

**HIS 222-01 EUROPE 1400-1789: FROM RENAISSANCE TO REVOLUTION****FALL SEMESTER 2023**

Lectures: Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:00-11:50 am Bryan 105

Discussions: Fridays, 11:00-11:50 am Bryan 105

Instructor: Dr. Jodi Bilinkoff

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History 222 is a survey of European history from 1400 to 1789, with an emphasis on the history of ideas. This course satisfies the MAC General Education requirement for Critical Thinking and Inquiry in the Humanities and Fine Arts, see p. 6 for further discussion.

**REQUIRED READING AND PURCHASES FOR COURSE:**

This course is based upon the close reading of primary sources. We will be reading and discussing texts written by people who actually lived in Western Europe and its colonies between roughly 1400 and 1800! You will need to purchase a packet containing these documents as well as a second packet containing print copies of the handouts for course lectures.

These two packets are available for purchase at the UNCG Bookstore. The pages in both packets have 3 holes and are ready to be placed into a 3-hole binder. Please be sure to bring your binder with you as we will be going over the primary sources together during class meetings.

“You cannot teach a person anything, you can only help him to find it in himself.”

Galileo Galilei (1564-1642)

## COURSE SYLLABUS

W	8/16	Welcome to the Course
F	8/18	Introduction to the Course, to the study of History Students introduce themselves.
M	8/21	W. Europe in 1350: An Ordered Society?
<b>LAST DAY TO ADD CLASSES</b>		
W	8/23	W. Europe in 1350: An Ordered Society?
F	8/25	<b>CLASS CANCELED</b>
M	8/28	Christianity Comes to Europe: A Brief History The Formation of a Christian Society <b>Quiz 1 posted on Canvas</b>
W	8/30	Petrarch and Humanism "The Ascent of Mont Ventoux" [Primary Source]
F	9/1	Discussion: Petrarch <b>Quiz 1 Due, email to Ms Aft no later than 11:59 pm</b>
M	9/4	<b>LABOR DAY</b>
W	9/6	Humanism and Power: The Case of Florence
F	9/8	Discussion: Why Florence? <b>Response Paper Assigned</b>
M	9/11	Niccolò Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i> Dedication, chs. 14,15,17,18,23,25,26 [Primary Source]
W	9/13	Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i> Chs.14,15,17,18,23,25,26 [Primary Source]
F	9/15	Discussion: Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i> <b>Response Paper Due, email to Ms Aft no later than 11:59 pm</b>
M	9/18	1492 and Beyond
W	9/20	The Columbian Exchange

F	9/22	Discussion: 1492 and its Impact
M	9/25	Discovery and Self-Discovery
W	9/27	Erasmus of Rotterdam and Christian Humanism "The Shipwreck" [Primary Source]
F	9/29	Discussion
M	10/2	Martin Luther: The Reformation Begins
W	10/4	Martin Luther "Preface to the First Volume of Latin Writings" [Primary Source] <b>Take-Home Midterm Exam Assigned</b>
F	10/6	Discussion
		<b>LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES</b>
M	10/9	<b>FALL BREAK</b>
W	10/11	The Reformation Spreads, John Calvin <b>Take-Home Midterm Exam Due, Email to Ms Aft no later than 11:59 pm</b>
F	10/13	Discussion: Protestant Reformation
M	10/16	Ignatius Loyola and the Counter-Reformation <i>Autobiography</i> , chap. 1 [Primary Source] <b>Quiz 3 posted on Canvas</b>
W	10/18	Science and Authority
F	10/20	Discussion: Age of Reformations <b>Quiz 3 Due, email to Ms Aft no later than 11:59 pm</b>
M	10/23	Galileo, Science, and the Bible "Letter to Castelli" [Primary Source]
W	10/25	Absolutism, Reason, and State
F	10/27	Discussion <b>Quiz 4 posted on Canvas</b>
M	10/30	<b>CLASS CANCELED</b>
W	11/1	Louis XIV and Versailles

F	11/3	Discussion: Science and Absolutism <b>Quiz 4 Due, email to Ms Aft no later than 11:59 pm</b>
M	11/6	The Age of Enlightenment
W	11/8	Religion Questioned, Religion Affirmed Voltaire, "Fanaticism," from [ <i>Philosophical Dictionary</i> ] [Primary Source]
F	11/10	Discussion: Age of Enlightenment
M	11/13	Consent and Slavery <b>Quiz 5 posted on Canvas</b>
W	11/15	Thomas Jefferson "Declaration of Independence" [Primary Source]
F	11/17	Discussion: "Declaration of Independence" [Primary Source] <b>Quiz 5 Due, email to Ms Aft no later than 11:59 pm</b>
M	11/20	Mary Wollstonecraft <i>A Vindication of the Rights of Woman</i> , excerpts [Primary Source]
W	11/22	<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>
F	11/24	
M	11/27	Mary Wollstonecraft <i>A Vindication of the Rights of Woman</i> , excerpts [Primary Source] <b>Take-Home Final Exam Assigned</b>
W	11/29	The Promise of Progress on the Eve of Revolution
M	12/4	<b>TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM DUE</b> <b>EMAIL TO MS AFT NO LATER THAN 11:59 PM.</b>
		<b>STUDENTS MAY SEND THEIR EXAMS EARLIER IF THEY WISH</b>

