

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 analysing 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 is only available in the 2nd Semester and 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. A worksheet will be available by mid-September to aid in the selection process of choosing anywhere from 4 to 14 course credits. Trip details also will be announced in mid-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

