

HISTORY 101

WESTERN CIVILIZATION: FROM RENAISSANCE TO REVOLUTION

Semester: Spring 2015

Time: TTh 9:30 – 10:50

Place: MONTG 122

Professor: Dr. Clayton Whisnant

Office: Main 105

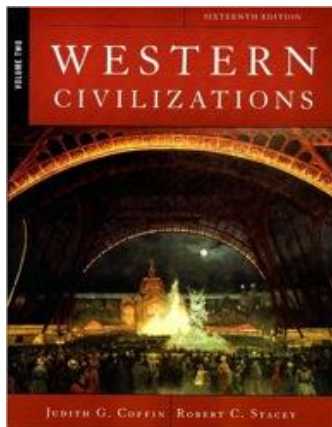
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, students will study significant aspects of Europe's political, social, and cultural history from the Renaissance to the French Revolution. The main goal of the course will be to examine the transformations that ushered in modern Europe.

Course Goals

In this course, students should come to understand the key changes that laid the groundwork for the modern era, including:

- the transformation of Christianity,
- the growth of the absolutist state,
- the emergence of early representative governments,
- the arrival of new technologies and the spread of scientific thinking,
- the development of new secular areas of life,
- the rise of modern capitalism,

- the appearance of a social class system based on largely on wealth, and
- the spread of education.

All these transformation played some role in bringing about the most important event of modern times, the French Revolution, which serves as a culmination of this course. All students will hopefully have some understanding by the end of the course concerning the origins of the French Revolution, the key characteristics and players associated with each stage of the revolution, and the lasting impact of the Revolution for Europe.

Course Objectives

To meet the goals of the course, students will take three exams which will test their knowledge of a) key ideas, movements, and historical figures associated with the early modern era; b) important events and trends that helped to give shape to Europe between the fourteenth and eighteenth centuries; and c) the cause & effect relationships that help to explain the flow of events from the Renaissance to the French Revolution. Students will also write one short paper, in which they prove that they have read and grappled with one book dealing with a single dimension of the early modern period.

Courses Relationship to Department Goals

This course helps the history department reach its goals by covering the following dimensions of history widely perceived as crucial for a well-rounded view of the world:

- political developments;
- significant intellectual movements and debates;
- socio-cultural issues of class;
- and gender.

Students will also gain some exposure to how history is practiced by

- examining primary sources.

Technology Skills

Students will need some basic knowledge of web browsers in order to be able to find and utilize material on the on-line version of this syllabus. They will also need some basic working knowledge of using a computer word-processor in order to write the short paper in this class.

Instructional Format

This course will be largely a lecture-based course, with some time set aside for discussion of the text material.

TEXTS

- Joshua Cole and Carol Symes, *Western Civilizations, 18th Edition, Volume 2 (1400-Present)*, (W. W. Norton, 2013) (This is abbreviated WC in syllabus)
- Geoffrey Parker, *The Military Revolution: Military Innovation and the Rise of the West, 1500-1800*, 2nd ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge, 1996).
- Linda Colley, *Britons: Forging the Nation*, 2nd edition (Yale, 2005)
- Readings on the library's e-reserve system.

The readings listed under each day should be done **before the assigned day**.

GRADING

Attendance and Participation:	5%
Quizzes:	10%
2 Tests:	20% each
5-page essay:	20%
Final exam:	25%

There will be many quizzes—nearly one every day at the beginning of class. **There will be no make-up for the quizzes**; two quizzes will be dropped from the grade, which normally cover any absences.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Absences will be penalized by taking 10 points off the attendance grade. This means that you can safely skip class once and still have an A- for the attendance grade. After that, though, this portion of the grade will quickly decline. I reserve the right to forcibly withdraw someone who does not attend regularly.

Excused absences, of course, will not count against the grade. Excused are those due to approved college-related activities (e.g. sporting events), documented illness, and family emergencies. Students have the responsibility to make up missed work.

LATE POLICY

Students with a doctor's excuse (or another suitable excuse) can make up the exam up to a week after the exam date. Papers are due at the beginning of class the day for which it is assigned. Requests for extensions should be made prior to when the paper is due.

OTHER REMARKS

Electronic devices (iphones, laptops, ipads, etc.) are not to be used during class. All cell phones must be turned off at the beginning of class. Do not, of course, take phone calls during class. Please be on time. If you must arrive late or leave early, do so as quietly and unobtrusively as possible.

