

The History of Western Civilization II

Svanur Pétursson

svanurp@gmail.com

Office: Conklin Hall 337

Office Hours: Thursdays 2:30-4:30pm and by appointment

21:510:202:04

Tuesdays/Thursdays 11:30-12:50

Engelhard Hall 209

Spring 2015

This course is a broad survey introduction to the history of Europe from 1660 to the present day. Throughout the semester, we will be concerned with learning about the basic events and concepts that have shaped the modern history of the West. At the same time, we will seek to understand how historians develop these events and concepts into an interpretation of history – in short, how historians write a history from a series of facts. Two questions dominate this course. How have Europeans balanced individual liberties and the desire for social unity? Second, how have modern social and economic transformations affected this balance? To do this, we will use two texts: a standard textbook, and a collection of source documents. Both texts are equally important, and students will be expected to have read and understood the material in both.

Course Requirements:

Two Midterms and a Final Exam. The Midterms will consist of two parts: an in-class exam of short-answer id's and short essay answers, and a 2-3 pp. take-home essay question due IN CLASS at the next class meeting. Because these take home essays are due in class at the following meeting, it is absolutely necessary that you stay "caught up" with the reading. One letter grade per calendar day will be deducted from any take home essay portion submitted late. Exceptions will only be considered in the case of a documentable emergency, as discussed below. All take-home portions of the midterm exams must also be submitted to as a .doc file on Blackboard for review. I will give you more detailed instructions about how to do this later in the semester. Papers not submitted to Blackboard will not receive a grade. Take-home essays submitted via email will not be accepted. It is your responsibility to make back-up files of your work.

Through class discussion, students will interact with the materials, the instructor, and their peers. In the process, they will practice both their public speaking skills, and learn how to engage critically with the arguments and evidence of the texts. Students will also regularly practice their writing skills in two take home assignments where they will approach historical questions using primary source documents. In both the written assignments and the class discussions, students will develop their analytical skills by identifying the course readings' main theses, supporting arguments, evidence, assumptions, and rhetorical strategies.

Grading:

Each exam is worth **one third** of the final grade:

Midterm Exam 1: 33.33%

Of that: In-class exam (50%) and Take-home essay (50%)

Midterm Exam 2: 33.33%

Of that: In-class exam (50%) and Take-home essay (50%)

Final Exam: 33.33%

Attendance policy:

Attendance is required. If you miss more than four classes, your grade will be lowered by a third of a grade (from B+ to B, for example). If you miss more than six classes, your grade will be lowered by one full grade (B+ to C+, for example). Any student who misses eight or more sessions through any

combination of excused and unexcused absences will not earn credit in this class. Such students should withdraw from the class.

Excused absences from exams will only be granted for students who can document medical or family emergency. Students who feel a personal emergency is sufficiently grave to warrant an excused absence must speak with me BEFORE the exam is to take place. Students who are unclear about the course's requirements should speak to me early in the semester.

Policy on Academic Integrity (Cheating and Plagiarism):

Rutgers University treats cheating and plagiarism as serious offenses. The standard minimum penalties for students who cheat or plagiarize include failure of the course, disciplinary probation, and a formal warning that further cheating will be grounds for expulsion from the University. All students are required to sign the Rutgers Honor Code Pledge. To receive credit, every assignment must have your signature under the following phrase: "On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination / assignment."

Required Texts:

Lynn Hunt et al. *The Making of the West: Peoples and Cultures*. Vol. 2, Since 1500. (Bedford/St. Martin's), 4th edition, ISBN: 978-0312672713

Katherine J. Lualdi, *Sources of the Making of the West: Peoples and Cultures*, vol. 2, since 1500 (Bedford/St. Martin's), 4th edition, ISBN: 978-0312576127 [Referred to in the syllabus as Lualdi]

The books are available at New Jersey Books, 167 University Avenue (corner of University and Bleeker) and at the University Book Store.

