exam

Second Semester Exam