## GUIDELINES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. **ATTENDANCE POLICY:** I expect regular attendance for this course. We cover a great deal of material, and one absence could mean missing one hundred years or more of European history! If you have a compelling reason for missing a class, please let Dr. Bilinkoff or Ms Aft know ahead of time or notify one of us by email. If you are not prepared to attend consistently, start on time, and stay until the end of the class period, please drop the course. If you experience a personal or family emergency, contact the Office of the Dean of Students and they will inform all your instructors: [deanofstudents@uncg.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@uncg.edu) (336) 334-5514. A student who has more than 3 unexcused absences may be dropped from the course at the discretion of the instructor.

2. **ATTENTIVENESS POLICY:** Be prepared to pay attention and take careful notes during class periods. Please do not pack up your belongings until the class period has ended; this can be very distracting. Make every effort to use the washroom facilities before the class period begins. Dr. Bilinkoff and Ms Aft expect to communicate with the class or individual students by email, therefore **it is essential that you check your UNCG email at least once a day.**

3. **ELECTRONIC DEVICES:** Cellphones must be silenced during the class period and placed on top of students' desks. Students may use laptops or phones but only to access handouts on Canvas. An Honor System is in effect! **Texting during class is extremely rude and demonstrates disrespect for one's classmates and instructors.**

4. **COURSE MATERIALS:** Please read the material specified for a given class period or periods before coming to class. It is **essential** that you keep up with the syllabus, which is also posted on Canvas and on the History Department Website: <https://his.uncg.edu/> All the handouts for the course are likewise posted on Canvas. We **strongly suggest** that you bring your binder containing course materials to class with you. That way when we are examining documents you can highlight significant words and passages and take notes. Students have found this method **extremely helpful** in ensuring their success in this and other courses.

5. **GRADES:** Grades will be based upon a series of take-home assignments, which we will describe in detail during the semester. Writing assignments must be word-processed, double-spaced, spell-checked, with standard 1" margins and 12-point font. We look at correctness and clarity of exposition as well as an understanding of the course content. To us history and the way in which it is expressed are not two different things, but are rather, intimately connected. In other words: writing counts! We also take regular attendance and class participation into account when formulating grades. Participation may be manifested in various ways: questions, comments, and responses to texts, videos, and other media. We also take notice of students' general mental alertness and intellectual engagement with and curiosity about the material. These are all important factors in university learning. Grades will be formulated according to this rough

breakdown: Response Paper=15%, Midterm Exam= 25%, Final Exam= 30%, Average of 5 quizzes= 20%, Participation= 10%. By submitting an assignment, each student is acknowledging their understanding and commitment to UNCG's **Academic Integrity Policy** on all work for the course, for which see: <https://osrr.uncg.edu/academic-integrity/>

For an excellent explanation of plagiarism and how to avoid committing this serious violation see: [writingcenter.uncg.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Plagiarism.pdf](http://writingcenter.uncg.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Plagiarism.pdf)

**6 RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE:** All assignments are due on the days specified on the syllabus. If for **ANY REASON**, you are unable to hand in an assignment on time it is **YOUR** responsibility to contact Dr. Bilinkoff or Ms Aft beforehand to make alternative arrangements. If we are not contacted directly or by message before the due date, we will not accept late assignments. See page 1 for ways to contact us.

7. If you do not think you will be able to abide by these guidelines, please drop the course. The last day to drop a course without academic penalty this semester is Friday October 6. BUT: if these guidelines seem reasonable and you would like to learn about a fascinating period of history and improve your reading, writing, and analytical skills, please stay in the course!

HIS 222 contributes to **MINERVA'S ACADEMIC CURRICULUM (MAC)**, UNCG 's program in General Education for all undergraduate students. It is a course in the category of **CRITICAL THINKING AND INQUIRY IN THE HUMANITIES AND FINE ARTS**. Through these courses, students acquire a working knowledge of the foundational tools for reasoning, including constructing sound arguments, evaluating the quality of evidence, and forming judgments about the evidence, arguments, and conclusions of others in Humanities and Fine Arts disciplines. In a **CRITICAL THINKING AND INQUIRY IN THE HUMANITIES AND FINE ARTS** course, students will:

Critically analyze claims, arguments, artifacts, or information  
Construct coherent, evidence-based arguments

**ALL WRITING ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE COURSE ARE DESIGNED TO GAUGE ENGAGEMENT WITH THESE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLOs). FURTHER EXPLANATION OF SLOs WILL BE INCLUDED WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR EACH ASSIGNMENT.**

To learn more about the UNCG Department of History and its activities, see:

Department Website: <https://his.uncg.edu/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/uncghistory1/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/uncgdepartmentofhistory>

YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCmAM-qiz-IVzKR\\_YmoHq4](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCmAM-qiz-IVzKR_YmoHq4)

