

# Syllabus, Western Civilization 2

Rutgers University, Newark

## 1. Course and Instructor Information

**Semester:** Spring 2020  
**Time:** Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4:00pm to 5:20pm  
**Location:** Hill 103  
**Identifiers:** Unit 21, Subject 510, Course 202, Section 01  
**Instructor:** Ray Ojserkis, PhD  
**Contact:** ray.ojserkis@gmail.com  
**Office:** Conklin 326, Tuesdays, 1:00pm to 2:00pm

## 2. Synopsis

We will survey western civilization since 1700, reviewing selected social, political, economic, and military affairs. Topics include the effects of the 18<sup>th</sup> century “Enlightenment,” industrialization, urbanization, renewed western imperialism, collapse of the “old order,” and the rise of fascism and communism.

## 3. Goals

Our goals include

- A. basic knowledge of modern western history, especially its broad patterns
- B. familiarity with some common interpretations of modern western history
- C. ability to engage critically with others who often do not share the same interpretations of events
- D. familiarity with use of primary sources, especially the connections between the author’s goals and his or her arguments and his or her method of argumentation
- E. improved skills in synthesizing and communicating historical information, and constructing sound arguments

## 4. Grading Policy

Your course grade will be determined by weighting the graded components as follows:

Unannounced Reading Quizzes	20% (two lowest scores are dropped)
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3 (during Final Exam week)	20%
Research Essay	20%

We will discuss, and sometimes read sections, of the readings in almost all classes.

Any student who misses eight or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will have missed more than a quarter of the class time and will not earn credit in this class. Such students should withdraw from the course to avoid an F.

If you are absent or tardy your score for an exam will be an F unless the absence is excusable. According to the Rutgers catalog, "The recognized grounds for absence are illness requiring medical attention, curricular or extracurricular activities approved by the faculty, personal obligations claimed by the student and recognized as valid, recognized religious holidays, and severe inclement weather causing dangerous traveling conditions." Documentation will be required.

## 5. Course Materials

### A. Lecture Handouts (We review these in class.)

For each topic listed in the course schedule there will be a handout in the "Course Documents" section of our Blackboard course. Each handout will have a list of key arguments and terms that we'll discuss. Many also have maps, tables, contemporary newspaper cartoons, and/or primary source readings in addition to those assigned in the links in the schedule.

The handouts are in MS Word, and some students open electronic versions in class and take notes directly in their own copies of the handouts.

### B. Primary Source Documents (You read these at home.)

You will access these through links on the schedule below.

Primary sources are first-hand accounts, often created by participants or witnesses of events, and sometimes created by first-recorders of events. Examples include, but aren't limited to, memoirs, speeches, documents, data, polls, and contemporary newspaper accounts. Secondary sources are sources created by people who didn't participate or witness events, but often have the benefit of perspective, and typically draw from a variety of sources to create a nuanced and complex history that can account for multiple interpretations. Examples include history books and lectures.

We'll try to balance the lectures by reading primary sources in our out-of-class reading.

## 6. Research Essay

Your essay must answer **one** of the following questions for the research essay:

- (a) To what extent did the Enlightenment make western societies more secular?
- (b) Which political philosopher do you think was most accurate in his views of human nature: Hobbes or Locke?
- (c) To what extent did the French Revolution change the lives of French women?
- (d) To what extent is free market economics of the 21<sup>st</sup> century a continuation of "classic liberalism" of the 19<sup>th</sup> century?
- (e) To what extent were the Marxist-Leninist regimes of the 20<sup>th</sup> century an accurate representation of Karl Marx's vision?
- (f) What effect did the Crimean War have on European politics?
- (g) To what extent were the European empires of the 1875 to 1975 era profitable for the "mother countries?"
- (h) Did industrialization and urbanization improve the lives of women in late 19<sup>th</sup> century Europe?
- (i) To what extent was the first world war a result of the failure of the international system to accommodate the rise of German economic and political power?
- (j) Who was the "lost generation" and what were their contributions?
- (k) Why did the Bolsheviks win the Russian Civil War?
- (l) What is fascism?
- (m) Why did the Nationalists win the Spanish Civil War?
- (n) Why did the Allies win the Second World War?

Write your essays using MS Word, and email them to me at the address above. I will not accept printed copies of your essay.

