

Western Civilization 102 (GHP, GMO, GL)

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Introduction

Welcome to the study of Western Civilization! During this course we will study European history from the Protestant Reformation of the sixteenth century to the current day. We will spend much of our time discussing events and ideas which emanated from England, France, Germany, and Spain, but we will also spend some time talking about eastern Europe and the United States. We will use primary sources (documents written in the period under discussion) to examine the development of social, political, religious, and cultural elements in modern western society. As you examine these documents, you should always ask yourself, "What makes this a 'modern' idea or event, and what relevance does it have (or not) to my life?"

In order to make good oral and written evaluations of the sources we will read, you must always consider the biases, both positive and negative, of the author of the source as well as the nature of that source itself. All historical sources are not created equal; you'll need to make informed judgments about each of them. Since this is a history course, the topics of our discussions will be roughly chronological (beginning with the events and ideas of the Protestant Reformation and concluding as close to the present day as possible), but we will be more concerned with analytical methods than with strict chronology. In other words, you will spend more time in this class reading and analyzing primary source materials than you will spend memorizing names and dates.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course you will be able to

- construct an analytical essay using related primary source material as evidence to support an argument in answer to a specific historical question.
- explain the significance of terms (people, events, places, dates) in relation to the development of the social, political, religious, and cultural elements of modern western society.
- explain the connections between ideas and events from the 16th -20th centuries and modern western culture in the 21st century.

Required Books

Rousseau, Jean-Jacques. *The Social Contract*. Penguin. ISBN 0143037498.

Marx, Karl & Friedrich Engels. *The Communist Manifesto*. Penguin. ISBN 0140447571.

Levi, Primo. *Surviving Auschwitz*. Touchstone Reprint. ISBN 0684826801.

Perry, Marvin. *Sources of the Western Tradition. From the Renaissance to the Present (volume 2)*. 6th edition. Houghton Mifflin. ISBN 0618162283.

Spielvogel, Jackson. *Western Civilization. Volume II. Since 1500*. 6th edition. Wadsworth. ISBN 0534646042.

For Your Information

Attendance: After you have missed four class periods for any reason, your final average for the course will be reduced by one percentage point (i.e. from 84 to 83) for each additional absence.

Honor code: Any violation of the honor code (such as plagiarism or cheating) will be dealt with according to UNCG's academic integrity policy. I am particularly concerned about plagiarism from the web. I do not want you to use websites for any of the writing assignments unless a particular website is specifically included as part of the assignment. The primary sources and the lectures will provide you with sufficient information to complete the assignments. For specific explanations about UNCG's academic integrity policy, see the Student Affairs website at <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/>.

Reading Advice

Because most of these documents will be totally unfamiliar to you, I recommend taking notes on them as you read. It is also useful to write a brief summary (2-3 sentences) of each document so that you can remember the contents of each text for class discussion. Taking notes on the longer primary sources is especially important. Finally, I recommend reading each of the shorter documents more than once. Sometimes it will take two (or even three) readings for something to make sense to you. Because the amount of reading for our course is fairly small, you'll have plenty of time for re-reading.

Supplemental Reading

I will occasionally use on-line sources as supplemental materials. Many of the links will be to the Internet Modern History Sourcebook (<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook.html>). The links to these texts will be available on the course's Blackboard site.

Blackboard

Be sure to check on Blackboard (<https://blackboard.uncg.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>) for course announcements, assignments, and links to important websites.

Adverse Weather Conditions

If you think that the university might be closed due to weather, either call the UNCG Adverse Weather Line at (336) 334-4400 or check the university 's website (www.uncg.edu). If the university is open, I will hold class.

Grade Breakdown

Discussion Participation	10%
First Midterm	20%
<i>Communist Manifesto</i> paper	20%
Second Midterm	20%
Final Exam	30%

Discussion Preparation and Written Assignments

Discussion: To participate actively in the class discussions, you will need to read the materials assigned for each lecture before the day of that lecture. Your discussion grade will be based not only on the quantity but also on the quality of your comments. Remember that asking a question about something you didn't understand in the readings is a good way of participating in the discussion.

Midterms and Final: All three exams will be take-home assignments. The two midterms will consist of two parts: short identification essays explaining the significance of a particular term (person, event, place, date, etc.) and a longer essay based on primary source material. The final will keep these two components (identifications and primary source essay) and add a cumulative thought question.

Communist Manifesto essay: You will write a 3-4 page formal essay (with footnotes!) on one of a choice of topics concerning this revolutionary document.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Monday, August 20 – Introductions

Wednesday, August 22 – the Protestant Reformation

Primary Source Readings: Perry, 16-20.

Supplemental Readings

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 346-366.

Friday, August 24 – the Wars of Religion

Supplemental Readings

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 366-378.

Monday, August 27 – Explorations: Portugal and Spain

Supplemental Readings

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 379-390.

