

Syllabus for
HUM 201 Wisdom of the Ancient World
3 Credit Hours
Fall 2025

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A historical survey and worldview synthesis emphasizing philosophical, religious, political, economic, artistic, and aesthetic developments of civilization from the ancient Near East through the Classical Greek civilization and the Hellenistic Age.

II. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

A. Terminal Objectives

1. Describe the technological developments and cultural advancements that gave rise to the early civilizations in the Fertile Crescent of the Middle East, Africa, and Egypt, Greece and Medieval Europe.
2. Explain the social and political developments including the philosophical ideas of the Greeks.
3. Outline and discuss the rise, expansion, decline, fall, and splintering of Rome and the transition into the medieval period.
4. Summarize the developments and cultural adaptations experienced during the medieval period.
5. Discuss the philosophical and theological worldview of each of the civilizations studied and how this unique worldview is interrelated to the arts, politics, and economic developments of the era.

III. ASSOCIATED PROGRAMS

This course meets degree completion requirements for the General Education program.

IV. UNIVERSITY OUTCOMES

This course aligns with the following University Outcomes as indicated on the last page.

A. Spiritual Integrity

B. Intellectual Pursuit

V. GENERAL EDUCATION OUTCOMES

ORU's General Education Outcomes represent a commitment to a comprehensive whole-person liberal arts education and are derived from the university's vision and mission. The outcomes

support ORU's University Outcomes by complementing each program's discipline-specific outcomes. Students who complete ORU's core general education curriculum will exhibit:

- A. GEN 1 - Core Literacy. Demonstrate a breadth of knowledge essential to a classical Spirit-empowered liberal arts education.
- B. GEN 2 - Intercultural Knowledge and Engagement. Exhibit through a Christian worldview awareness of cultural differences, both historically and globally, while focusing on engagement through intercultural experiences, using effective oral and written communication techniques.
- C. GEN 3 - Lifelong Wellness. Acquire knowledge and skills that promote healthy lifestyle choices to develop physical, mental, and spiritual wholeness.
- D. GEN 4 - Global Issues Problem Solving, Critical Thinking, and Creativity. Serve, lead, and/or collaborate as part of a team in order to ethically, critically, and creatively address complex problems by applying innovative solutions from a diverse set of perspectives.

VI. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

- A. Required Materials:
Spielvogel, Jackson. *Western Civilization*, 11th Edition.

Original sources, translations and articles will be provided in electronic format

- B. Optional Materials
 - 1. Textbooks: None
 - 2. Other: None

VII. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- A. University Policies and Procedures

- 1. Evaluation Procedures
 - a. Unit Exams 40%
 - b. Final Exam 25%
 - c. Research Essay 20%
 - d. Quizzes 10%
 - e. Class Participation 5%

Students are to compose a 7-page (cover page and bibliography excluded) research essay on the student's choice of one of the following topics:

- The 7 Wonders of the Ancient World
- Similarities and Dissimilarities between Egyptian & Mesopotamian cultures
- Prominent Women in the Ancient world
- The Importance of Greek Philosophy upon Western Culture

- Any of the following historical figures:
Sargon of Akkad, Hammurabi, King David, Darius I, Cyrus the Great,
Plato, Moses, Aristotle, Alexander the Great

This Research Essay must be submitted in the Dropbox by Oct. 29 by 11:59pm (CST)

The essay should be formatted in accordance with the student's department style guidelines (MLA, APA, Turabian). A minimum of 7 different scholarly sources is expected. Essays with less than seven quality scholarly sources, as well as late submissions, will receive a minimum reduction of one letter grade.

2. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:
 - a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
 - b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
 - c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
 - d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
 - e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.
 - f. By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.
3. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.
4. Students are to be in compliance with university, school, and departmental policies regarding the Whole Person Assessment requirements.
 - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an artifact is a zero for that assignment.
 - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

B. Department Policies and Procedures

1. **Tardies**—Tardies are an inconvenience to the other class members and the professor, and they prevent the late student from obtaining maximum value from the class. Therefore, excessive tardies may adversely affect the semester grade. **3 tardies equal one absence.** Leaving class early may be counted as a tardy. It is to the student's advantage to make sure that the professor is informed immediately following the close of the class that the student was tardy and not absent. It is not the professor's responsibility to stop the class to mark the tardy; the student is the one responsible for conveying that information immediately following that class, not at a later time.
2. **Incompletes**—As stated in the University catalog, incompletes are granted only for "good cause," such as extended hospitalization, long-term illness, or a death in the family. Students must petition for an incomplete using the form available in the History, Humanities, and Government Department. Very few incompletes are granted.
3. **Late Work**
 - a. The student is responsible for obtaining class assignments and material covered during an absence. All work must be completed as scheduled. Late work may result in a lower grade. An absence is not an excuse for turning in late work or for being unprepared with assignments for the class following the absence. Computer or printer malfunction does not constitute an excuse for late work; students should have their work prepared in time to ensure that they can get it proofread, edited, and printed prior to the instructor's due date. These responsibilities assist the student in professional development.
 - b. Each instructor has his or her own late-work policy that is given to students at the beginning of a course. Instructors use their own judgment in accepting late work resulting from all other absences. In cases where these absences can be anticipated, such as for non-University sponsored mission trips, the work should normally be submitted prior to the absence. In unanticipated absences, such as sickness or family crises, the instructor should be notified as soon as possible and agreement reached on due dates and possible penalties.
4. **Attendance**—Because unavoidable circumstances can prevent perfect attendance, each student is allowed to miss up to 10 class sessions without the student's grade being affected. This allowance for absences is intended for illness and emergencies. In a sense, the student may consider this "sick leave." Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory, whether virtual or physically in the classroom, and missing a majority of a lecture is considered an absence. Leaving a lecture early or missing a majority of the class time is also considered an absence. Excessive absences will reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course. ***If a student gets 11 absences, the student will suffer the loss of one letter grade. If a student accrues 13 absences, he/she will suffer the loss of two letter grades. If a student exceeds 15 absences he/she will fail the course.*** A student who leaves class before dismissal will be marked as tardy.

