

# The History of Western Civilization 2

21:510:202

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Office Hours: TBD

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## Overview:

This course is a survey of European history from the mid-17th century to the present. We will focus both on learning broad events and concepts as well as how historians interpret them.

Students will follow key themes in European history across time, for example comparing the causes and outcomes of different revolutions. We will pay particular attention to changes in labor, the development of modern states, and the rise of the “nation”- abstract political communities imagined through linguistic, ethnic, and cultural links. How did the work and life of ordinary Europeans change over time? What social changes influenced the economic and political transformations of this period? How could history have unfolded differently? -What does all of this mean for Europe and the world today? We will explore these questions primarily through lectures, supplemented with primary sources.

## Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and explain key developments in European history
- Critically read primary sources
- Apply knowledge of European history to the present

## Course Requirements:

Lectures will be posted on Tuesday and Thursday at or before 3pm. You are expected to watch both lectures by the end of that week (Sunday).

There will be three exams and ongoing primary source discussions on the Canvas site. Once each week, you will read the primary sources assigned for a lecture and post comments (approximately 2 paragraphs), focusing on primary sources for one lecture during that week. Questions are encouraged in these comments. These must be posted by 11AM on the day the lecture is posted. You will be reading primary sources before their respective lecture.

For example, for the week of 9/7, if you choose to comment on the sources for lecture four, you will read the assigned excerpts from Olaudah Equiano and Adam Smith, then post comments on Thursday by 11AM, before the lecture is posted online. The end of lecture *three* will provide some context and background for those readings. Your comments and questions will then help ensure lecture four highlights material you found interesting and/or difficult.

Both exams will be take-home exams posted on Wednesday afternoon and due by Friday at 6pm. This is to accommodate varying schedules- the exam is not meant to take two days. The final will be due at midnight on December 16th.

### **Grading:**

Participation: 30%

Highest Exam Grade: 35%

Second Highest Exam Grade: 35%

Participation will be graded on a “check-plus, check, and check-minus” system. “Check-plus” comments raise useful questions and make connections between sources and with course themes. These count for full credit toward your participation grade. “Check” comments meet the length standard and demonstrate you have read the primary sources. These will receive 80% credit. Check-minus comments are brief and leave doubt as to whether you have read the sources. These will receive 40% credit. I will provide examples of each of these on the Canvas site.

You may skip one week of comments without losing credit. Otherwise, missed weeks will result in a zero for that week’s part of the participation grade.

Your lowest exam grade will be dropped.

### **Accommodation and Support:**

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).

### **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.” For further information, please see: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

### **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. The Writing Center is available to you free of charge and don't be afraid to take advantage of their services to strengthen your reading, writing, and research skills.

### **Technical Support**

Rutgers University offers support for computer-related issues via the Office of Information Technology Help Desk. Contact information for the Help Desk can be found at <https://runit.rutgers.edu/hd/>. Additional technology resources for students are listed at <https://coronavirus.rutgers.edu/technology-resources-for-students/>.

### **Week 1 (9/1)**

#### Lecture 1- States and Sovereigns: The Fronde, the English Civil War, and Absolutism vs. Constitutionalism

- Listen to “The Diggers’ Song”
- English Parliament, “Petition of Right”
- Excerpts from Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*

#### Lecture 2- Natural Philosophy, Finance, and Quantification

- Excerpts from memoirs of Jean Baptiste Colbert
- Excerpts from Gottfried Leibniz, *The Monadology*

### **Week 2 (9/7)**

#### Lecture 3: The Atlantic World and Imperial Competition

- Letter from Governor Spotswood on Blackbeard
- Treaty of Paris, 1763

#### Lecture 4: Slavery and the Enlightenment

- Excerpts from Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*
- Excerpts from Adam Smith, *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*

### **Week 3 (9/14)**

Lecture 5: The American Revolution and the Fall of Britain's "First Empire"

- Benjamin Franklin, open letter to Lord North
- Excerpts from Peter Whitney, "The transgressions of a land..."

