WESTERN CIVILIZATION IN MODERN TIMES  
HIS309L- 39109  
Fall 2011

Instructor: Benjamin C. Brower  
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Office: Garrison 3.204  
Class Times: MWF 11:00 am-12:00 noon  
Office Hours: WF 9-10:00, and by appointment  
Meeting Place: PAR 203  
Telephone: 512-475-6813

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
In this course students will gain an understanding of European history over the last five centuries. We will investigate a range of significant developments in the social, cultural, and economic history of the European continent and beyond. Lectures and readings will proceed chronologically from fifteenth century to the recent developments of the late twentieth century. This time frame is marked by Europe’s growing global hegemony, manifest in forces such as colonialism and capitalism, making its history of world historical importance. The institutions of the modern state appeared at the beginning of our period, and they were accompanied by an uneven but revolutionary process of social and political transformation that yielded the “dual revolutions,” the French and Industrial Revolutions at the end of the eighteenth century. The course will look at these processes along with the emergence of a class-based society in the nineteenth century. We will also investigate intellectual and cultural forces such as modern ideologies of rupture and the trend toward secular thought. We conclude with the contemporary period, an age marked in Europe by material abundance but plagued by unequal social relations and enduring social discontent.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
This course carries the Global Cultures flag. Accordingly, the course material and our assignments will cover the history of societies outside the United States. Students will learn the skills of historical analysis and interpretation, along with the historical material itself. This will include the ability to grasp the complexity of historical debates and rethink received knowledge in light of new research, as well as mastering a sizable range of historical events, individuals, and key concepts. The overarching goal is to inspire students to engage their world critically and give them the intellectual tools and diversity of perspective to do. Coursework and evaluations will focus on students’ ability to articulate coherent and sustained arguments in writing and verbally. There are no pre-requisites.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
You will need to purchase the following book or use reserve copies in library. Additional required readings noted in schedule of class meetings will be distributed electronically or placed on library reserve.

- Judith Coffin et al., Western Civilizations: Their History & Their Culture

Other: Required material in the course also includes photographs, films and visual texts.

COURSE RULES:
- Laptops are to be used only for taking notes. Students are expected to disable the Internet accessibility function of all electronic devises used in class. Thus there will be no use of email, web browsers, or other software that accesses the Internet during our meetings.
- Cell phone use of any sort, including text messages, will not be tolerated.
- If you would like the record the lectures, please see me first.
ASSIGNMENTS:
- **Exams:** There will be one midterm and a comprehensive final exam. These exams will consist of analytical ID’s and essays. A review list of potential questions will be distributed in advance so that students can prepare for the exams. SEE BELOW FOR DATES.
- **Critical Essay on Emile Zola’s *L’Assommoir***. This essay will address how a literary text relates to its historical context. *L’Assommoir* is a powerful text with a complex message of social critique. You will be asked to examine its ideological and critical tendencies. Length: 5 pp., double-spaced. SEE BELOW FOR DUE DATE.
- **Discussions:** Periodically our course work will center on readings and discussions (SEE BELOW FOR SCHEDULE). You are required to prepare these readings in advance and come to class with a question for discussion. Please type and turn these questions in at the beginning of the meeting.

Grades:

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<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>Writing</td>
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Plus/Minus grading will be used for all grading in this course. The grade scale is as follows:

- 100-93% = A;
- 92-90% = A-
- 89-87% = B+
- 86-83% = B
- 82-80% = B-
- 79-77% = C+
- 76-73% = C
- 72-70% = C-
- 69-67% = D+
- 66-63% = D
- 62-60% = D-
- below 60% = F.

ATTENDANCE:

- Attendance, preparation, and active participation in all course sessions are mandatory.
- Please familiarize yourself with the University’s policy concerning excused absences. Unexcused absences will impinge upon your final grade: 3 unexcused absences will result in the loss of 1 full letter grade; more than 4 will result in loss of 2 full letter grades.
- Religious Holy Days: By University policy, please notify me of your pending absence fourteen days prior to the anticipated date of observance of religious holy days. If you must miss a class, an examination, or an assignment, for religious observance, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

University of Texas Honor Code

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

All work for this course will be that of the student and original contributions. I militantly pursue cases of suspected plagiarism and cheating.

