

Reflections of a White Supremacist

by [Samuel Hux](#) (June 2021)



Portrait of Hans Frisch, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, 1907

The title of course is ironic, and is meant to shock and steal the thunder from those who will surely label me as such. The Philosophy department in which I taught for years ran an interdisciplinary required course popularly known as "Western Civ"—Civ obviously short for *civilization*—not precisely a history course although background chapters on the history of the West were required reading. But the major readings were selections and occasional complete works from the intellectual and cultural monuments from The Bible to the 20th Century. The following list of readings does not represent required reading for one semester, of course, but rather a list from which texts were chosen over the years, with no distinction here between those read in part and those read in their entirety, generally speaking around a dozen or so offerings per semester (14 weeks). No matter the specific texts, the theme of the course was always the same: without these cultural monuments, Western Civilization, for good or ill, would be inconceivable.

Genesis, The Book of Job, Saint Paul's Epistle to the Romans, The Gospel of Saint Mark, Sophocles' Oedipus the King, Homer's The Odyssey, Plato's The Republic and/or The Apology, Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics and/or Politics, Virgil's Aeneid, Saint Augustine's The City of God, Thomas Aquinas's "Fivefold Argument for the Existence of God," Dante's Inferno, selections from Martin Luther and/or John Calvin, a Shakespeare play, René Descartes' Meditations on First Philosophy, Isaac Newton's Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy, Thomas Hobbes's Leviathan, John Locke's Second Treatise of Government, Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of independence, Immanuel Kant's Idea for a Universal History, Edmund Burke's Reflections on the Revolution in France, Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice, Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment, Charles Darwin's On the Origin of Species, Sigmund Freud's Civilization and its Discontents, an Albert Einstein selection, and occasional poetry whenever appropriate.

There are several things obvious about the course.
There are only two 20th century figures. But the course was not
really about Western Civilization *now*