

HIST 1300 Syllabus – Summer II - 2026

Excluding materials for purchase, syllabus information may be subject to change. The most up-to-date syllabus is located within the course in HuskyCT.

Course and Instructor Information

Course Title: Hist 1300 – Western Traditions Before 1500

Subject & Catalog Number: Hist – 1300

Section: 020

Credits: 3

Modality: Online Asynchronous (OA)

Location: [HuskyCT](#)

Prerequisites: Prerequisites (as listed in the *Academic Catalog*)

Course Dates: 7/13/2026 – 8/14/2026

Instructor: Kristen Engel She/Her – Please address me as “Professor Engel”

Email: Kristen.m.vitale@uconn.edu

Office Hours: Virtual by request

Availability: by email. I usually respond within two business days

Required Materials

- Anthony Grafton and David A. Bell, *The West: A New History*, vol. 1 (New York: Norton, 2018).

This course also has [equipment and software requirements](#). (HuskyCT)

Obtaining Materials

Required course materials should be obtained before the first day of class. Full-time undergraduate students *may* have access to materials through the [Husky Book Bundle](#); refer to program details for term availability, material eligibility, auto-enrollment, and opt-out information. Otherwise, materials are available for purchase and/or rent through the [UConn Bookstore](#) and may be [shipped for a fee](#). Navigate to [Find Course Materials](#) and use the following information to search:

Campus	Term	Department	Course #*	Section
Storrs	Summer 2026	HIST	1300	020

* 9780393640854

Additional instructional materials and resources are available through HuskyCT.

Course Description

An analysis of the traditions and changes which have shaped Western political institutions, economic systems, social structures and culture in ancient and medieval times

Course Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify major aspects of the politics, economy, social and intellectual life, and values of the civilizations of the West
2. Interpret how cross-cultural interactions affected the development of particular regions
3. Critically analyze primary source materials for a better understanding of the historian's craft
4. Evaluate bodies of historiography to understand historians' arguments, identifying their sources, methods, and assumptions.
5. Interpret Western history and its transformation over time from its earliest beginnings to ca. 1500s

Course Schedule

Course Outline

Module 0: Course Overview and Introductions

Module 1: "Early" Civilizations

Module 2: The Greeks through the Romans

Module 3: The Middle Ages

Module 4: Renaissance and Reformation

Module 5: Final Project Module

Due Dates

Refer to the [Course Schedule](#) for assessments and due dates. Deadlines are based on Eastern Time unless otherwise specified. This course schedule is also housed on HuskyCT.

The instructor reserves the right to change dates as the term progresses. All changes will be communicated appropriately.

Course Requirements and Grading

Grading Scale

Information on grades and grading can be found as follows:

- [Registrar's Information on Grading Scales](#)
- [University of Connecticut Academic Catalog](#): Undergraduate > Academic Regulations > Grade Information

General Explanation of Grades

Critical Analyses	30%
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Discussion	30%
Final Assignment	40%

Critical Analyses: At the end of some units, there will be a primary source assignment. You are to critically analyze that source by the date specified on the course schedule.

Discussion: You will also see some discussion prompts at the bottom of some modules. You are to respond to the prompt and reply to two classmates by the date specified on the course schedule.

Final: There will be a final assignment in this course. Further directions on this assignment will be posted in the Final Assignment Module.

Numeric Range	Letter Grade	Explanation (Undergraduate)	Explanation (Graduate)
92.50–100%	A	Excellent	Distinction
89.50–92.49%	A-	Excellent	Distinction
86.50–86.49%	B+	Very Good	Good Quality
82.50–86.49%	B	Good	Good Quality
79.50–82.49%	B-	Good	Good Quality
76.50–79.49%	C+	Good	Below Expected Standard
72.50–76.49%	C	Average	Below Expected Standard
69.50–72.49%	C-	Fair	Below Expected Standard
66.50–69.49%	D+	Poor	Unsatisfactory Quality
62.50–66.49%	D	Poor	Unsatisfactory Quality
59.50–62.49%	D-	Merely Passing	Unsatisfactory Quality
0–59.49%	F	Failure	Failure

Late & Missed Assessment Policy

While I accept late assignment on case-by-case bases, I cannot accept missing assignments a week after its due date.

Action: Dependent upon circumstance.

Feedback and Grades

I will make every effort to provide feedback and grades within 1 week. To keep track of your performance in the course, refer to the Gradebook in HuskyCT.

