



HIST 102: Western Civilization since 1600

Instructor: Prof. Joshua Arthurs

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Course Description:

This course traces the political, social, cultural and economic development of the West from the seventeenth century to the present. In particular, we will focus on the problem of modernity. What does it mean to be “modern”? What transformations occurred to create the society in which we live today? What new promises and possibilities were presented by the modern era, and equally, what new crises and catastrophes? By analyzing and interrogating this history, we can come to a better understanding of the forces that continue to shape our world.

Readings:

The bulk of your readings will be available via the course website (see below). You should print out the readings and come to class prepared to discuss them. In addition to online readings, there are two mandatory books for purchase at the campus bookstore:

- Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*
- Art Spiegelman, *The Complete Maus*

There is also a textbook for the course, *Western Civilization - the Continuing Experiment Vol. II: since 1560* by Thomas Noble *et. al.* (Houghton Mifflin, 2006). This textbook provides basic historical background that will help you follow the lectures and study for assignments and quizzes. However, I do not teach directly from the textbook, and assignments are focused primarily on primary source materials from the daily readings.

eCampus:

The course eCampus page (which you can reach by logging on with your MIX user name and password at ecampus.wvu.edu) contains important materials including our daily readings, PowerPoint slides from past lectures, discussion questions and assignments, the syllabus, and useful links.

Grading:

Exams (40%): Over the course of the semester there will be three exams to assess how well you have kept up with the lectures and readings. The first is worth 10% of your grade, while the second and third are each worth 15%. The exams will include short-answer questions as well as a longer essay response. If you are aware that you will have a university-approved scheduling conflict, you may provide documentation and arrange to take the quiz in advance. If you miss a quiz due to illness, you must provide medical documentation to schedule a make-up, which must be taken within two days of the exam date.

Response Papers (40%): There are three papers, each of approximately 2-3 pages double-spaced, responding to our readings. The first is worth 10%, while the second and third are each worth 15%. Prompts will be distributed ahead of time. You must submit all three papers to pass the course, even if your grade is mathematically passing.

Group Presentation (5%): As you will see below, week VIII is devoted to group presentations on the website *Liberty, Equality, Fraternity: Exploring the French Revolution*. These presentations, along with a brief written report, will be graded and worth 5% of your overall grade.

Participation and Attendance (15%): As you will notice on the syllabus, some weeks will be focused on lectures while others are devoted to discussion. During discussion weeks, the class will be divided into two groups to facilitate conversation. Our discussion will be focused on one longer reading (indicated on the syllabus) but will also bring in themes and texts from other sessions. Your contributions for each discussion week are graded and form the core of your participation grade. You must attend the discussion group to which you are assigned.

Attendance counts towards your participation grade. You are expected to attend all class meetings, with a notebook and the readings in hand. Be prepared to discuss the texts and ask questions. I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences; however, I understand that illness and problems can arise, so you will be allowed **TWO** “free” misses over the course of the semester. Be judicious about how you use these absences: if you use up your absences early in the semester, I will not be sympathetic when you need to miss class later in the term. Perfect attendance will raise your participation grade; multiple absences will lower it.

Extra Credit: Students may earn up to 5% extra credit by writing an analysis of a film that is relevant to the themes of the course; see the course website for a list of approved films. The

paper should be approximately 3-4 pages double-spaced. Students are encouraged to consult with me for guidance ahead of time. You may only hand in one extra credit assignment per semester.

Course Expectations:

Assignments: The papers must be submitted in **HARD COPY** and stapled – not sent via email. They should be double-spaced, with 1-inch margins and in 12-point font. Late papers will be deducted half a grade for every day of lateness, beginning at the time at which they are due. No extensions will be given.

Communication: I will often communicate with the class via your WVU email account (MIX). Please be sure to check it regularly. Email is also the best way to contact me. When emailing, please be sure that you are polite and professional; an unpunctuated Blackberry message with no salutation will not be answered. I will work hard to get back to you in a timely manner.

Courtesy during Class: It is disruptive to others to arrive late to class or leave early. Please don't do it. If you know that you will have to leave class early, explain the situation to me beforehand and sit near the door so that you can exit as quietly as possible. Please turn off all cell phones, beepers, or any other wireless device that may make noise during class. I will confiscate your device if it rings in class. You may use laptops in class for taking notes, but if you are using it for email, instant-messaging, or any other activity I will ask you to stop using your computer.

Academic Integrity: Cheating and plagiarism are serious offences, and can result in penalties ranging from F on an assignment to F for the course and further disciplinary action. I take plagiarism very seriously, as it means that you have willfully stolen the thoughts, ideas, and words of others and treated them as your own. Please cite all of your sources! I reserve the right to use anti-plagiarism software in dubious cases.

