

Western Civilization II

Tuesdays and Fridays 1:00-2:20pm
Conklin 346
510:202:09

Instructor: Deborah Morrison-Santana

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Office Hours: Appointments on Tuesdays before class - available upon request

Course Description: The main developments in the history of Western ideas and institutions from the 17th century to the present. This course will examine the expansion of politics, philosophy, art, and literature of Western culture; consideration of historical material serves as a point of departure for discussion of present-day problems. It will guide the student to understanding the evolution of the modern day state system through the Scientific Revolution, Age of Enlightenment, Industrial Revolution, World War I, Russian Revolution, World War II, the Holocaust, the Cold War, and the Fall of the Berlin Wall. The major ideologies studied in the course will include Realism, Fascism, Communism, Capitalism, and their connections to themes such as deep nationalism, conflict, and revenge.

Learning Outcomes: The purpose of the course is to provide background knowledge to students of the world in which they live through readings, lectures, and class discussions of an array of historical topics. Through interactions with the course materials, instructor, and peers, students will learn how to analyze these events on an individual level in order to apply such critical thinking to the larger themes of the course. Students will be assessed through a group presentation, one major writing assignment, a midterm, and final exam in addition to your attendance and participation throughout the semester.

Required Readings: ALL AVAILABLE ON BLACKBOARD

Including excerpts from the following:

Western Civilization: Ideas, Politics, and Society by Perry et al.

All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque

Anthem by Ayn Rand

Mein Kampf by Adolf Hitler

This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen by Tadeusz Borowski

Love Thy Neighbor by Peter Maass

...and primary sources including letters, speeches, and government documents that were published and/or spoken during this period...

Group Presentation – This presentation centers around the colonization of Africa. In groups of 4-5, you will present a European country and the region(s) of Africa that it colonized. You will include how it colonized, what kind of government system it put in place, how the natives reacted to their colonizers. This project includes both a research aspect as well as a group presentation on your findings. The details of the project, groups, and countries will be discussed and chosen at the beginning of the semester.

Writing Assignment – There will be one writing assignment that will be based off of class lectures, readings, and your own research. It is to be 5-6 pages, typed, double-spaced (12-point, Times New Roman font). The rubric for this assignment is on page 3 of this syllabus and will be explained in class.

Midterm/Final Exams: There are no make-ups of either exam unless there is a dire emergency, which requires proper documentation.

Grading:

Attendance/Participation – 20% (200 points)
Group Presentations – 10% (100 points)
Writing Assignment – 15% (150 points)
Midterm – 25% (250 points)
Final Exam – 30% (300 points)

100% (1000 points)

A = 930 – 1000
B+ = 890 – 929
B = 850 - 889
C+ = 800 - 849
C = 750 - 799
D = 650 - 749
F = 649 – Below

COURSE POLICIES:

- 1. Attendance** is mandatory for this course and will be taken each class. Missing classes without proper documentation (i.e. a doctor’s note) is an unexcused absence and will affect your participation grade. You are only allowed 2 unexcused absences before you will be penalized 10 points per class missed. If you do miss a class, it is your responsibility to get notes from a fellow student on what you missed (do not email me asking what you missed). If you miss 8 classes (excused or unexcused), you will fail the course. Excessive lateness will also affect your grade.
- 2. No personal technology devices allowed in class.** This means no cell phones, iPads, laptops, or any other kinds of electronic devices (unless needed for medical reasons, with the proper documentation). If you are caught using your phone or another device, you will lose participation credit for the day. Continuous use of these technologies will result in being asked to leave the classroom and lose participation credit for the day.
- 3. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** 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.”
- 4.** Students should present official medical or legal documentation if they cannot fulfill any part of the course requirements. Exceptions will only be made under extraordinary circumstances such as serious illness and/or legal obligations.
- 5. Open Communication:** I am always available to help you succeed in this course. You may see me during my office hours or reach me through email. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Newspaper Article Assignment:

There are many critical international issues happening in the world today that are directly related to historical events or eras we've discussed in this class. For this assignment you must find a recent news article (from a credible source – email me if you are unsure of a source) about a current event and write a paper about how the article relates to an event or era discussed in this class. This is not an informative paper, but rather you must use critical thinking to discuss how the current event is related to the history we've discussed and how it differs. Compare and contrast the present with the past using course readings, lectures, and outside sources if necessary to supplement your paper. The supplemental sources should not be the main focus of your paper; the article should be.

Cite everything with **footnotes** (with full bibliographic information in them).