Extended illnesses, crises, and administratively excused absences are handled on an individual basis and require verification from a doctor, student services, or ORU faculty/staff.

5. **Administratively Excused Absences**—Only absences that are required by approved University activities are given administrative excuses. Students who must miss class for University-sponsored activities must follow these procedures:
 - a. Inform the professor before the event and make arrangement for the work to be submitted prior to the absence or at a mutually agreed upon deadline.
 - b. Present an administrative excuse form with appropriate signatures when he or she returns to class. Doctors' or nurses' notes, or letters from groups sponsoring mission trips or activities do not qualify a student for an administratively excused absence.
 - c. Obtain information covered during an absence. All work must be completed as scheduled.
 - d. Not commit to class presentation (oral reports, speeches, group presentations, etc.) on a date that the student will be gone. Makeup work is not permitted if the student voluntarily committed to a performance on the date of an administratively excused absence.
6. **Extra Credit**—Students should not expect extra credit to help raise a grade.
7. **Plagiarism** – Each student attending Oral Roberts University is required to do his or her own academic work and must not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments. Students must document all sources and ideas that are not their own original information by following correct MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation procedures. Failure to do this produces a plagiarized paper, which results in an F for the paper. Photocopies of sources must be turned in with research papers. Flagrant cheating results in an F for the course.
8. **Electronic Device Use During Examinations**
 - a. Laptop computers, pads, I-pods, and other portable computer or electronic devices must be put away during examinations.
 - b. **Cell phones must be put away or placed face-down on the desk during examinations. Students who have a cell phone in hand during an examination or who have a cell phone nearby and face-up on the desk will be considered in violation of this policy.**
 - c. Ear phones and ear buds are not allowed during examinations.
 - d. The penalty for violating this policy is a zero for the examination, and possibly a failing grade for the course.

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. **Evaluation Procedures**

The following scale will be used for the assignments, the final examination, and the course grade.

100% - 90% = A
89% - 80% = B
79% - 70% = C
69% - 60% = D
Below 60% = F

2. Other Policies and/or Procedures

- a. Examinations must be taken on the date and time assigned. It is the student's responsibility to contact the professor concerning missed work or examinations due to absences, and to do so promptly if possible. Late work or missed examinations, if excused, normally must be made up within one week.
- b. Submitting someone else's work as one's own is the worst type of plagiarism and will result in a failing grade for the assignment. Failure to acknowledge where paraphrased or summarized information came from is a second type of plagiarism. Using a source for information and acknowledging that source incorrectly is a third type of plagiarism. Incorrectly paraphrasing an author (even though it was footnoted) is the most common type of plagiarism. For example, many students simply change a word here or there from a sentence in the textbook, or change the word order of a statement by an author. This is not paraphrasing; it is plagiarism and may result in an "F" for the assignment. A true paraphrase is done by using your own words and sentence structure.
- c. No more than two unexcused absences are allowed per semester. Additional unexcused absences may result in reduction of grade at the instructor's discretion. If a student is late to class three times, it shall count as one absence. If a student is more than 5 minutes late for class, he/she may be counted absent for the day. Students leaving class early without permission may be counted absent.

VIII. COURSE CALENDAR

WEEK	SUBJECT
Week 1	Course Overview/Syllabus
Week 2	Pre-History & the Dawn of Civilization
Week 3	Pre-History & the Dawn of Civilization
Week 4	Early Civilizations
Week 5	Exam Review, Unit I Exam, Early Civilizations
Week 6	Early Civilizations
Week 7	The Hebrew World

Week 8	FALL BREAK
Week 9	The Hebrew World
Week 10	Ancient Greece
Week 11	Exam Review & Unit II Exam; Research Essay Due (TBD)
Week 12	Ancient Greece
Week 13	Ancient Greece
Week 14	Hellenism
Week 15	Hellenism
Week 16	Final Exam

Primary Program: General Education
HUM 201 Wisdom of the Ancient World
Fall 2024

This course contributes to the University and program outcomes as indicated below:

Significant Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

Moderate Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

Minimal Contribution – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

OUTCOMES	Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution
Spiritual Integrity			
Outcome 4 – Demonstrate the ability to apply their Christian faith and worldview to their historical specialization to promote God’s healing.		X	
Personal Resilience			
Intellectual Pursuit			
Outcome 1 – Students will be able to understand, analyze, and communicate general historical knowledge.		X	
Outcome 2 – Students will be able to identify and critique the method, origin, and quality of historical knowledge.		X	
Global Engagement			
Bold Vision			