All work must be yours. Plagiarism and cheating will be punished with an F for the assignment. Plagiarism, we should note, is defined in the following way according to Wofford College's Faculty Handbook (VII-6):

- (1) the verbatim repetition, without acknowledgement, of the writings of another author.
- (2) Borrowing without acknowledging the source.
- (3) Paraphrasing the thoughts of another writer without acknowledgement.
- (4) Allowing any other person or organization to prepare work which one then submits as his or her own.

You should pay close attention to the third definition, especially when referring to ideas borrowing from a website.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1	Class	Assignment
Feb 3	Introduction	
	Outline: The Middle Ages	
Feb 5		Read Living by Wofford's Honor Code
	The Renaissance , part 1 Quiz	e-reserve: Loys le Roy, "The Excellence of This Age" Lorenzo Valla, "The Glory of the Latin Language" Leonardo Bruni, "Study of Greek Literature and a Humanist Educational Program" Start reading Parker's <i>The Military Revolution</i>

Week 2		
Feb 10	The Renaissance, part 2 Quiz	WC Ch. 11 e-reserve: Pico della Mirandola, "Oration on the Dignity of Man"
Feb 12	Exploration and Empire Quiz	WC Ch. 12 e-reserve: Toby Lester, "Putting America on the Map," <i>Smithsonian</i> 40, no. 9 (Dec 2009): 78-96.
Week 3		
Feb 17	Ice Day	
Feb 19	The Reformation Quiz	WC Ch. 13
Week 4		
Feb 24	The Reformation, cont.	No reading
Feb 26	The Commercial Revolution Quiz	e-reserve: Niall Ferguson, <i>The Ascent of Money: A Financial History of the World</i> (New York: Penguin Books, 2008), 18-65.
Week 5		
Mar 3	Discuss Parker's <i>The Military Revolution</i> Quiz	Finish Parker
Mar 5	Test #1	Study for test

Week 6		
Mar 10	Society in Early Modern Europe Quiz	Start reading Colley's <i>Britons</i> (introduction – Ch. 5 only) e-reserve: selections from Norbert Elias, <i>The History of Manners</i>
Mar 12	The Rise of the Royal State Quiz	WC Ch. 14 e-reserve: Bossuet's <i>Politics Derived from the Words of Holy Scripture</i>
Week 7		
Mar 17	Examples of Building Absolutism Handout: Rulers of Early Modern Europe Quiz	WC Ch. 15
Mar 19	The English Revolution	Continue Colley
Week 8		
Mar 24	Discuss Linda Colley's <i>Britons</i> Quiz	Finish assigned reading in Colley Get Paper Topic
Mar 26	Discuss Colley	
Week 9		
Mar 31	The Scientific Revolution Quiz	WC Ch. 16
Apr 2	Test #2	study
Week 10		
Apr 7	Spring Break	No reading
Apr 9	Spring Break	No reading
Week 11		
Apr 14	The Enlightenment , part 1 Quiz	e-reserve: Readings on the Enlightenment
Apr 16	The Enlightenment, part 2 Quiz	WC Ch. 17 Paper on <i>Britons</i> Due

Week 12		
Apr 21	The Coming of the French Revolution Quiz	WC Ch. 18
Apr 23	The Making and Unmaking of the Constitutional Monarchy Quiz	e-reserve: Graham Robb, <i>Parisians: An Adventure History of Paris</i> (New York and London: W. W. Norton & Company, 2010), 45-59. Ruth Scurr, <i>Fatal Purity: Robespierre and the French Revolution</i> (New Yor: Owl Books, 2006), 177-217.
Week 13		
Apr 28	Catch-up Quiz	e-reserve: Christopher Hibbert, <i>The Days of the French Revolution</i> (New York: Quill Books), 163-189.
Apr 30	The Terror Quiz	e-reserve: R. R. Palmer, <i>Twelve Who Ruled: The Year of the Terror in the French Revolution</i> (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1941), 44-77. Ruth Scurr, <i>Fatal Purity: Robespierre and the French Revolution</i> (New Yor: Owl Books, 2006), 177-217.
Week 14		
May 5	The Directory & Empire	e-reserve: Gunther Rothenberg, <i>The Art of Warfare in the Age of Napoleon</i> (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1978), 126-164.

May 7	The Napoleonic Era, cont.	e-reserve: Golo Mann, <i>The History of Germany since 1789</i> , trans. Marian Jackson (New York and Washington D.C.: Praeger Publishers, 1968), 21-44.
<p style="text-align: center;">Final Exam: Monday, May 11, 9-12 AM Dates to Learn for Final Exam</p>		

Note: This syllabus is tentative and subject to change upon notice.