*** Your answer must be about 5 pages (no more, no less), typed, DOUBLE SPACED, and 12-point Times New Roman font, one inch margins. You will be graded on content, grammar, punctuation, and following directions. Remember, this is 15% of your final grade; it should be a well thought out response with a beginning, middle, and end. ***

**This paper is due on Friday, April 15th (by the beginning of class)
LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED for any reason.**

Guidelines:

- Be specific. I want you to really think about this article and your response to it and how it fits into our course.
- Avoid replacing arguments with examples. Use examples to illustrate a general claim, not as a replacement for them. Examples by themselves tend toward selection bias and hasty generalizations.
- I am interested in content, not clever rhetorical flourish. Thus, avoid filler material... DO NOT USE BLOCK QUOTES FROM THE ARTICLES OR READINGS. Direct quotes should be no longer than 2 sentences, MAXIMUM.
- **IF YOU DO NOT CITE, EVEN WHEN YOU PARAPHRASE, IT WILL BE CONSIDERED PLAGIARISM. PLAGIARIZED PAPERS WILL BE PENALIED EITHER BY AN F ON THE PAPER OR THE COURSE AND WILL BE REPORTED TO THE DEAN.**
- PROOFREAD YOUR PAPER. You will be marked off for typos, punctuation errors, and/or major disorganization.
- The heading of your paper should be your name ONLY.
- The paper is to be 5 pages long. Not less, not more. (No cover page).
- You must use a bibliography of sources use (does not count as one of your 5 pages).

*** **SUBMIT YOUR PAPER THROUGH TURN-IT-IN ON BLACKBOARD** ***
(I will not accept it any other way)

Course Schedule (subject to change):

Date	Topic	Reading(s) Due
T Jan. 19th	Introduction	
F Jan 22nd	The Peace at Westphalia	"The Peace at Westphalia of 1648 and the Origins of Sovereignty" Essay
T Jan. 26th	The Scientific Revolution	Perry et. al - Ch. 17
F Jan 29th	The Age of Enlightenment	Perry et. al - Ch. 18
T Feb. 2nd	The French and American Revolutions	"The Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen"
F Feb. 5th	The Napoleonic Wars & the creation of the Concert of Europe	Watson Chapter - "The European System Becomes Worldwide"
T Feb. 9th	The Industrial Revolution	Perry et. al - Ch. 20
F Feb. 12th	The Age of Realism, Nationalism, & Imperialism	Perry et. al - Ch. 23
T Feb. 16th	Otto von Bismarck, German Unification & the Black Pedagogy	Brothers Grimm chapter
F Feb. 19th	The Colonization of Africa	student presentations
T Feb 23rd	The Colonization of Africa (continued)	student presentations
F Feb. 26th	The Fin de Siècle	"J'Accuse" (Emile Zola's letter)
T March 1st	Russia: Anarchism, Socialism, and Democracy	Russo-Japanese article
F March 4th	MIDTERM EXAM	

Date	Topic	Reading(s) Due
T March 8th	World War I	<i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i> excerpt & "The Night the Angels Sang" essay
F March 11th	The Bolshevik Revolution & Ukraine Famine	<i>Anthem</i> by Ayn Rand
T March 15th	*** SPRING BREAK - NO CLASSES ***	
F March 18th		
T March 22nd	The 1920s & the Origins of the Nazi Party	Excerpt from <i>Mein Kampf</i>
F March 25th	1930s - The Suppression of the Jews	Excerpt from <i>Between Dignity and Despair</i>
T March 29th	<i>Triumph of the Will & The Great Dictator</i> - excerpts and class discussion	Excerpt from <i>The Hitler Myth</i>
F April 1st	World War II	USHMM document & excerpt from <i>This Way to the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen</i>
T April 5th	The Aftermath of WWII	Excerpt from <i>Ordinary Men</i> & the UN Genocide Convention
F April 8th	Origins of the Cold War	Winston Churchill Speech
T April 12th	Capitalism vs. Communism	"America & Vietnam" article
F April 15th	The Fall of the Soviet Union & the Breakdown of Yugoslavia	Excerpt from <i>Love Thy Neighbor</i> *** Newspaper Essay Due ***
T April 19th	The Decolonization of Africa & Its Effects	"Operation Restore Hope" Chapter
F April 22nd	Rwandan Genocide & Western Involvement	Romeo Dallaire's chapter in <i>Hard Choices</i>
T April 26th	2000s - The West versus the Rest?	Chapter 1 from <i>Blowback</i>
F April 29th	Review for the Final Exam	
FINAL EXAM - FRIDAY, MAY 6TH - 3-6PM		