

Western Civilization, 1500-1991
WCV 102-03 – Spring 2011
UNC-Greensboro

Instructor Info

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Office Hours: By Appointment – email me if you'd like to set up a time to meet in either in person or on the UNCG email chat.

Course Description

This course provides an overview of key trends and events in European history from the sixteenth century through the end of the twentieth century. We will address events including, but not limited to, the Protestant Reformation, exploration and colonization in the Americas, the Scientific Revolution, the Age of Enlightenment, political revolutions, the rise of industrialization, both World Wars, the Cold War, and the emergence of globalization. Although we will spend considerable time examining the prominent figures that helped shape these events and periods, we will also explore at the experiences of regular people who lived in these centuries to gain a fuller sense of how history was created and experienced.

Required Texts

Frankforter, A. Daniel and William M. Spellman. *The West: A Narrative History, Volume 2: 1400 to the Present*. Second Edition. Upper Saddle, NJ: Pearson Education, 2009.
ISBN: 9780136058229

Lualdi, Katharine J., ed. *Sources of the Making of the West, Volume 2, Since 1500*, 3rd edition. New York: Bedford/St. Martins, 2010. ISBN: 9780312646561

These are available in the bookstore and from various online retailers. You can also find electronic versions at <http://www.coursesmart.com/> (If you use this website, the ISBN you need for *The West* is 9780205652440 and for *Sources of the Making of the West* is 9780312544782.) In no way am I endorsing this website, but each semester students do use it and the ISBNs can be a bit confusing since they're different for the online versions.

Course Objectives

At the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- 1) Analyze primary source materials.
- 2) Analyze historical arguments.
- 3) Locate and evaluate scholarly journal articles on historical subjects.
- 4) Identify key themes and events present in the history of Europe from the sixteenth through twentieth centuries.
- 5) Formulate and defend arguments about historical events.

Course Format

This course meets exclusively online. There are no set meeting times. However, each week you will be required to submit assignments and complete quizzes by deadlines listed below in the course calendar. An internet connection is required to participate in the course.

Because of the nature of online courses, this class is considerably more self-directed than a traditional, face-to-face course. While you can complete the work around your own schedule, make sure that you set aside enough time each week to complete each assignment.

Assessment

13 Weekly Reading Responses – 3% each, total of 36%

(I will drop your lowest posting grade at the end of the semester, so it's 12 postings at 3% each.)

13 Weekly Reading Quizzes – 2% each, total of 24%

(I will drop your lowest quiz grade at the end of the semester, so it's 12 quizzes at 2% each.)

1 Article Analysis – 15%

1 Final Exam – 25%

Reading Responses

Each week you will read a chapter from *The West*, primary source readings from *Sources of the Making of the West*, and occasional additional sources. After completing all of the readings, you will answer a prompt posted on the Blackboard discussion board pertaining mainly to the primary source readings. **Make sure that you read the chapter in *The West* before completing the other assigned readings for relevant background information.**

Discussion board responses should be at least **250** words. (There is no word limit, but these postings aren't designed to dominate your week.) While discussion board postings are somewhat less formal than traditional papers, you should make sure that your responses are free from spelling errors and adhere to the basic mechanics of grammar. Strong responses will demonstrate familiarity with the week's assigned readings and will incorporate **specific examples** from the primary source readings. While you may find the italicized introductions to each source useful, be aware that you need to include examples from the document rather than from the intros.

I am looking for two things in your reading responses – that you have actually read the reading and that you have thought critically about it when attempting to answer the prompt. If you show me these two things and meet the minimum word count you will not fail the reading response, even if you completely miss the mark in answering the question. I know you are not experts on the material. Just make an honest effort at the work and you will pass. **If you ever have questions about the reading responses, ask me!** (Just do so with enough time for me to respond.)

Responses must be posted by 11:59 pm on the day they're due to be counted as on time. Although you are not required to, you may comment on the postings made by others in the class. Make sure that all comments are written in a respectful manner. It's ok to disagree with someone, but personal attacks will not be tolerated.

Late reading responses are penalized one letter grade for each day that they are late. This includes weekends and holidays.