Writing Center: Writing is one of the most important skills in this course. You are encouraged to use the WVU Writing Center to help you revise papers. More information on the Writing Center's resources can be found via a link on the course eCampus page.

Statement of Social Justice: WVU is committed to social justice. I concur with that commitment and expect to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color, or national origin. Any suggestions as to how to further such a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration. If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with Disability Services (293-6700).

Schedule

Week I

- 1/12 Introduction
- 1/14 The Reformation and Religious Conflict
Martin Luther, *On the Freedom of a Christian*
St. Ignatius Loyola, *The Spiritual Exercises*
Western Civilization (WC) 469-507

Week II

- 1/19 Absolutism and Constitutionalism
Jean Domat, *On Social Order and Absolute Monarchy*
Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*
The Bill of Rights (1689)
WC 508-541
- 1/21 The Scientific Revolution
Francis Bacon, *First Book of Aphorisms*
Isaac Newton, *The Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy*
The Crime of Galileo
WC 542-569

Week III

- 1/26 Enlightenment I: the Science of Man
Thomas Paine, *Of the Religion of Deism Compared with the Christian Religion*
Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*
WC 570-605
- 1/28 Enlightenment II: the Social Contract
John Locke, *Second Treatise on Government*
Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract*

Week IV – Discussion: Diderot and D’Alembert, *The Encyclopédie*

- 2/2 Group 1
- 2/4 Group 2

Week V

- 2/9 **EXAM #1**

- 2/11 French Revolution I: Liberal Phase
Abbé Sieyès, *What is the Third Estate?*
The Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen
WC 606-624

Week VI

- 2/16 French Revolution II: Radical Phase
Maximilien Robespierre, *On the Principles of Political Morality*
The Republican Calendar
RESPONSE PAPER #1 DUE
- 2/18 French Revolution III: Responses and Legacies
Edmond Burke, *Reflections on the French Revolution*
Klemens von Metternich, *Political Confession of Faith*
WC 624-638, 666-691

Week VII

- 2/23 Nationalism in the Nineteenth Century
Giuseppe Mazzini, *Duties to Your Country*
Final Discussions before the Proclamation of the German Empire
WC 691-731

- 2/25 **NO CLASS – MEET TO PREPARE GROUP PRESENTATIONS**

Week VIII – Group presentations: *Liberty, Equality, Fraternity: Exploring the French Revolution*

- 3/2 Group 2
- 3/4 Group 1

Week IX

- 3/9 Industrial Revolution I: Technological, Social and Economic Change
Leeds Woolen Workers' Petition
Letter from Leeds Cloth Merchants
Friedrich Engels, *The Condition of the Working Class in England*
WC 639-665
- 3/11 Industrial Revolution II: Class Politics and Culture
William Wordsworth, *The World is Too Much With Us*

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, *The Communist Manifesto* (read chapter 1, “Bourgeois and Proletarians”)
WC 677-681, 732-760

Week X

3/16 **EXAM #2**

3/18 Empire, Race and Science

Earl of Cromer, *Why Britain Acquired Egypt in 1882*

Jules Ferry, *On French Colonial Expansion*

Charles Darwin, *The Descent of Man*

Sigmund Freud, *The Structure of the Unconscious*

WC 750-783

Week XI – Discussion: Stevenson, *Jekyll and Hyde*

3/23 Group 1

3/25 Group 2

SPRING BREAK – 3/29-4/4

Week XII

4/6 Malaise and Crisis at the Turn of the Century

F.T. Marinetti, *The Futurist Manifesto*

Friedrich Von Bernhardi, *The Next War*

WC 783-793

4/8 The Great War and its Impact

Selected WWI Poetry

Woodrow Wilson, *The Fourteen Points*

Paul Valéry, *On European Civilization and the European Mind*

WC 794-806, 811-816

RESPONSE PAPER #2 DUE

Week XIII

4/13 Revolution and Reaction after the Great War

Alexandra Kollontai, *Communism and the Family*

Benito Mussolini, *What is Fascism?*

WC 806-811, 816-848

4/15 The Third Reich

Program of the NSDAP
Adolf Hitler, *Speech of April 10, 1923*
Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf*
WC 848-890

Week XIV – Discussion: Spiegelman, *Maus*

4/20 **ENTIRE CLASS**

4/22 **NO CLASS – PROFESSOR OUT OF TOWN**

Week XV

- 4/27 Zero Hour: the West after WW2
Winston Churchill, *The Sinews of Peace*
Joseph Stalin, *Reply to Churchill*
The Beveridge Report (read paragraphs 6 through 16)
WC 891-943
RESPONSE PAPER #3 DUE
- 4/29 The End of History? The West in the Contemporary Era
Benjamin R. Barber, *Jihad vs. McWorld*
WC 943-1006
- 5/3 **EXAM #3**