

WESTERN CIVILIZATION IN MODERN TIMES-PI II
HIS309L- 39285
Spring 2013

Instructor: Benjamin C. Brower
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Class Times: TTH 2:00-3:30
Meeting Place: PAR 203

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 the fifteenth century to 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 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*, 17th ed. (ISBN: 978-0-393-93483-0 pbk) Note: You may use the 16th edition of the this textbook for considerable savings. However, page numbers in the syllabus refer to the 17th edition; page numbers in earlier editions will vary. Those who chose previous editions are responsible for negotiating the differences.)
- Natalie Zemon Davis, *The Return of Martin Guerre* (ISBN: 0674766911)
- Emile Zola, *L'Assommoir* (Oxford World's Classics series, ISBN: 019283813X or 0199538689)

Other: Blackboard will have copies of the other selected readings required for the course discussions.

COURSE RULES:

- Laptops are to be used **only for taking notes**. Thus there will be no use of email, web browsers, or other software that accesses the Internet during our meetings. (Infractions of this rule will result in a substantial loss to the participation component of the violator's grade, up to 15% of the total grade.)
- 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 novel 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.

Grades:

Midterm	25%
Final Exam	35%
Writing	25%
Participation	15%

Plus/Minus grading will be used for all grading in this course. The grade scale is as follows:

100-94% = A; 93-90% = A- ; 89-87% = B+ ; 86-84% = B ; 83-80% = B- ; 79-77% = C+ ; 76-74% = C ; 73-70% = C- ; 69-67% = D+ ; 66-64% = D ; 63-60% = 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 may result in the loss of 1 full letter grade; more than 5 may result in loss of 2 full letter grades.
- Religious Holy Days: By University policy, please notify me of your pending absence about 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 through the office of Student Judicial Services.

***** *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: Jan. 15/17

The Outlines of Early Modern Europe

Tues., Course Introduction

Thurs., Discussion, J. Huizinga, *The Waning of the Middle Ages* (selections)

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

Week Two: Jan. 22/24

Religious Wars and the Rise of the Modern State

Tues., Religious Wars and Violence

Thurs., Absolutism in France, Prussia, & Russia (visual sources: “seeing absolutism”)

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

Week Three: Jan. 29/31

Europe and the World: The Rise of Empires

Tues., Ottomans & Islam in Europe; Atlantic Europe

Thurs., Discussion: Davis, *Return of Martin Guerre* (in full)

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

Week Four: Feb. 5/7

New Directions in Thought and Society

Tues., What is Enlightenment?

Thurs., Europe on the Eve of Revolution

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

Week Five: Feb. 12/14

The French Revolution 1789–1800

Tues., Revolution in France Begins

Thurs., The Republic of Virtue: Terror

Read: *Western Civilizations*, chapter 18

Week Six: Feb. 19/21

The Napoleonic Era 1800-1815

MIDTERM EXAM—21 February (Thurs.)

Tues., Rise of Napoleon & Empire

Thurs., *MIDTERM EXAM*****

Week Seven: Feb. 26/28

The Restoration and Europe's Broken Edifices

Tues., The Restoration: Equilibrium or Rollback? Discussion, J. de Maistre "Considerations on France"

Thurs., Romanticism, an Aesthetic of Crisis

Read: *Western Civilizations*, chapter 20

Week Eight: Mar. 5/7

The "Second European Revolution": The Industrial Revolution and Rise of a Class Society

Tues., The Industrial Revolution

Thurs., A Society of Classes: The Working Class and the Bourgeoisie, Discussion, *The Communist Manifesto* & David Landes, *The Unbound Prometheus* (selections)

Read: *Western Civilizations*, chapter 19

Week Nine: Mar. 19/21

Social and Political Transformations

Tues., Bourgeois Ideology

Thurs., Secularism

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

Week Ten: Mar. 26/28

Aesthetics and Society: Modernity and Modernism

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

Tues., Utopian Socialism

Thurs., Modernity, Discussion: Simmel "Metropolis," and Baudelaire Flaneur

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

Week Eleven: Apr. 2/4

The Second Industrial Revolution and the Age of High Imperialism, 1870–1914

Tues., Discussion, Zola's *L'Assomoir* (in full)

Thurs., The "New" Imperialism

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

Week Twelve: Apr. 9/11

The Great War, 1914–1918 and Aftermath

Tues., Crises of the Belle Epoch and Road to War, 1870-1914

Thurs., Total War; Revolutions and Counter-Revolutions

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

Week Thirteen: Apr. 16/18

Interwar Europe

*****ZOLA PAPER DUE, 16 APRIL (TUES.)*****

Tues., Fascism and Spanish Civil War

Thurs., Weimar Germany and Nazi Rise to Power

Read: *Western Civilizations*, chapter 25

Week Fourteen: Apr. 23/25

World War and Genocide, 1939–1945

Tues., World War in Europe

Thurs., Cold War

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

Week Fifteen: Apr. 30/May 2

Post-Colonial/Post-Industrial Europe

Tues., New and Old Left

Thurs., Post-Industrial Europe, Discussion, Bourdieu, *The Weight of the World* (selections), and Zizek on Riots (selections)

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

*****FINAL EXAM: Thursday, May 9, 9:00-12:00 noon*****

Note: The final exam will be held in PAR 203 unless otherwise notified.