I will submit the essay to plagiarism software. If you're not sure what plagiarism is, consider this: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plagiarism>. Cite a source every time your essay makes use of an idea, quote, anecdote, study, or fact that you found in someone's work.

I call the essay a “research essay” to emphasize that the quality of your essay is largely dependent upon the quality of your research. Use at least four scholarly articles or published books. The phrase “at least” means you are allowed and encouraged to use more than four sources. The length of the essay should be 1,500 to 2,500 words.

Cite your sources wherever you rely on them, using footnotes, parenthetical notes or end notes. Be very specific when citing a source, using either the Chicago, APA, or MLA format throughout. For details, please consult the [Rutgers Library Guide](#). Cite a source every time you make use of someone's ideas.

## 7. Drop and Withdrawal Deadlines

The last date for students to drop a course with no penalty is January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020, and the last date to withdraw from a course with a "W" grade is March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

## 8. Academic Integrity Policy and Honor Pledge

This is the Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy:

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

On each examination, you will be required to sign the following statement:

On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment).

## 9. Accommodation and Support Statement

Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:

- **Students with Disabilities:** Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter barriers due to disability. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact ODS, register, have an initial appointment, and provide documentation. Once a student has completed the ODS process (registration, initial appointment, and documentation submitted) and reasonable accommodations are determined to be necessary and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be provided to the student. The student must give the LOA to each course instructor, followed by a

discussion with the instructor. This should be completed as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at [ods.rutgers.edu](http://ods.rutgers.edu). Contact ODS: (973) 353-5375 or [ods@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:ods@newark.rutgers.edu).

- **Religious Holiday Policy and Accommodations:** Students are advised to provide timely notification to instructors about necessary absences for religious observances and are responsible for making up the work or exams according to an agreed-upon schedule. The Division of Student Affairs is available to verify absences for religious observance, as needed: (973) 353-5063 or [DeanofStudents@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:DeanofStudents@newark.rutgers.edu).
- **Counseling Services:** Counseling Center Room 101, Blumenthal Hall, (973) 353-5805 or <http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu/>.
- **Students with Temporary Conditions/Injuries:** Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury that is adversely affecting their ability to fully participate in their courses should submit a request for assistance at: <https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu>.
- **Students Who are Pregnant:** The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist students with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy: (973) 353-1906 or [TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu).
- **Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment:** Students experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, should know that help and support are available. To report an incident, contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance: (973) 353-1906 or [TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu). To submit an incident report: [tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm](http://tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm). To speak with a staff member who is confidential and does **NOT** have a reporting responsibility, contact the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance: (973) 353-1918 or [run.vpva@rutgers.edu](mailto:run.vpva@rutgers.edu).

## 10. The Writing Center

The Writing Center (<http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/writingcenter>), located in Room 126 of Conklin Hall, offers writing tutoring and writing workshops to all undergraduate students currently enrolled in classes on the Rutgers-Newark campus. Their tutors work to help students become more independent readers and writers capable of

responding well to the demands of writing within the university. Writing Center services are free for students.

