

BOOK LIST

AP[®] European History

Fall 2024 / Spring 2025

Title	Edition	Author/Editor	ISBN	Available on the Academy's Bookstore?
Western Civilizations, Vol. 2	19 th	Cole, Joshua & Symes, Carol	Paperback 978-0393614329 Loose-Leaf 978-0393615951	No
History Through the Eyes of Faith	1989	Wells, Ronald	978-0060692964	Yes – Find it here.
What Went Wrong?: Clash Between Islam and Modernity in the Middle East	2003	Lewis, Bernard	Hardcover 978-0195144208 Paperback 978-0060516055	Yes – Find it here.
Church History in Plain Language	4 th	Shelley, Bruce L.	Paperback 978-1401676315 eBook 978-1401676858	No

Please note:

- > Books and materials requirements are subject to change at the discretion of the instructors.
- > Many laptop computers come with built-in microphones. If your student needs to purchase an external microphone, there are many affordable options.
- > Book synopses and potential disclaimers can be found on the following pages of this PDF.

You can order course materials for competitive prices through our HSLDA Online Academy bookstore. Use the [Textbook Finder](#) to locate the required resources for your courses. Please note that while most books are available through the bookstore, some titles are not carried and will need to be purchased elsewhere.

AP[®] is a trademark registered and/or owned by the College Board, which was not involved in the production of, and does not endorse this product.

For more information

If you would like more information about ordering books for your courses, please contact us at 540-338-8290 (Monday–Friday; 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. EST) or send an email to academy@hslida.org.

Western Civilizations, Volume 2 (Cole & Symes)

SYNOPSIS: *Western Civilizations* is a standard collegiate textbook on the history of western civilization. Volume 2 covers history from the 13th century “proto-Renaissance” to the modern era.

→ **REASON FOR TEACHING:** Cole and Symes, along with numerous other contributing scholars, have assembled a very readable resource that draws upon the scholarship of the best historical scholarship on western civilization in recent years. It also presents numerous, valuable primary sources. Unlike many books in academia, which portray western civilization as a horrible thing, this book is rather fair—it highlights the great contributions and benefits that Europe has brought, while not sugar-coating the times when western civilization has been in the wrong.

DISCLAIMER: This text is not written from a Christian perspective. Though the book is mostly fair, it occasionally presents a perspective that does not come from a biblical worldview. The class utilizes these incidents in order to prepare students for what they will see on the AP® exam, and for life in general.

History Through the Eyes of Faith (Wells)

SYNOPSIS: *History through the Eyes of Faith* examines one major historical question in western civilization from a biblical perspective. The historical dilemmas it addresses span from the ancient Israelites to modern times.

→ **REASON FOR TEACHING:** This is currently the only historian’s analysis on the market that examines the big, difficult questions of western civilization specifically from a biblical perspective, in a readable, approachable manner. Generally, Wells does not tell the reader what to think, but raises aspects of historical dilemmas that are usually not on people’s radars.

AP® is a trademark registered and/or owned by the College Board, which was not involved in the production of, and does not endorse this product.

What Went Wrong? (Lewis)

SYNOPSIS: Lewis considers the whirlwind growth of Islam politically and militarily, contrasts that with its protracted death as a major world-player, and then asks, “What changed? Why did the Arabs and then Turks (and others), once the dominant civilization on the planet, fail to remain so?”

→ **REASON FOR TEACHING:** Examining Islam in general is very difficult for historians, and the question Lewis raises had yet to be answered satisfactorily. In part this came from political and religious bias, including (frequently) from Christians whose own evaluations of the topic were lacking. Lewis provides a rational, well-researched argument for the failure of Islamic society after the great heights to which once aspired.

DISCLAIMER: Lewis’s argument does not purport to be an argument based on a biblical worldview.

Church History in Plain Language (Shelley)

SYNOPSIS: Shelley’s work is a very interesting, readable history of the church from Christ’s birth under Augustus to the modern period (it terminates roughly in the late 1990s). The book focuses primarily on Christianity in western civilization, though it does cover the Orthodox churches somewhat.

→ **REASON FOR TEACHING:** This is one of the best resources to get a broad picture on some of the developments in European Christianity without having to wade through numerous, heady secondary sources. Shelley’s analysis of events and people is superb.

Paris 1919 (Documentary) (No purchase required)

SYNOPSIS: This documentary portrays in dramatized fashion the difficulties of making peace at Versailles following the Great War. It is particularly interested in the role of Woodrow Wilson in the Paris peace conference.

→ **REASON FOR USING:** The Great War (WW1 as we typically call it) was life-changing, empire-breaking, and worldview-shattering—and the peace that came after it was an

AP® is a trademark registered and/or owned by the College Board, which was not involved in the production of, and does not endorse this product.

utter failure, the world would resume hostilities on an even greater level only 2 decades later. This fascinating documentary wonderfully dramatizes the decisions made by the four most powerful men in history, whose decisions shaped the lives of billions and a century of world history and more.

DISCLAIMER: There are two racial slurs used, one toward Africans and one toward Jews.

On Christian Liberty & Letter to Pope Leo X (Luther) (No purchase required)

SYNOPSIS: Martin Luther wrote *On Christian Liberty* just a little while after engaging what he thought was an important but not world-changing event, his decision to publish his criticisms of the doctrine of indulgences (et al.). As time went on, while he hoped to see both reformation and healing for the church, he felt called to write about living a true grace-driven Christian walk, and specifically on the freedom that comes through that grace. He later followed it with a heartfelt letter of warning, mild rebuke, and a call to union to Pope Leo X, who only months later would excommunicate Luther.

→ **REASON FOR USING:** These documents capture the thinking of Luther, who almost single-handedly transformed the world. *On Christian Liberty* is still valuable for Christians today as a discipleship training tool.