

Comparative Civilizations 12 Short Course Summary

My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:
Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!
~ Percy Bysshe Shelly



Purpose: Using a distinctively Christian analytical schema, students will examine the history, literature, art, and philosophy of the ancient civilizations which have defined the ‘western story’. Students will study and compare various world cultures and civilizations by analyzing political, social, and economic structures; but as believers, we will pay particular attention to the underlying cultural mythos which orients their thinking, establishes their habits of thought and animates their everyday way of life and being. As such, students will examine cultural elements such as belief systems, daily routines, gender roles, and power and authority. Students also will identify the basic concepts of art, culture, and civilization. It is believed that understanding ancient civilizations is one means of understanding our ‘modern story’ and will, as a result, enable students to have a frame of reference for thinking about the ways their own culture has force upon the lives of individuals and groups.

Outline: Comparative Civilizations 12 begins in November after mid-term of first semester. It includes three units: Foundations of Civilization, Culture and the Arts, and Culture and Values. This course features a two-week trip to Europe during Spring Break and also counts for credit in a variety of electives, depending on how much time a student wishes to devote to this program of study. Contact our grad counselor, Mrs. Sue Savard

ssavard@onlineschool.ca to choose 4 to 20 course credits. Trip details also will be announced in mid to late September.

Skills Developed: Students will apply research skills (including accessing information, collecting and evaluating data, organizing information, and citing sources) to interpret, evaluate, and apply information from artifacts, oral tradition, and other primary and secondary sources. Students will apply critical thinking skills (including questioning, comparing, summarizing, and drawing conclusions) to generate and defend a position on a selected civilization. Students will communicate their knowledge and understanding about civilizations by using effective written, oral, and graphic communication skills.

Evaluation:

20% Participation / Involvement / Cooperation (mark is based on the collaboration of a team of teachers)

20% Journal (mark is based on the quality of reflection rather than the quantity of reflections).

60% Coursework (mark is based on the following key assignments. Please note that this is not a comprehensive list of required work)

- Pre-trip Project
- On site Student Presentations (based on pre-trip project)
- Presentation of Project

Four Modules Syllabus for Comparative Civilizations 12

Unit 1 - Civilizations Through the Ages

Lesson 1 - Beginnings with Mr. Mark Daley

“Power is the life pulse that sustains man in every epoch, and unless the student understands power figures and power sources he can understand nothing vital about social history.” - Ernest Becker

"My name is Ozymandias, king of kings: Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!" - Percy Bysshe Shelly

“He rules forever by his power, his eyes watch the nations--let not the rebellious rise up against him.” - Psalm 66:7

“You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery.” - Psalm 2:9

Unit 1 - Civilizations Through the Ages

Lesson 2 - Foundations of Art with Mr. Timothy Clayton

“Art is a lie that makes us realize truth.” - Pablo Picasso

“Art is a collaboration between God and the artist, and the less the artist does the better.” - Andre Gide

Unit 1 Civilizations Through the Ages

Lesson 3 - Approaches to Ancient History with Mr. Eric Vanee

“Space, the final frontier. These are the voyages of the starship Enterprise. Its five-year mission: To explore strange new worlds. To seek out new life and new civilizations. To boldly go where no man has gone before. ” - Captain James Kirk of the Starship Enterprise

“Those who cannot remember the past are doomed to repeat it.” - George Santayana

“History is more or less bunk.” - Henry Ford

“History is...His Story” - Anonymous

“What is history after all, but to account for man’s futility to reach the stars and achieve his own ultimate “good” and by so doing be a glorious story that is good, fully redeemed for what it tells, to bring us rightly back to our humble place, that He alone, in His power and authority be called King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Blah, blah, blah.” - Mark Daley

Unit 1 Civilizations Through the Ages

Lesson 4 - Greek Mythology with Mrs. Sue Savard

"As a general thing we find that the ancient myths do not give us a simple and consistent story; consequently it should occasion no surprise if we find, when we put the ancient accounts together, that in some details they are not in agreement with those given by every poet and historian." - Diodorus Siculus [80-20 BC, The Library of History 4.44.5]

"He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.'" Acts 17: 26-28

Unit 2 The Ancient Civilizations of Greece and Rome

Lesson 5: Shifts in Thought Toward a New Vision of Man - Mr. Mark Daley

"Who then are the true philosophers? Those who are lovers of the vision of truth." - Plato

"For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known" - I Corinthians 13:12

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge" - Proverbs 1:7

"The best-laid schemes o' mice an' men Gang aft agley" - Robbie Burns

Unit 2 The Ancient Civilizations of Greece and Rome

Lesson 6: Art's Greatest Hits Part I Greek and Roman Art & Architecture: Idealism, Hubris and Power - Mr. Tim Clayton

"The only stable state is the one in which all men are equal before the law" - Aristotle

"We are the Borg. Lower your shields. Your biological and technological distinctiveness will be added to our own. Resistance is futile!"

