

The History of Western Civilization II

Svanur Pétursson

svanur.petursson@gmail.com

Office: Conklin Hall 337

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

21:510:202:03

Tuesdays/Thursdays 10:00-11:20

Conklin Hall 424

Spring 2017

Overview

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:

There will be two midterm exams and a final exam. All are in-class exams but students will receive a comprehensive guide to prepare for those exams. There will also be two primary analysis assignments, each 2-3 pages in length. The details surrounding each will be explained further during class. Class lectures are a mix of lectures and class discussion. The participation grade will be based on participation and attentiveness in class throughout the semester. Having perfect attendance is not enough to get full marks for participation.

Primary Analysis assignments must be submitted to 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. Assignments submitted via email will not be accepted. It is your responsibility to make back-up files of your work. Assignments submitted late will have a grade reduction of three points for every two days that it is late.

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:

Participation:	10%
Primary Analysis 1:	10%
Primary Analysis 2:	10%
Midterm Exam 1:	20%
Midterm Exam 2:	20%
Final Exam:	30%

Attendance policy:

Attendance is required. If you have more than four unexcused absences, your grade will be lowered by a third of a grade (from B+ to B, for example). If you have more than more than six unexcused absences, 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.

If you plan to be excused for any religious holidays during the semester, please talk to me before the end of January so I can mark it in the roster in advance.

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."

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>. For more information please contact Kate Torres at (973) 353-5375 or in the Office of Disability Services in the Paul Robeson Campus Center, in suite 219 or by contacting odsnewark@rutgers.edu.

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]

Course Website

You will find a copy of this syllabus at the Blackboard course website (blackboard.newark.rutgers.edu). If there are any changes to the syllabus, I will announce these in class and then post them on the website.

Schedule of Topics and Readings:

Week 1

January 17th: Introduction

January 19th: The Old Regime: Corporate Society

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

Week 2

January 24th: Absolutism

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

January 26th: Europe and the World in the 18th Century

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

Week 3

January 31st: The Enlightenment

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

February 2nd: The French Revolution

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

Week 4

February 7th: Napoleon and the Revolutionary Legacy

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

February 9th: Conservatism, Liberalism, Nationalism

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

Week 5

February 14th: The Industrial Revolution, the Working Class, and the "Social Question"

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

February 16th: **MIDTERM 1**

Week 6

February 21st: The Revolutions of 1848

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

February 23rd: The Rise of the Nation-State

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

Week 7

February 28th: 19th Century European Society: Mass Politics and the Middle Class

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

March 2nd: Science and Society

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

Week 8

March 7th: Colonialism/New Imperialism

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

PRIMARY ANALYSIS 1 DUE

March 9th: 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 21st: World War I

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

March 23rd: The Russian Revolution

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

Week 11

March 28th: **MIDTERM 2**

March 30th: 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 4th: Inter-War Society: Restoring Order

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

April 6th: Stalinism

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

Week 13

April 11th: War, Genocide, and the Division of Europe

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

April 13th: Rebuilding the West

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

Week 14

April 18th: Rebuilding the East

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

PRIMARY ANALYSIS 2 DUE

April 20th: Decolonization

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

Week 15

April 25th: 1960s and 1970s Cultural and Technological Changes; Challenges to the Cold War Blocs

Readings: Making of the West, pp. 949-981; Lualdi, 275-282

April 27th: 1989 and the Emergence of European Unity?

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

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, May 9th: 8.30am-11.30am in Conklin 424.