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WCV 102-01, Spring, 2009

This course will survey both chronologically and topically the history of Western civilization in the modern era, from the 17th century to the mid-20th century. Our study will include religion, the arts, politics, economic trends, social arrangements: human activity in all its variety. Our world of the 21st century has its roots in the past.

Knowing these roots is one way to understand the world we live in today.

1. Required text: Marvin Perry *et al.*, Western Civilization, Ideas, Politics & Society, Volume II. You may buy the latest edition in the campus bookstore, or go online to find an earlier edition. All reading assignments are from the text.
2. Attendance: You are expected to attend class regularly. You may have 4 unexcused absences. If you exceed that amount, you will be dropped from the class. To be excused, you must contact me by e-mail within 48 hours after your absence. Most acceptable excuse: you are too ill to be in class.
3. Research project/student presentations. This is a chance for you to become an expert on a topic relevant to the class by researching it, then teaching the class about it in a short oral presentation. More instructions will be given on the list of topics which will be posted on Blackboard.
4. Tests and grades: There will be two one-hour tests, each worth 25% of your final grade, student projects are 25%, and the exam, also worth 25%. Study guides will be given for the tests and the exam.
5. My office hours are set up for you to drop by anytime you want to talk about the class. If these are inconvenient to you, ask and we'll set up another time.
6. This class follows a lecture format. It is important to read your assignment before coming to class, and to take notes during the class. Your questions and comments are always welcome.
7. All handouts, as well as notices, will be posted on Blackboard.

CLASS SCHEDULE

1/21: Introduction.

Week of 1/21: Chapter 16: The Rise of Sovereignty.

Week of 1/26: Chapter 17: The Scientific Revolution.

Week of 2/2: Chapter 18: The Age of the Enlightenment.

2/6: Student oral presentations: Louis XIV, Cromwell, Peter the Great, Newton, Galileo, Voltaire.

Week of 2/9: Chapter 19: The French Revolution.

2/16: Chapter 20: Napoleon.

2/18-2/20: Chapter 21: The Industrial Revolution.

2/20: Oral presentations : Mary Wollstonecraft, Robespierre, George III, guillotine, Josephine, Napoleon, *Code Napoleon*, Mme de Pompadour.

2/23: Chapter 22: Thought and Culture in the Early 19th Century.

2/2-2/27: Chapter 23: Europe, 1815-1848.

3/2: TEST

3/4-3/6: Chapter 24: Thought and Culture in the Mid-19th century.

Week of 3/9: SPRING BREAK.

Week of 3/16: Chapter 25: Surge of Nationalism

3/21: No classes.

Week of 3/23: Chapter 26: The Industrial West.

3/27: Oral presentation: Rousseau, Keats, Shelley, Wordsworth, de Tocqueville, Darwin, Marx, Engels, Bakunin.

Week of 3/30: Chapter 27: Western Imperialism.

4/3: TEST

4/6: Chapter 28: Modern Consciousness.

4/10: NO CLASS

4/8-4/15: Chapter 29: World War I.

4/17: Chapter 30: Era of Totalitarianism.

Week of 4/20: Chapter 32: World War II. (We will skip Chapter 31.)

4/24: Oral presentation: Einstein, Bismarck, Garibaldi, Lenin, Trotsky, de Gaulle, Churchill, Hitler, the Holocaust.

4/27-5/4: Chapter 33: Europe after World War II.

Exam: Wednesday, 5/13 at 8 am.