Reading Quizzes

Every week you will also take a reading quiz composed of 10 questions, usually based on the chapter from *The West*. (I'll let you know in advance if the quiz is on other material.) These quizzes are open-note and open-book. Keep in mind that it is possible to fail an open-book quiz – make sure you read the material before attempting the quiz. You will have 30 from the time you launch the quiz to complete it. If you need to leave the quiz and return at a later time you can do so. Make sure, though, that you save your last response before leaving. You will not be able to go back and change any of your answers after they are saved.

Quizzes are available on Blackboard under the Weekly Quizzes tab. You have until 11:59 p.m. on the day they're due to complete them.

Except in extreme, documented emergencies, there are no opportunities to make up late reading quizzes.

Article Analysis

Because of the nature of this course, we must go through a lot of material at a very fast pace. The article analysis assignment allows you to investigate in more detail a topic of interest to you.

To complete this assignment:

- 1) Find a topic that interests you and that is relevant to the course. If you're unsure of a topic, you can also skim through your books for ideas. Just make sure that you pick something related to Western Civ that falls between 1500 and 1991.

(If you're unsure of whether or not your topic fits in this period, send me an email or try looking it up online. It's good to verify that your topic is relevant before you write a response that doesn't fit the course. I can also help you develop a topic if you're at a complete loss.

- 2) Find an **academic** article relevant to your topic. For this course, we want to learn what trained scholars have said about a particular subject. There is a Power Point available under Course Documents that will guide you through how to do this. If you still have questions about this, let me know. If you're unsure about whether or not you have a scholarly article, email me the citation and I'll look at it for you.
 - a. Websites like about.com, <http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk>, Wikipedia, etc. are **NOT** examples of academic sources.
 - b. You cannot pass the assignment if you do not locate an academic journal article. If you have questions about your article, ask me!**
- 3) Write a **550-800** word analysis of the article. In this analysis you need to include
 - a. A brief overview of the article, including the author's thesis (or main point he/she is trying to make).

- b. An examination of the sources that the author uses. Does he/she rely on primary, secondary, or a mix of sources? To locate your author's sources, look in the footnotes/endnotes of the article, as well as in any bibliographies/reference lists in the article.
 - c. Your own analysis of the article. Things to consider include:
 - i. How effectively does the author prove his/her point and support it?
 - ii. How did the article add to your understanding of Western Civilization?
 - iii. How useful is this article for students in a Western Civ survey course?
- 4) In terms of technical requirements for the assignment:
- a. Think of this as a formal essay. Make sure you organize it into paragraphs, proofread it, etc.
 - b. All direct quotes and/or paraphrases must be appropriately cited. For the purposes of this assignment, you can just provide the page number where you located the material
 - c. Provide a citation at the top of the first page for your article. You may use any citation style with which you are comfortable (MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.), but somewhere in the citation I need to know:
 - i. the author
 - ii. the title of the article
 - iii. the title of the journal in which it was located
 - iv. the volume (if available)
 - v. the number (if available)
 - vi. the year of publication
 - vii. the page numbers on which the article was located in the journal

An example of a citation in Chicago style:

Abreu-Ferreira, Darlene. "Terra Nova through the Iberian Looking Glass: The Portuguese Newfoundland Fishery in the Sixteenth-Century." *Canadian Historical Review* 79, no. 1 (Mar. 1998): 100-115.

Article analyses are due by 11:59 pm on **Friday, February 25**. Submit them on Blackboard under Assignments tab. Your papers will be scanned by SafeAssign, a program that checks for plagiarism. **When you do submit your paper, check "Submit as Draft."** Otherwise, SafeAssign will keep a copy of your paper on file.

All late work will be penalized one letter grade for each day it is late (including weekends and holidays).

Final Exam

You will complete a cumulative final exam in the form of an essay. You will be given a prompt on April 25, so that you have over a week to complete it. In order to answer the question, **you must incorporate the readings from the course** into your response. There is no need to conduct outside research and **YOU WILL BE PENALIZED** if you bring in sources other than the assigned readings. (This saves you time as you don't have to track down and evaluate other sources.) Do not panic about the cumulative nature of this exam. Remember that you can use all the readings, your Blackboard postings, and your notes as study aids. If you keep up with the readings, you will not have trouble on the final. Responses should be 800-1500 words.

The final exam must be submitted by 11:59 pm on **Wednesday, May 4**. **NO LATE EXAMS WILL BE ACCEPTED**. Plan accordingly.

