

# INTERPRETING THE EUROPEAN PAST

History 102H

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Midterm Review

Spring 2020

The exam will consist of:

1 long essay	70 points
a map	10 points
a chronology	20 points

## Essay Questions

The essay is a writing exercise. Accordingly, you should compose your answer in narrative format. Not bullets. Not an outline. Not a high-schoolish FRQ. Instead well-constructed paragraphs that conform to the rules of English style and composition.

Your essay should be argumentative. Lead with your thesis statement. Then marshal your evidence in defense of that statement. Evidence consists of *specific reference to the course texts and lectures*. Remember that a blank sheet of paper is worth zero points. Your task is to fill it up with points.

You will be given a choice between two of the following and asked to write on one.

1. Myths are stories about the past that nations tell themselves to remember who they are. We have encountered numerous myths in this course including Troy, the *Oresteia*, Aeneas & Dido, Lucretia, Cincinnatus, and *Beowulf*. Select two of these myths and explain the purpose of those stories. What values or events do they commemorate? What do they tell us about the society in question?
2. From the Bronze Age to the Industrial Revolution, agriculture was the principal occupation in Europe and the Mediterranean. The form of agriculture tells us much about a society. Consider, e.g., the free farmer of Archaic and Classical Greece and the ideal of self-sufficiency (*autarkeia*). First, sketch the features of the Mediterranean agricultural system, including some of the problems or challenges that emerged in the course of Greek or Roman history. Finally, explain what the system reveals about Mediterranean civilization.
3. Like agriculture, a civilization's style of warfare reflects its social organization and its values. Compare the hoplite soldier of Archaic and Classical Greece with the warrior of either Bronze Age Greece, the Germanic tribes (e.g. *Beowulf*), or medieval Europe. Who did the fighting? What does the manner of warfare reveal about each civilization?
4. Over the course of a thousand years, Christianity went from a persecuted Roman mystery religion to the medieval papal "monarchy." Discuss some of the major stages in the development of the Church as a political, social, and religious institution.
5. After the collapse of Roman administration in the fifth century, European civilization went through a number of political transformations that culminated in the formation of the national monarchies by the thirteenth century. Discuss some of the major stages in that process. Then consider: what forces supported the centralization of power under a monarch? What fragmentary forces inhibited centralization?

## Map Items

### Cities

Athens  
Sparta  
Troy  
Melitus  
Rome  
Naples

Carthage  
Constantinople  
Istanbul  
Vienna  
Budapest  
Belgrade  
Prague

Stockholm  
Copenhagen  
Cologne  
Brussels  
Amsterdam  
Paris  
Madrid

### Rivers

Danube River  
Rhine River  
Seine River  
Rhone River  
Thames River  
Tiber River

### Mountains

Alps  
Apennines  
Pyrenees  
Carpathians  
Caucasus  
Balkans

### Regions

Crete  
Cyprus  
Peloponnesus  
Asia Minor  
Ionia  
Sicily

### Water

Atlantic Ocean  
North Sea  
English Channel  
Mediterranean Sea  
Black Sea  
Aegean Sea  
Adriatic Sea

### More countries

France  
Spain  
Italy  
Switzerland  
Germany  
Poland  
Czechia  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
Austria  
Hungary  
Serbia/Yugoslavia  
Croatia  
Montenegro

### A lot of countries

Bosnia  
Albania  
Russia  
Belarus  
Ukraine  
Moldavia  
Macedonia  
Bulgaria  
Romania  
Greece  
Turkey  
Morocco  
Algeria  
Tunisia

### Countries

England  
Ireland  
Netherlands/Holland  
Luxembourg  
Belgium

### Chronology

Alexander the Great  
Archaic Greece  
Augustus  
Black Death  
Charlemagne  
Cincinnatus

Classical Greece  
Constantine  
Diocletian  
Greek Dark Ages  
Hannibal  
Hellenistic Age  
Homer

Lucretia  
Magna Carta  
Mycenean Civ.  
Persian Wars  
Pope Gregory I "the Great"  
Trojan War  
William the Conqueror