

HIS 222

Unit One: August 15-18
Intro to Historical Thinking

Unit three: Sept. 5-18
Renaissance
HIS-222: Europe, 1450-1789
Spring 2016
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Welcome to HIS 222. This course is a survey of the major socio-economic, political, and cultural trends in Europe from the Renaissance to the French Revolution. Because this is an online course covering a large amount of material, you will be required to complete a large quantity of independent readings, and submit your reflections on these readings.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

- Develop an understanding of the major socio-economic, cultural, and political trends in Europe from 1450-1789.
- Develop and utilize such “historical thinking skills” as analyzing change over time, causality, and the impact of human agency on events and developments.
- Develop original arguments using historical evidence.
- Analyze primary source documents for context, bias, and significance.

Required Texts:

Merry Wiesner-Hanks, *Early Modern Europe, 1450-1789* (second ed.) ISBN 9781107643574.
Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities* ISBN 9781784786755.

Either of these books can be ordered from the UNCG Bookstore or from online retailers. Because I recognize that some of you may not receive your books in time to complete the first assignment, I post the first reading to the ‘Files’ section of Canvas.

Reading Assignments: Reading Assignments will be completed and submitted through Blackboard. They are, in short, five guided reading questions that you should answer either as you read the assigned chapters or after you have finished. They are not focused on details or facts, but rather the broad themes of the readings. The type of answer will depend, to some extent, on the question, but generally speaking, answers should:

- Be in your own words
- Provide specific examples from the text to support your answer
- Be no more than a paragraph long

I will usually, as part of reading assignments, indicate which sections of readings to focus on, and in some cases I will supplement or replace readings from the Wiesner-Hanks book with other readings. Reading assignments will also include discussion of Imagined Communities.

Midterm: Your midterm exam will consist of several short answer questions and one essay. Together, they assess your understanding of material from Part I (1450-1600). The midterm will be assigned about ten days ahead of time, and will be due at 11:59 PM on October 6.

Primary Source Activities: Historians learn much of what we know about the past by studying primary source documents. During the class you will complete multiple primary source activities that require you to analyze a set of topically-specific primary source documents. These activities will give you a taste of the sort of information that can be gleaned

from primary source documents, and will, like the reading assignments, require you to provide short answers to a series of questions.

Book Discussion: One of the major themes in this course is changing notions of the state and of nationhood. These changes are of great interest to many historians. Today, as nationalist movements, often with strong ethno-nationalist overtones, emerge around the world, and especially in the West, it seems appropriate that we look at the history of nationalism. The book *Imagined Communities* by Benedict Anderson offers such a history, and we will read multiple chapters from the book. You will complete responses based on these readings and post them to Canvas. These are intended to be far more open-ended and interpretive than your responses to the Wiesner-Hanks readings.

Final: The final exam, which assesses your understanding of Part II, will be identical to the midterm except that it will include an additional cumulative essay. It will be assigned on the week beginning 11/29. Due date TBD.

Reading Assignments: Most readings for these assignments are drawn from the course text (Wiesner-Hanks, *Early Modern Europe*). There will be several additional readings as well, however, and I will announce these as we go on. Moreover, many of the readings from Wiesner-Hanks will be excerpts--I will indicate this when I post the assignments. As indicated above, you will read each chapter and submit answers to questions posted in the assignments section on Canvas. You will find assignments posted Sunday evening or Monday morning of each week under "Assignments" on the course Canvas site.

Plan of Study: The following is a plan of study, including due dates, for the semester. Please note that I reserve the right to make changes in this plan as I deem necessary. As I have indicated above, additional readings, made available when the assignment is posted, will be required. These readings will be posted as .pdfs in the Files section of Canvas.

Part One (1450-1600)

August 15-21: Introduction to History and Historiography

Readings:

- Introduction: Wiesner-Hanks, pp. 1-5
- Peter Stearns, "Why Study History" at
<https://www.historians.org/about-aha-and-membership/aha-history-and-archives/archives/why-study-history-%281998%29> (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

Unit Two: August 21-Sept. 5

European people and politics, 1450-1600

- Reading Assignment 2: Ch. 2-3, Wiesner-Hanks
- PRIMARY SOURCE READING 1- TBA

Unit Three: Sept. 5-18

Europe During the Renaissance

- Reading Assignment #3: Chapter 4, Wiesner-Hanks
- PRIMARY SOURCE READING 2- TBA

Unit Four: Sept. 18-Oct. 2

Reformation

-Reading Assignment #4: Chapter 5, Wiesner-Hanks

-PRIMARY SOURCE READING 3- TBA

MIDTERM EXAM DUE OCT 6 (Before start of Fall Break)

Oct. 6-11 FALL BREAK

Unit 5: Oct. 11-16

Expansion

Reading Assignment #5: Chapters 6-7, Wiesner-Hanks (excerpts)

Unit 6: Oct. 16-30

Consolidation

Reading Assignment #6: Chapter 9, Wiesner-Hanks

First Reading (TBA) from *Imagined Communities* due

Unit 7: Oct. 30-Nov. 13

Enlightenment

Reading Assignment #7: Chapter 10, Wiesner-Hanks

PRIMARY SOURCE READING 4-TBA

Unit 8: Nov. 13-21

Economics and Technology

Reading Assignment #8: Chapter 12, Wiesner-Hanks

Second Reading (TBA) from *Imagined Communities* due

November 21-27 THANKSGIVING BREAK

November 27-29

Europe and the World

Reading Assignment #9: Chapter 13, Wiesner-Hanks(excerpts)

PRIMARY SOURCE READING 5-TBA

FINAL EXAM DUE DATE TBD

GRADING:

This course will employ a total points system, as explained below:

Reading Assignments (inc. *Imagined Communities*): 10 pts each (for a total of 110 pts)

Midterm Exam: 70 pts

Primary Source Activities:20 pts each (for a total of100 pts)

Final Exam: 100 pts

Total points: 380

Academic Integrity: Please see the Dean of Students site for a brief outline of what constitutes a breach of academic integrity. If you have any questions, please ask.
<http://sa.uncg.edu/dean/academic-integrity/>

Canvas: This course is solely administered through Canvas, so it is important that you have a working knowledge of the platform. If you have any questions please contact me AFTER you have consulted the Help and tutorial features on Canvas. It is ultimately your responsibility to familiarize yourself with Canvas.