Student Authentication and Verification

The University of Connecticut is required to verify the identity of students who participate in online courses and to establish that students who register in an online course are the same students who participate in, complete the course activities and assessments, and receive academic credit. Verification and authentication of student identity in this course will include:

- Secure access to the learning management system (HuskyCT) using your unique UConn NetID and password.
- Meeting time interaction as specified time on course schedule (i.e. synchronous virtual meet)

Students who do not complete the above required authentication steps may be denied access to the course and given an incomplete. Students could lose credit if the identity of the enrolled student completing course activities and assessments cannot be confirmed.

Virtual Classroom Guidelines

Hello folks,

Welcome to Western Traditions Before 1500! My name is Kristen Vitale Engel and I am your instructor for this course.

A bit of information about myself: I have a PhD in History from the University of Connecticut. I have been teaching at the collegiate level for about eight years now. I am incredibly passionate about history and the historian's craft and I very much enjoy teaching my students the ways of the historian. I am quite excited to teach this class as I find something very special about history survey courses; the speed at which one must cover a vast amount of information is challenging yet intellectually stimulating and fun. If this is your first time taking a survey course, you are in for a treat. If you are a veteran of the history survey, welcome back.

Some information about this course: it is a summer two, asynchronous course. We will be covering a vast amount of information in each Module, all of which will be done through this HuskyCT site. I provide video clips and supplemental primary and secondary materials on our site to add to our topics, but there are aspects of the course that only you can control:

1. have access to the required textbook.
2. keep a diligent eye on our course schedule for assignment dates
3. keep up with the assigned readings/assignments.

When delving into this material, try to keep a few things in mind:

My history courses tend to have a 'foundational theme' that runs through them. This course its theme focuses on the transforming forms of political structure and governments. Be sure to capture the significance of these changing forms of politics throughout the development of Western history.

Keep in mind that this is a history class and we are historicizing this content (meaning, we are treating/representing this content as historical, within its appropriate context, while utilizing historical distinctions--yes, a lot of "historical" talk!). Thus, we are examining how events, peoples, ideals, ideologies, etc., of the past, have impacted the development of our contemporary world.

Though we get through a lot of material, do not panic! I am always here to help. With proper time management, this course is a lot of fun and very informative.

Trigger Warning: some violent and sensitive content in materials.

Academic Integrity

Academic misconduct is dishonest or unethical academic behavior that includes, but is not limited to, misrepresenting mastery in an academic area (e.g., cheating), failing to properly credit information, research, or ideas to their rightful

originators or representing such information, research, or ideas as your own (e.g., plagiarism). Academic integrity is expected of all students. This means that all students are expected to present their own original work unless specifically directed to do otherwise by the professor. Academic dishonesty includes acts of cheating (e.g., copying someone else's answer on a test or assignment), fabrication (e.g., presenting false information as factual), and plagiarism (e.g., presenting another person's ideas as your own). It also includes assisting another in the commission of such acts. In addition, submitting the same product for credit in two different courses without the prior consent of both instructors is considered a form of plagiarism. Acts of academic dishonesty will be met with immediate consequences by the instructor and reported to the Dean of Academic Affairs, who will review them in accordance with policies stated in the College Catalogue. **Please review the library's Plagiarism Resources.**

Copyright

Copyrighted materials within the course are only for the use of students enrolled in the course for purposes associated with this course and may not be retained or further disseminated.

Student-Created Videos: The videos created by students as part of this course are for the sole use of the students enrolled in this course. Any other use of these videos or any pictures or derivatives of the videos without the written consent of the video creator is prohibited.

Syllabus Addendum

As a member of the University of Connecticut student community, you are held to certain standards and academic policies. In addition, there are numerous resources available to help you succeed in your academic work. Read the [Syllabus Addendum](#), which includes:

1. [University Standards and Policies](#)
 - a. The Student Code & Academic Integrity
 - b. Communication Guidelines
 - c. Credit Hours and Workload
 - d. Course Drop/Withdrawal
 - e. Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment and Related Interpersonal Violence
 - f. Evaluation of Course Experience
2. [Resources and Accommodations](#)
 - a. Support Services
 - b. Students with Disabilities
 - c. Accommodations for Absences Due to Religious Observances and Extracurricular Activities
 - d. Emergency Preparedness
3. [Technical Requirements](#)
 - a. Minimum Equipment Requirements
 - b. Minimum Software Requirements
 - c. Browser Recommendations
 - d. Additional Software Requirements for Some Online Courses
 - e. Proctoring Requirements
 - f. Minimum Technical Skills
 - g. Student Technology Training
 - h. Technology Help

Refer to the [Syllabus Addendum](#) - "Additional Software Requirements for Some Online Courses" section for information on accessibility, privacy, and system requirements.