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WCV 102-01, Spring, 2011

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. As this is a writing intensive class, students will have several kinds of writing assignments. Four short (roughly 2 ½ pages) papers will be based reading primary sources from *Sources of the Western Tradition*. Due dates are given below. We will have several in-class writings, where you will be asked to spend a few minutes responding to a question about the lecture (what you think), or to take a position on an issue under discussion. Then you will write a 5 page essay on a topic which you will choose, either from a list I provide, or in consultation with me. This essay will be done in stages: turning in an outline, then a first draft, which you will revise before getting a grade.

1. Required texts: Marvin Perry *et al.*, Western Civilization, Ideas, Politics & Society, Volume II and *Sources of the Western Tradition*, volume II, by Perry, Peden and von Laue. The first book is your text; the other contains documents on which your short papers and your essay will be based. The campus bookstore may have some used copies of the text. But I strongly recommend that you shop online for much cheaper earlier editions of both books.
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. Tests and grades: There will be two one-hour tests, each worth 20% of your final grade. Your 4 short papers and your in -class writings are 20%. Your essay and the exam are each also worth 20%. Study guides will be given for the tests and the exam.
4. 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.
5. This class follows a lecture format, with some discussions. 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.
6. All handouts, as well as notices, will be posted on Blackboard.

CLASS SCHEDULE

1/10: Introduction.

1/12-1/19: Chapter 16: The Rise of Sovereignty.

1/21-1/28: Chapter 17: The Scientific Revolution.

1/28: First short paper due, based on your reading of either the selection from the *Leviathan* by Hobbes in chapter one of the *Sources* book, or *Two Treatises on Government* by Locke in chapter two. We will discuss your thoughts in class.

1/31-2/4: Chapter 18: The Age of the Enlightenment.

Week of 2/7: Chapter 19: The French Revolution.

2/11: Second short paper due, based on your reading of either *A Plea for Tolerance and Reason* by Voltaire (chapter 3), or on *The Republic of Virtue* by Robespierre (chapter 4).

2/14-2/16: Chapter 20: Napoleon

2/16: You must give me your choice of essay topic, either from the list I have provided, or one of your own, having consulted me.

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

2/23-2/25: Chapter 22: Thought and Culture in the Early 19th Century.

2/28-3/2: Chapter 23: Europe, 1815-1848.

3/4: TEST. Should class be cancelled by weather, test will be at the next class.

Week of 3/7: SPRING BREAK. No classes.

3/14: Chapter 24: Thought and Culture in the mid-19th century.

3/16-3/18: Chapter 25: Surge of Nationalism

3/18: Turn in an outline of your essay.

3/21-3/23: Chapter 26: The Industrial West.

3/25-3/28: Chapter 27: Western Imperialism.

3/25: Turn in the draft of your essay, **HARD COPY ONLY**. This will be critiqued and returned to you for revision.

3/30-4/1.: Chapter 28: Modern consciousness.

4/4: TEST

4/6-4/11: Chapter 29: World War I

4/8: Turn in third paper, either on *The Greatness of War* by von Treitschke or *Average Men and Women Were Delighted by War* by Russell.

4/13-4/15: Chapter 30: Era of Totalitarianism.

4/15: Turn in your revised essay.

4/18-4/26: Chapter 32: World War II. (We will skip Chapter 31.)

4/22: NO CLASS. Easter break.

4/25: Fourth paper due, one page only: what is the condition of mankind? Answer based on reading 2 poems by William Blake from a handout. Class discussion will follow.

5/4: EXAM at eight am.

All assigned writings may be submitted by e-mail, except for the draft of your essay.
 Instructions for short papers: First read the document carefully.

1. First short paper: based on your document, answer why the author thinks governments are created, what kind of government he envisions, and what rights citizens will have.
2. Second paper: For what purposes does this author want reason to be used? What problems will reason solve, and how?
3. Third paper: The author's attitude to war.
4. Fourth paper: What does Blake think of the human condition, to which we are all born?