## 11. Schedule

CLASS	WEEK	TOPIC	ASSIGNED READING (Complete before class, except for first class)
1	Jan 21 & Jan 23	The “Enlightenment”	<a href="#">I Kant, <i>What is Enlightenment?</i>, 1784</a> <a href="#">Baron de Montesquieu, excerpt from <i>Spirit of the Laws</i>, 1748</a> <a href="#">Adam Smith, <i>The Cost of Empire</i>, 1776 (excerpt from <i>Wealth of Nations</i>)</a>
2	Jan 28 & Jan 30	Industrial Revolution	<a href="#">Andrew Ure, <i>The Philosophy of the Manufacturers</i>, 1835</a> <a href="#">Thomas Carlyle, <i>The Mechanical Age</i>, 1829</a> <a href="#">Leeds woolen workers, petition, 1786</a> <a href="#">Leeds cloth merchants, letter, 1791</a>
3	Feb 4 & Feb 6	French Revolution, Napoleonic Wars, & Congress of Vienna	<a href="#">Emmanuel Sieyes, <i>What is the Third Estate?</i>, 1789</a> <a href="#">Maxmilien Robespierre, <i>Justification on the Use of Terror</i>, 1794</a> <a href="#">Holy Alliance Treaty, 1815</a>
4	Feb 11 & Feb 13	Liberalism, Conservatism, & Marxism	<a href="#">Thomas Macaulay, speech on the Reform Bill of 1832</a> <a href="#">Richard Cobden, <i>An International Reduction of Navies</i>, 1851</a> <a href="#">Edmund Burke, <i>Reflections on the Revolution in France</i>, 1790</a> <a href="#">K Marx &amp; F Engels, <i>Manifesto of the Communist Party</i> (chapt 1), 1848</a>
5	Feb 18 & Feb 20	Review (Feb 18) <b>Exam 1 (Feb 20)</b>	<i>Review your notes on lectures and primary source readings.</i>
6	Feb 25 & Feb 27	Nationalism	<a href="#">Giuseppe Mazzini, <i>On Nationality</i>, 1852</a> <a href="#">Ernest Renan, <i>What is A Nation?</i>, 1882</a> <a href="#">Otto von Bismarck, speech on “The Polish Question,” 1886</a>
7	Mar 3 & Mar 5	Second Industrial Revolution, Urbanization, & Demographic Transition	<a href="#">Thorstein Veblen, <i>Conspicuous Consumption</i>, 1899</a> <a href="#">Frederick Winslow Taylor, <i>Fundamentals of Scientific Management</i>, 1911</a> <a href="#">Joseph Schumpeter, <i>The Process of Creative Destruction</i>, 1950</a>

8	Mar 10 & Mar 12	Imperial Scramble	<a href="#">Joseph Chamberlain, Speech at the Royal Colonial Institute, 1897</a> <a href="#">Dadabhai Naoroji, Benefits and Detriments of British Rule, 1871</a> <a href="#">Joseph Schumpeter, The Sociology of Imperialism, 1918</a>
	Mar 17 & Mar 19	<b>Spring Break – No Class</b>	<i>Enjoy your break.</i>
9	Mar 24 & Mar 26	Origins of First World War	<a href="#">Austro-Hungarian Ultimatum to Serbia, 1914</a> <a href="#">Serbian Response to Austro-Hungarian Ultimatum, 1914</a> <a href="#">“Willy-Nicky” telegrams, 1914</a> <a href="#">Clemenceau Calls France to Arms, 1914</a>
10	Mar 31 & Apr 2	Review (Mar 31) <b>Exam 2 (Apr 2)</b>	<i>Review your notes on lectures and primary source readings.</i>
11	Apr 7 & Apr 9	First World War	<a href="#">Private Donald Fraser, Selections from My Daily Journal, 1915-1916</a> <a href="#">German Discussions Concerning Unrestricted Submarine Warfare, Jan. 1917</a> <a href="#">Woodrow Wilson, “Fourteen Points” address to Congress, 1918</a> <a href="#">Siegfried Sassoon, Attack, 1918</a>
12	Apr 14 & Apr 16	Russian Revolutions & Soviet Communism	<a href="#">V. I. Lenin, excerpt from State and Revolution, 1918</a> <a href="#">V.I. Lenin, letter to Penza communists, 1918</a> <a href="#">A. O. Avidenko, Hymn to Stalin</a> <a href="#">Leon Trotsky, The New Course in the Economy of the Soviet Union, 1930</a>
13	Apr 21 & Apr 23	Fascism and Nazism	<a href="#">Oswald Spengler, excerpts from Decline of the West, 1922</a> <a href="#">Benito Mussolini, What is Fascism?, 1932</a> <a href="#">Nazi Party Program, 1920</a>
14	April 28 & April 30	Second World War	<a href="#">Adolph Hitler, Speech in Obersalzberg, 1939</a> <a href="#">Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, 1939</a> <a href="#">Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill, The Atlantic Charter, 1941</a> <a href="#">V. Grossman, A Report From Stalingrad, In the Main Line of Attack, 1942</a>



	May 4	<b>Research Essay Due (no class – email your essay)</b>	<a href="#"><u>Sarah Eaton, What's the Difference Between a Citation and a Reference? Wikipedia, Plagiarism</u></a>
	May 13	Brief Review <b>Exam 3</b> <i>(on a Friday, at 3:00pm, in regular classroom)</i>	<i>There is no review session for Exam 3. Take time at home to review all your notes!</i>