Lecture 6: Haiti, France, and the Fires of Revolution

- National Constituent Assembly of France, "Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen"
- Anonymous plantation overseer, account of early days of Haitian Revolution

**Week 4 (9/21)**

Lecture 7: Defending and Contesting Revolutions

- Excerpts from Memoirs of Toussaint Louverture
- Maximilien Robespierre, "Report on the Principles of Political Morality"

Lecture 8: Napoleon and Europe

- Skim index of the Napoleonic Civil Code
- W.J. Denison, "An Address to the People of Great Britain"

**Week 5 (9/28)**

Lecture 9: Reorganizing Labor: From Pottery to the Panopticon

- Excerpts from Jeremy Bentham, *Panopticon or the Inspection House*
- Letter from "Ned Ludd Clerk", 1812

Exam 1

**Week 6 (10/5)**

Lecture 10: Abolition, Industrialization, and the Rise of the Factory

- 1820s British antislavery handbill
- Excerpts from testimony, Lord Ashley's Mines Commission

Lecture 11: Mass Politics and the Revolutions of 1848

- Excerpts from Karl Marx, "The Communist Manifesto"
- Account by Percy B. St. John of the French Revolution of 1848

**Week 7 (10/12)**

Lecture 12: Reaction, Nationalism, and Great Power Politics

- Otto von Bismarck, "Blood and Iron" speech
- Excerpts from Otto von Bismarck's letters to his wife Johanna

### Lecture 13: Nineteenth-Century Innovation

- Excerpts from Henry Booth, *An Account of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway*
- Excerpts from papers by Louis Pasteur

### **Week 8 (10/19)-**

#### Lecture 14: "New" Imperialism and Scientific Racism

- Rudyard Kipling, "The White Man's Burden"
- Excerpts from Joseph Arthur, comte de Gabineau, "Christianity neither creates nor changes the capacity for civilization"

#### Lecture 15: The International System Implodes

- 1908 *Daily Telegraph* "interview" with Kaiser Wilhelm II
- "Constitution of the Black Hand"

### **Week 9 (10/26)-**

#### Lecture 16: The "Great War"

- L. Doriat, "Women on the Home Front"
- Letters from two British soldiers, Charles Stanley Frost and Gilbert Williams

#### Lecture 17: The Russian Revolution

- Watch Lenin, "What is Soviet Power?" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-l53FPENoAU>
- Excerpts from memoirs of Peter Kropotkin

### **Week 10 (11/2)-**

#### Lecture 18: Culture and Governance in the Inter-War Period\*

- General Council of the Trade Unions Congress of Britain, "The British Worker" no. 1, May 5, 1926
- Alexandra Kollontai, "Working Woman and Mother"

### Exam 2

### **Week 11 (11/9)-**

#### Lecture 19: Liberalism, Anarchism, Socialism, Fascism

- Excerpts from Orwell, *Homage to Catalonia*
- View *Guernica*, Picasso

#### Lecture 20: The Road to War

- Emperor Haile Selassie, "Appeal to the League of Nations," June 1936
- Video, speech by Benito Mussolini

## **Week 12 (11/16)**

### Lecture 21: World War II: Devastation and Genocide

- Video, Berlin in 1941
- Video, Berlin in 1945
- Read / listen to Holocaust oral history interview

### Lecture 22: Rebuilding and Dividing Europe

- Report by UK Joint Planning Staff to Prime Minister Churchill on “Operation Unthinkable”
- CIA, “The Possibility of Direct Soviet Military Action During 1949”
- Mao Zedong, “The Chinese People Have Stood Up!”

## **Week 13 (11/23)**

### Lecture 23: Decolonization and Immigration

- Watch Lord Kitchener, “London is the Place for Me”
- The Mau Mau Warrior Oath
- Enoch Powell, “Rivers of Blood” speech and watch ITV news video contextualizing it
- Ho Chi Minh, “Declaration of Independence of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam”

No second lecture- Happy thanksgiving!

## **Week 14 (11/30)**

### Lecture 24: New Alliances, New Adversaries

- Coverage in *The Guardian* of Britain joining the EEC
- NBC News coverage of the 1973 oil embargo

### Lecture 25: Neoliberalism, Soviet Stagnation, and the End of the Cold War

- Excerpts from “Team B report”
- Video, Death Squads in El Salvador

## **Week 15 (12/7)**

### Lecture 26: The End of History? From Post-Soviet Europe to Post-Post-Soviet Europe

- Boris Yeltsin, August 19 Address
- Freedom House report on political freedom in Hungary

**Final exam due at midnight on 12/16**