Wednesday, August 29 – Other “expansion” beyond Europe

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 390-401.

Friday, August 31 – Capitalism – “modern” economic theory

Supplemental Readings

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 401-408.

Monday, September 3 – Labor Day – no class

Wednesday, September 5 – Absolute monarchy

Primary Source Readings: Perry, 20-25.

Supplemental Readings

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 417-432.

Friday, September 7 - Constitutional monarchy

Primary Source Readings: Perry, 25-28.

Supplemental Readings

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 432-440.

Monday, September 10 – The Baroque in Music & Art

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 440-446.

Wednesday, September 12 – the Scientific Revolution I

Primary Source Readings: Perry, 29-51.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 448-471.

Friday, September 14 – the Scientific Revolution II

Primary Source Readings: Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, 1-63.

Monday, September 17 – The Enlightenment at home and abroad

Primary Source Readings: Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, 64-168 and Perry, 52-77.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 473-500.

Wednesday, September 19 – More wars

First midterm due

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 514-517.

Friday, September 21 – The French Revolution 1: 1789

Primary Source Readings: Perry, 97-107.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 532-544.

Monday, September 24 – The French Revolution II: Robespierre

Primary Source Readings: Perry, 115-122.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 544-552.

Wednesday, September 26 – Emperor Napoleon

Primary Source Readings: Perry, 122-126.

Supplemental Readings

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 552-559.

Friday, September 28 – the peasants on the eve of the Industrial Revolution

Monday, October 1 – Industrial Revolution I

Primary Source Readings: Perry, 127-140.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 562-587.

Wednesday, October 3 – Industrial Revolution II

Primary Source Readings: Perry, 141-145.

Friday, October 5 - Conservatism: the status quo

Primary Source Readings: Perry, 150-154.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 589-598.

Monday, October 8 – Liberalism & Nationalism

Primary Source Readings: Perry, 155-156.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 598-602.

Wednesday, October 10 – The Revolutions of 1848

Primary Source Readings: Perry, 164-169.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 603-610.

Friday, October 12 – the Romantics in Art, Music, & Poetry

Primary Source Readings: Perry, 148-149.
Supplemental Readings
Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 613-618.

Monday, October 15 – Fall Break – no class

Wednesday, October 17 – Napoleon III
Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 620-625.

Friday, October 19 – National Unification in Italy & Germany
Primary Source Readings: Perry, 157-160 and 162-164; Marx & Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*, 191-233.
Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 625-631.

Monday, October 22 – Response to the Industrial Revolution – Marx & Engels
Primary Source Readings: Marx & Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*, 234-275.
Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 638-641.

Wednesday, October 24 – Darwin & Evolution
Primary Source Readings: Perry, 175-183.
Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 641-645.

Friday, October 26 – no class

Monday, October 29 – Realism in Literature & Art
Communist Manifesto paper due
Primary Source Readings: Perry, 170-175.
Supplemental Readings
Secondary Source Readings: 646-649.

Wednesday, October 31 – A Second Industrial Revolution

Friday, November 2 – the Working Class
Primary Source Readings: Perry, 194-217.
Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 651-673.

Monday, November 5 – Europe on the Brink of the Twentieth Century
Primary Source Readings: 272-289.
Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 681-692.

Wednesday, November 7 – Cultural Imperialism
Primary Source Readings: Perry, 239-271.
Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 701-710.

Friday, November 9 – The End of the Long Century: the Great War
Primary Source Readings: Perry 291-332.
Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 717-736.

Monday, November 12 – the Russian Revolution of 1917
Second midterm due
Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 736-742.

Wednesday, November 14 – Versailles & the Rise of the Fascists

Primary Source Readings: Perry, 333-368.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 750-773.

Friday, November 16 – World War II: The Course of Events

Primary Source Readings: Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*, 9-100; Perry, 388-443.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 782-796.

Monday, November 19 – World War II: the “Final Solution”

Primary Source Readings: Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*, 101-187.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 797-812.

Wednesday, November 21 – no class – Thanksgiving Break

Friday, November 23 – no class – Thanksgiving Break

Monday, November 26 – the Cold War & the myth of the fifties

Primary Source Readings: Perry, 453-456.

Supplemental Readings

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 814-821.

Wednesday, November 28 – Behind the Iron Curtain: Eastern Europe

Primary Source Readings: Perry, 457-463.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 828-835.

Friday, November 30 – Decolonization: India & Africa

Primary Source Readings: Perry, 463-472.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 821-827.

Monday, December 3 – The Sixties and Social Unrest

Supplemental Readings

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 837-848.

Wednesday, December 5 – 1989: the Collapse of the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc

Primary Source Readings: Perry, 473-477.

Supplemental Readings

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 850-867.

Friday, December 7 – the European Union

Supplemental Readings

Monday, December 10 – Life in the Post-Modern World

Monday, December 17 – *Final Due in my office by 3 pm.*