"My church is this very Chapel of Democracy that we sit in together, and I do not need God to tell me what are my moral absolutes. I need my heart, my brain, and this church." - Joan Allen in 'The Contender' (2000)

"What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again: there is nothing new under the sun" - Ecc. 1:9 (NIV).

Unit 2 The Ancient Civilizations of Greece and Rome

Lesson 7: Why do the Nations Rage? - Mr. Eric Vanee

"Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One. 'Let us break their chains,' they say, 'and throw off their fetters.' The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill." - Psalm 2:1-5 (NIV)

"Enough!" - Anonymous

"I shall never believe that God plays dice with the world." - Albert Einstein

Unit 2 The Ancient Civilizations of Greece and Rome

Lesson 8: "And the 'Golden' Globe goes to...." - Mrs. Sue Savard

"In war, truth is the first casualty." - Aeschylus

"All concerns of men go wrong when they wish to cure evil with evil." Sophocles,
The Sons of Aieus

Do not mistake for wisdom that opinion which may rise from a sick mind. -
Euripides

It is bad taste for a poet to be coarse and hairy. Aristophanes, The
Thesmophoriazusa

Unit 3 From Dark Ages to the ReBirth of Civilization

Lesson 9: Greece Reborn: The Glory of Man Revived - Mr. Mark Daley

"Long ago in days untold, Were ruled by lords of greed
Kings and queens and guillotines, Taking lives denied
Starch and parchments laid the laws, When bishops took the ride Only to
deceive." - Aerosmith

"A man's reach should exceed his grasp / Or, what's a heaven for?" - Browning

"You are molder and maker of yourself, you may fashion yourself in whatever
form you shall prefer." - Pico

"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death" -
Proverbs 14:12

Unit 3 - From Dark Ages to the ReBirth of Civilization

Lesson 10: Art's Greatest Hits Part II The Middle (Dark) Ages to the Renaissance
& Reformation: Tyranny, Hegemony, and the 2nd Golden Age - Mr. Timothy
Clayton

"Of all of the tyrannies that affect mankind, tyranny of religion is the worst." -
Thomas Paine

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the
kingdom of heaven in men's faces..." - From Matthew 23

"Meet the new boss...same as the old boss" - From Won't Get Fooled Again - The
Who

Unit 3 - From Dark Ages to the ReBirth of Civilization

Lesson 11: Why does the Church Rage? - Mr. Eric Vanee

"Culture and the freedoms of people are fragile... A culture or an individual with
a weak base can stand only when the pressure on it is not too great." - Francis
Schaeffer

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for
reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." - II Timothy 3:16 (KJV)

"Everybody needs someone to love...Everybody needs someone to hate...Lord you got to keep the faith." - From Keep the Faith - Bon Jovi

Unit 3 - From Dark Ages to the ReBirth of Civilization

Lesson 12: The Unknown God Made Known - Mrs. Savard

"The historical sense involves a perception, not only of the pastness of the past, but of its presence." TS Eliot

"For in Him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also His offspring." Acts 17: 26-27

Unit 4 - From Revolution to Self Reliant Man

Lesson 13: The Making of the Triumphant Human

"Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast

love and your faithfulness!" - Psalm 115:1

"Now he lies there; extinct his reason's light, his neck in heavy chains thrust down, his countenance with grievous weight downcast" - Boethius

"children ardent for some desperate glory ... the old lie" - Wilfred Owen

"Defeat is heaven's success . . . I am my destiny." - Thoreau

"Without dreams man would have found no occasion to divide the world." - Nietzsche

Unit 4 - From Revolution to Self Reliant Man

Lesson 14: State of the Art: From Revolution to Post-Postmodernity - Mr. Timothy Clayton

"So I hated life, because the work that is done under the sun was grievous to me. All of it is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me." - Ecclesiastes 2: 17-18

"God creates out of nothing. Wonderful you say. Yes, to be sure, but he does what is still more wonderful: he makes saints out of sinners.

Not just in commerce but in the world of ideas too our age is putting on a veritable clearance sale. Everything can be had so dirt cheap that one begins to wonder whether in the end anyone will make a bid. People demand freedom of speech as a compensation for the freedom of thought which they seldom use.

The tyrant dies and his rule is over, the martyr dies and his rule begins. Just as in earthly life lovers long for the moment when they are able to breathe forth their love for each other, to let their souls blend in a soft whisper, so the

mystic longs for the moment when in prayer he can, as it were, creep into God."
- Soren Kierkegaard

Unit 4 - From Revolution to Self Reliant Man

Lesson 15: The Empire: From the Nation State to the Corporation - Mr. Eric Vanee

"L'etat, c'est moi" - Louis XIV

"...for there is no authority except that which God has established." - Romans 13: 1b

"I've had enough, I'm getting out
To the city, the big big city
I'll be a big noise with all the big boys
There's so much stuff I will own
And I will pray to a big god
As I kneel in the big church - Peter Gabriel from his song Big Time

"Because you have plundered many nations, the people who are left will plunder you" - Habakkuk 2: 8

Unit 4 - From Revolution to Self Reliant Man

Lesson 16: Concluding Connections...