

History 102, Western Civilization
Winter 2016
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History 102 is the second installment of the Western Civilization sequence. It covers the years between 1500 and 1800. This is an explosive, a creative and destructive period. It begins with the gradual recovery of Europe from the Black Death and the surprising discovery of a "new" world. The main focus of the term will be on the interplay between politics and religion in the wake of the religious divide created by the Reformation. The political fragmentation of Europe, combined with the bitter religious divide that split the continent, had wide-ranging consequences for the institutions and cultural practices of the region. We will study in detail the creation of new political forms, the production of novel theories about nature and society, as well as the rise of new understandings of human nature. At some moments people celebrated the changes that occurred during these years. At other times populations could only lament the horrendous increase in bloodshed and the savagery of wars fought in the name of religion or political glory. Our task will be to understand not only the events that marked this period, but also the complex responses of people who had to endure them.

Course Objectives:

In this History course we have a number of different objectives. First and foremost, I want you to become familiar with the period we will be studying. This means not only learning such things as names, dates, and major economic, political, or intellectual trends, but also seeking to understand what shaped particular historical moments and exploring how people experienced them. One of the ways we approach the subject is through original sources, and in this course you will learn how to analyze and use such documents to build historical arguments. You will be taught how to read carefully and critically. Our goal is to learn that reading is not a passive activity, but rather one that requires constant alertness and a questioning mind. In the exams and papers you will be called upon to write in this class, you will be encouraged to develop the ability to organize a carefully reasoned argument or thesis out of imperfect or conflicting documents. You will be expected to develop a position and defend it with well-chosen evidence. These skills -- the analysis of complex situations, reading with a critical eye, and the composition of well developed essays -- will serve you well as you look forward to life beyond the university.

Canvas:

You will find additional reading assignments posted on Canvas. I will also use this site to post weekly study questions for the readings as well as study guides for the mid-term and final exam.

Discussion Sections:

Each student in the course has been assigned to a discussion section, and it is expected that s/he will attend on a regular basis. Sections are an integral part of the course. You will discuss reading assignments, as well as review material covered in lecture. Your discussion leader will work with you on your essay, and will help you prepare for exams. You should be sure to finish the assigned readings before your section meeting. If you miss more than two of your discussion meetings, your grade will suffer. Discussion leaders may assign quizzes at any point during the term.

Grade:

mid-term exam (Feb. 5)	25%	
essay assignment (Feb. 22)	25%	
discussion section grade		10%
final exam (10:15 Tues., Mar. 15)	40%	

The exams will involve both essay and identification. The final will include questions drawn from the entire term's work. The essay assignment will be a four page paper requiring you to make use of the original sources we will be reading in the class. You do not need to consult additional readings. The use of any sources must be properly footnoted. Plagiarism is a serious offense and will be punished with a failing grade for the course. Please consult with me if you are in any doubt about this requirement.

Late work will be penalized. Make-up exams will only be given when the student produces a written medical excuse.

Classroom conduct:

I do not permit cell phone use or texting during lecture time. I do permit the use of laptops for note-taking so long as the privilege is not abused (by checking e-mail or visiting sites unconnected with the course). If I observe the misuse of computers, I will bar them from the classroom.

Required Readings:

[textbook] Levack, Muir, Veldman, [The West: Encounters and Transformations](#) vol. B
Machiavelli, [The Prince](#)
Shakespeare, [Richard II](#)
Lynn Hunt, [The French Revolution and Human Rights](#)
a required selection of documents has been posted on Canvas

Lecture topics and assignments:

Jan. 4	The world about 1500	"New' worlds" documents textbook chapter 11 "The Medieval West in Crisis" & chapter 13 "West and the World"
Jan. 6	European fragmentation and diversity	
Jan. 8	New worlds and old	
Jan. 11	The fate of Italy	Machiavelli, The Prince (due for discussion section)

textbook chapter 12 "The Italian Renaissance"

- Jan. 13 The Church and reform
- Jan. 15 Luther and Germany "Reforming religion" documents
textbook chapter 14 "The Reformations of Religion"
- Jan. 18 Martin Luther King birthday, no class
- Jan. 20 The empire of Charles V
- Jan. 22 The Church responds
- Jan. 25 The fragmentation of Protestantism "Radical Reformation" documents
textbook chapter 15 "The Age of Confessional Division"
- Jan. 27 Religious conflict and political struggle -- France
- Jan. 29 Religious conflict, imperial policy, and regional identity -- the Dutch revolt
- Feb. 1 Magic, witchcraft, and philosophy "Science" documents
textbook chapter 17 "The Scientific Revolution"
- Feb. 3 Science and belief
- Feb. 5 Midterm exam
- Feb. 8 Politics and religion in Europe -- 1600 Shakespeare, Richard II
textbook chapter 16 "Absolutism and State Building"
- Feb. 10 The trauma of the 30 years war
- Feb. 12 The cult of the king in the 17th century
- Feb. 15 The glory of the "Sun" King -- Louis XIV "Absolutism and Revolt" documents
- Feb. 17 Stuart kingship and English troubles
- Feb. 19 Civil war and revolutionary ideas
- Feb. 22 The Dutch "miracle" "Economy and Power" documents
textbook chapter 18 "The West and the World: Empire" Paper Due
- Feb. 24 Empire and riches
- Feb. 26 The wars of Louis XIV and the balance of power
- Feb. 29 The British financial revolution textbook chapter 19 "Eighteenth-Century Society and Culture"
- Mar. 2 Sugar, slaves, and the reach of empire
- Mar. 4 The Enlightenment entire Hunt book (French Revolution and Human Rights)
- Mar. 7 The revolt against the old order "Age of Revolution" documents
textbook chapter 20 "The Age of the French Revolution, 1789-1815"
- Mar. 9 Revolutionary principles
- Mar. 11 The "Nation" and war
- Final Exam: Tues. Mar. 15, 10:15