Course Website

You will find a copy of this syllabus at the Blackboard course website (blackboard.newark.rutgers.edu), in case you should lose this one. From time to time, I will also post additional materials (images that we discuss in class, texts that I discuss in lectures which are not in the textbooks, etc.) If there are any changes to the syllabus, I will announce these in class and then post them on the website. I will also use the electronic roster to send e-mails to all students, if there are announcements to be made.

Schedule of Topics and Readings:

Week 1

January 20th: Introduction

January 21st: The Old Regime: Corporate Society

Readings: Making of the West, pp. 492-496; Lualdi, 1-14

Week 2

January 27th: Absolutism

Readings: Making of the West, pp. 515-532; Lualdi, 63-69, 72-74, 82-85.

January 29th: Europe and the World in the 18th Century

Readings: Making of the West, pp. 551-576; Lualdi, 75-82, 85-94

Week 3

February 3rd: The Enlightenment

Readings: Making of the West, pp. 587-610; Lualdi, 95-111

February 5th: The French Revolution

Readings: Making of the West, pp. 619-638; Lualdi, 112-133

Week 4

February 10th: Napoleon and the Revolutionary Legacy

Readings: Making of the West, pp. 638-647, 651-672.

February 12th: Conservatism, Liberalism, Nationalism

Readings: Making of the West, pp. 672-681, 703-709; Lualdi, 137-150

Week 5

February 17th: The Industrial Revolution, the Working Class, and the “Social Question”

Readings: Making of the West, pp. 685-702; Lualdi, 151-165

February 19th: **MIDTERM 1**

Week 6

February 24th: The Revolutions of 1848

Readings: Making of the West, pp. 709-717; Lualdi, 166-168.

Take-home portion of Midterm 1 due IN CLASS.

February 26th: The Rise of the Nation-State

Readings: Making of the West, pp. 721-745; Lualdi, 171-178

Week 7

March 3rd: 19th Century European Society: Mass Politics and the Middle Class

Readings: Making of the West, pp. 745-748, 759-760, 768-793

March 5th: Science and Society

Readings: Making of the West, pp. 748-755, 797-810; Lualdi, 178-185; 205-207.

Week 8

March 10th: Colonialism/New Imperialism

Readings: Making of the West, pp. 761-768; 817-831; Lualdi, 168-170, 186-193; 218-221.

March 12th: Politics (and Culture) in a New Key

Readings: Making of the West, pp. 810-817; Lualdi, 207-225.

Week 9

Spring Break – HAVE FUN!

Week 10

March 24th: World War I

Readings: Making of the West, pp. 835-845; Lualdi, 221-231

March 26th: **MIDTERM 2**

Week 11

March 31st: The Russian Revolution

Readings: Making of the West, pp. 845-851; Lualdi, 231-235

Take-home portion of Midterm 2 due IN CLASS.

April 2nd: The Crisis of Democracy and the Rise of Fascism

Readings: Making of the West, pp. 851-859, 873-889; Lualdi, 235-252

Week 12

April 7th: Inter-War Society: Restoring Order

Readings: Making of the West, pp. 860-869

April 9th: Stalinism

Readings: Making of the West, pp. 878-885

Week 13

April 14th: War, Genocide, and the Division of Europe

Readings: Making of the West, pp. 890-909; Lualdi, 252-262

April 16th: Rebuilding East and West

Readings: Making of the West, pp. 913-930, 936-945; Lualdi, 263-270, 273-275

Week 14

April 21st: 1960s and 1970s Cultural and Technological Changes

Readings: Making of the West, pp. 949-967; Lualdi, 275-277

April 23rd: Challenges to the Cold War Blocs

Readings: Making of the West, pp. 967-981; Lualdi, 278-282

Week 15

April 28th: Decolonization

Readings: Making of the West, pp. 930-936, 999-1005, 1008-1013; Lualdi, 270-272, 284-285

April 30th: 1989: Civil Society and the Triumph (?) of Liberal Capitalism

Readings: Making of the West, pp. 985-999; 1006-1008, 1013-1016; Lualdi, 291-306

FINAL EXAM: May 12th, 11:45am-2:45pm.