***Late assignments are penalized, plagiarism is prosecuted***

Disabilities

The University of Texas at Austin provides accommodations for students with disabilities. Contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 or 232-2937 (video phone).
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS
(Subject to Revisions and Changes)

Week One: 24-26 August
The Outlines of Early Modern Europe

Wednesday, Course Introduction
Friday, Discussion, J. Huizinga, *The Waning of the Middle Ages* (selections)

Read: *Western Civilizations*, chapter 11 (pp. 353-371)

Week Two: 29 August-2 September
Religious Wars and the Rise of the Modern State

Monday, Religious Wars and Violence
Wednesday, Absolutism in France (visual sources: seeing Absolutism)
Friday, Absolutism in Russia

Read: *Western Civilizations*, chapter 13 (pp. 420-425) and chapter 14 (full)

Week Three: 5-9 September
Europe and the World: The Rise of Empires

Monday, Labor Day holiday: no class
Wednesday, Ottomans in Europe
Friday, Atlantic World

Read: *Western Civilizations*, chapter 15; Davis, *Return of Martin Guerre*

Week Four: 12-16 September
New Directions in Thought and Society

Monday, Discussion: Davis, *Return of Martin Guerre* (in full)
Wednesday, Agricultural Revolution
Friday, What is Enlightenment?

Read: *Western Civilizations*, chapter 16 (pp. 503-512)-17 (pp. 517-535)

Week Five: 19-23 September
The French Revolution 1789–1800

Monday, Europe on the Eve of Revolution
Wednesday, Revolution in France Begins
Friday, End of the Monarchy and the Terror, Discussion: C.L.R. James, *The Black Jacobins* (selections)

Read: *Western Civilizations*, chapter 18

Week Six: 26-30 September
The Napoleonic Era 1800-1815

***MIDTERM EXAM—30 September (Friday)***

**Monday**, Rise of Napoleon
**Wednesday**, France’s Revolutionary Empire
**Friday**, ***MIDTERM EXAM***

Week Seven: 3-7 October
The Restoration and Europe’s Broken Edifices

**Monday**, The Restoration: Equilibrium or Rollback?
**Wednesday**, The Limits of Restoration. Discussion, J. de Maistre “Considerations on France”
**Friday**, Romanticism, an Aesthetic of Crisis

**Read:** *Western Civilizations*, chapter 20

Week Eight: 10-14 October
The “Second European Revolution”: The Industrial Revolution and Rise of a Class Society

**Monday**, The Industrial Revolution
**Wednesday**, A Society of Classes: The Working Class and the Bourgeoisie
**Friday**, Revolutions of 1848, Discussion, *The Communist Manifesto* & David Landes, *The Unbound Prometheus* (selections)

**Read:** *Western Civilizations*, chapter 19

Week Nine: 17-21 October
Social and Political Transformations

**Monday**, Marxism and Liberalism
**Wednesday**, Secularism
**Friday**, The Commune

**Read:** *Western Civilizations*, chapter 21, and Zola, *L’Assomoir*

Week Ten: 24-28 October
Aesthetics and Society: Modernity and Modernism

***26 October (Wednesday) Quiz on Zola’s L’Assomoir***

**Monday**, Utopian Socialism
**Wednesday**, Modernity and Modernism
**Friday**, Hausmann’s Paris (photos)

**Read:** Zola, *L’Assomoir* (in full)

Week Eleven: 31 October–4 November
The Second Industrial Revolution and the Age of High Imperialism, 1870–1914

**Monday**, Discussion, Zola’s *L’Assomoir* (in full)
Wednesday, The “New” Imperialism
Friday, Motion Pictures, Lumière bros., and Méliès (in-class film screening).

Read: *Western Civilizations*, chapter 21 (pp. 643-665) and 22 (full)

**Week Twelve: 7-11 November**
The Great War, 1914–1918 and Aftermath

Monday, Crises of the Belle Epoch and Road to War, 1870-1914
Wednesday, Total War
Friday, Revolutions and Counter-Revolutions

Read: *Western Civilizations*, chapter 23 (pp. 711-734)-24 (full)

**Week Thirteen: 14-18 November**
Interwar Europe

***ZOLA PAPER DUE, 14 NOVEMBER (MONDAY)***
Monday, Fascism and Spanish Civil War
Wednesday, Weimar Germany
Friday, Nazi Rise to Power

Read: *Western Civilizations*, chapter 25

**Week Fourteen: 21-25 November**
World War and Genocide, 1939–1945

Monday, World War in Europe
Wednesday, Cold War
Friday, Thanksgiving break: no class

Read: *Western Civilizations*, chapter 26 (full) and chapter 27 (pp. 851-862)

**Week Fifteen: 28 November -2 December**
Post-Colonial/Post-Industrial Europe

Monday, New and Old Left
Wednesday, Social Suffering in Post-Industrial Europe, Discussion, Bourdieu, *The Weight of the World* (selections)
Friday, Conclusion

Read: *Western Civilizations*, chapter 27 (pp. 862-877) and chapter 28

***FINAL EXAM: Saturday, December 10, 9:00-12:00 noon***
Note: The final exam will be held in PAR 203 unless otherwise notified.