

HIS 101
Ancient Mesopotamia to Early Modern Europe

Satisfies: GLO, SBS [DEC: F]

MW, 11:00am-12:00pm

Professor Sara Lipton

In this course we shall explore the politics, society, art, and culture of “the West” from the ancient world to 1789. This course is intended to 1) survey the historical and cultural influences that have shaped European (and, by extension, our own) society; 2) provide practice and training in critical reading of both primary and secondary historical sources; and 3) improve your understanding of the basic elements of historical inquiry: formulating questions, gathering, selecting, and interpreting evidence, organizing the results into a coherent idea, and effectively communicating the results to others. Monday and Wednesday lectures will introduce the basic historical narrative and historians’ interpretations of it: weekly mandatory recitations (discussion sections) will be devoted to reading, interpreting, and arguing about the primary sources themselves. Requirements consist of about 40 pages of reading per week, several short papers, participation in recitations, a midterm exam, and a cumulative final exam.