

Course Title: The Rise of Western Civilization (Fall Semester/11 Weeks)

Host: Dr. Charles Johnson Cohost: Dr. Ann Kneavel

Course Description: This course introduces the major elements of Western civilization from the ancient world to the pre-Italian-Renaissance, placing special emphasis on the Greco-Roman and Judeo-Christian traditions. It surveys the history of the ancient Mediterranean and Near East, and explores the classical roots of modern civilization--beginning with the first civilizations of ancient Mesopotamia, the roots of western religion in ancient Israel; then proceed through Bronze Age, archaic and classical Greece, the conquests of Alexander the Great, the Hellenistic world, the rise of Rome, and the fall of the Roman Empire and the coming of Christianity, and the history of medieval Europe.

Semester Weekly Topics: (Each topic is explored in a power point.)

Week #1: Welcome, Climate and History, Creation Myths and Science

Week #2: The Hebrew Myths (Intro), Sumer and Other Ancient Empires (Akkadian Empire, Babylonian Empire, Hittites, Assyrians, Ancient Egyptians, Philistines, Canaanites, Samaritans, Persians.)

Week #3: The Bible as Literature (Intro), The Hebrews

Week #4: Ancient Greek Culture, The Iliad, the Odyssey

Week # 5: Ancient Greek Gods, Ancient Greek Heroes (Perseus, Bellerophon, Jason, Herakles, Theseus)

Week #6: Greek Myths, Greek Philosophy, Hinduism and Plato's Philosophies

Week #7: Greek Theater, Aristotle and Tragedy, Oedipus Trilogy, Oresteia Trilogy

Week # 8: Roman Empire

Week #9: Roman Empire and Early Medieval Europe, Byzantine Empire

Week # 10: Early and High Middle Ages (Overview), Moors of Spain

Week #11: Late Middle Ages: Crisis and Rebirth, Review Medieval Art and Architecture,
Review of Judeo-Christian Influences on Western Civilization