

Syllabus

WCV102-02 Western Civilization II

Spring 2006

Day & Time: Tuesday 6:00 to 8:50pm Location: STONE 215

Instructor: Mark Moser (Office—McIver 223)

email: mamoser@uncg.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 4:00 to 5:00pm and by appointment

Required Text:

The Making of the West: Peoples and Cultures, Volume II, Since 1500 2nd edition by Lynn Hunt, et al. (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2005).

Additional Required Readings:

Newton's Gift by David Berlinski

Oliver Twist (Modern Library Edition) by Charles Dickens

Silent Night: The Story of the World War I Christmas Truce by Stanley Weintraub

Pegasus Bridge: June 6, 1944 by Stephen E. Ambrose

Overview/Objectives:

This survey course is designed to help students gain a better understanding of western civilization from the seventeenth century through the end of the "Cold War" in the early 1990s. Because this is a very broad course we will examine many topics which directly shaped western history during this period. Some of the major events we will cover include: the Scientific Revolution, the development and evolution of a "transatlantic economy," the American and French Revolutions, the creation of "modern" European nation-states during the mid-to-late-nineteenth century, World Wars I and II, and the "Cold War." Upon successful completion of this course students should be able to identify leading individuals, understand key events in their proper historical context, as well as interpret the significant political, socioeconomic, and cultural developments associated with western civilization since the end of the sixteenth century.

Attendance Policy:

Typically I have found that a direct correlation exists between good attendance and good grades. I believe this is especially true in classes which meet only once per week. Students with *two* absences or less this semester will incur no academic penalty. Students with *three* absences may (depending on their individual circumstances) have their final grade reduced by up to one full letter grade. Any student who misses *four* classes will be dropped from the course immediately unless he/she can provide clear documentation to substantiate a legitimate medical/family

emergency, etc. Only in the case of extremely extenuating circumstances will I allow anyone to remain in the class with more than three absences!

I also expect every student to be in class on time—every time the class meets. I will always take roll at the beginning of class and all quizzes will be given at the beginning of each class period. Any student who arrives after the quiz has begun will not be allowed to take the quiz. If you know now that your work schedule, social life, etc., will make it routinely difficult for you to make it to class punctually then I suggest that you drop this class and find another because habitual tardiness will lower your final grade. Finally, I expect every student to attend the entire session of each class. Unless you become obviously ill during class, leaving class early (such as during break, etc.) will count against you.

Quizzes, Tests, and Writing Assignments:

At the beginning of each class session (starting next week) you will take a brief multiple choice quiz based on content from that week's assigned chapter in *The Making of the West*. I will drop your two lowest quiz grades prior to calculating your final average.

Your mid-term exam will be a combination of short answer and essay questions. You will be given 10 (ten) items to identify in short answer form, of which you will select 5 (five) to answer. You will also be given 3 (three) essay questions from which you will select 2 (two) to answer. Your final exam will be essay only—I will tell you more about the final as the semester draws to a close. Your textbook and *Newton's Gift* are both fair game for mid-term exam questions/ID's.

In addition to the quizzes and exams mentioned above you will also submit a 500-600 word response paper on the four additional assigned readings for the course. These papers must be double-spaced using 12 point font with one inch top, side, and bottom margins. I will discuss the specific requirements of these assignments during the second night of class.

Grading:

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|----------------------------------|------|
| Weekly quizzes | 25% |
| 500-600 word response papers (4) | 40% |
| Midterm exam | 15% |
| Final exam | 20% |
| Total | 100% |

Course Outline:

Week One—(January 10)

“Getting acquainted”....Tonight’s course introduction will include an explanation of the requirements/expectations of the course as outlined in the syllabus, etc. This will be followed by a brief lecture intended to familiarize students with some of the historical background associated with western civilization in the early modern era and to provide us with a beginning point for what we will study this semester. (Students should probably begin reading *Newton’s Gift*)

Week Two—(January 17)

The Making of the West Ch. 16 “A Century of Crisis, 1560-1648” (Continue reading *Newton’s Gift*).

Week Three—(January 24)

The Making of the West Ch. 17 “State Building and the Search for Order, 1648-1690”

Week Four—(January 31)

The Making of the West Ch. 18 “The Atlantic System and Its Consequences, 1690-1740”

*500-600 word response paper on *Newton’s Gift* due at the beginning of class followed by a brief discussion of the book. (Begin reading *Oliver Twist*).

Week Five—(February 7)

The Making of the West Ch. 19 “The Promise of Enlightenment, 1740-1789”

Week Six—(February 14)

The Making of the West Ch. 20 “The Cataclysm of Revolution, 1789-1800”

Week Seven—(February 21)

The Making of the West Ch. 21 “Napoleon and the Revolutionary Legacy, 1800-1830”

Week Eight—(February 28)

*Mid-term Exam (you will need a Blue Book)

SPRING BREAK—No class Tuesday, March 7th (Continue reading *Oliver Twist*)

Week Nine—(March 14)

The Making of the West Ch. 22 “Industrialization, Urbanization, and Revolution, 1830-1850”

*500-600 word response paper on *Oliver Twist* due at the beginning of class followed by a brief discussion of the book. (Begin reading *Silent Night*).

Week Ten—(March 21)

The Making of the West Ch. 23 “Politics and Culture of the Nation-State, c. 1850-1870”

Week Eleven—(March 28)

The Making of the West Ch. 24 “Industry, Empire, and Everyday Life, 1870-1890” and Chapter 25 “Modernity and the Road to War”

*500-600 word response paper on *Silent Night* due at the beginning of class followed by a brief discussion of the book. (Begin reading *Pegasus Bridge*).

Week Twelve—(April 4)

The Making of the West Ch. 26 “War, Revolution, and Reconstruction, 1914-1929”

Video Documentary: “No Man’s Land”

Week Thirteen—(April 11)

The Making of the West Ch. 27 “An Age of Catastrophes, 1929-1945”

Week Fourteen—(April 18)

The Making of the West Ch. 28 “Remaking Europe in the Shadow of the Cold War, c. 1945-1965”

*500-600 word response paper on *Pegasus Bridge* due at the beginning of class followed by a brief discussion of the book.

Week Fifteen—(April 25)

The Making of the West Ch. 29 “Postindustrial Society and the End of the Cold War Order, 1965-1989” Video: ABC News’ *Nightline* televised coverage of “The Fall of the Berlin Wall,” originally aired in November 1989.

*Final Exam—Tuesday, May 9th 6:00 to 8:50pm You will need a Blue Book

NOTE: From time to time I will post announcements and reminders on Blackboard. Please check your UNCG email accounts and Blackboard on a regular basis. I will respond to your emails as quickly as possible throughout the semester, but please be patient as there are many of you and only one of me!