When writing your response bear in mind that the prompt will ask you to form your own argument about a particular issue and support it with specific examples from the readings. Make sure that you organize your written response into paragraphs. Your paper will be stronger if you include a thesis statement in your introduction outlining what you intend to argue in the body of the paper. Each supporting paragraph should also have its own topic sentence. This helps with the flow of your paper and also keeps you organized and on track.

Although you are using sources assigned in the class, you must make sure that you appropriately cite all materials that you use. You are not required to give full citations, but you do need to provide the author's last name and the page number where you located the material. You may use either parenthetical citations or footnotes to do this. Since you are using only the assigned readings, no works cited/bibliography page is required.

All exams must be submitted through SafeAssign on Blackboard under the Assignments tab. (Remember to save as a draft or SafeAssign will keep a copy of your paper.) **To avoid technical difficulties, make sure your paper is saved in either a .rtf or .doc format.** Your exams will be evaluated in terms of overall clarity, the strength of your argument, your use of available sources and your compliance with the requirements for the exam (word count, citations, etc.).

Proofreading

Make sure you proofread all of your work, including Blackboard postings, before submitting it. Substantial grammatical/spelling/typographical errors will result in a deduction of points from all work.

Grading Scale

A+ (97-100), A (93-96), A- (90-92), B+ (87-89), B (83-86), B- (80-82), C+ (77-79), C (73-76), C- (70-72), D+ (67-69), D (63-66), D- (60-62), F (0-59)

Grade Posting

All grades will be posted on Blackboard. You can find your grades by clicking on the Tools tab. I'll send out announcements letting you know when I've finished grading a particular assignment. Reading quizzes are graded automatically and will post upon completion.

Due Dates and Late Work

All due dates are listed at the end of the syllabus in the course calendar. You have until 11:59 pm on the due date to submit your assignments. **Late assignments will be penalized 10 points for each day that they are late, including weekend days. Unless you have a documented emergency, there are NO EXCEPTIONS to this policy. Remember that there are no make-up opportunities for missed reading quizzes.**

After May 4, no late work will be accepted. Plan accordingly.

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

For this and all of your other classes, make sure you are familiar with UNCG's Academic Integrity Policy, located at <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu>.

Plagiarism on all written assignments will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. There will be no opportunities to make up plagiarized assignments and I will notify UNCG's Office of Academic Integrity of all infractions. **Plagiarism includes not only cutting and pasting text without giving credit to the original source of the information, but also presenting someone else's ideas as your own, even if you don't use their exact words.** Cite often.

A useful citation guide can be found at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/01/>.

Multiple instances of cheating and plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the course.

Email

Throughout the semester, I will contact you via your UNCG email account. It is imperative that you check these accounts regularly so that you do not miss out on important information from this class, as well as from your other classes and university announcements. This is also how all graded work will be returned to you. Because of how Blackboard is set up, I cannot use any other email address except the one issued to you by the university.

If you need to contact me by email, either go through Blackboard or use the address listed at the top of the first page (enthomps@uncg.edu). Bear in mind that if you search for me in the UNCG directory, the Natasha Thompson you may find is not me and she will not return your emails. (It's a very long, very complex story.)

I check my email regularly on all days except Saturday. If you send an email by 5 pm Sunday through Friday, I will be back in touch with you within 24 hours. If you send an email after 5 on Friday or at any time on Saturday, the earliest I will respond is on Sunday. If a couple of days have passed from when you sent the message and I have not responded, go on and send your message again.

If you have any questions about the course, including due dates, clarification of reading response prompts, requirements for assignments, etc., email me about them. I'm more than happy to help you.

Finally...

If you encounter any problems or special circumstances during the semester, contact me as soon as possible. It will be much easier for us to work on solutions the earlier I know about your situation.

I will try my best to adhere to the policies and schedule listed in the semester. However, I reserve the right to make changes in the event that circumstances warrant them.

Course Calendar

Unless otherwise noted, all page numbers refer to *Sources of Making of the West*.

Unit 1 – Early Modern Europe

Week 1 – 1/10-1/16 – Introduction to the Course and the West

Readings: “Introduction” pages xli-xlvii of *The West* or under Other Readings on Blackboard
“Using Sources to Study the Past” (Located under Other Readings on Blackboard)
“Hemispheres Colliding” (Located under Other Readings on Blackboard)

Due: Introduction Post (on the Discussion Board) – 1/13

Week 1 Blackboard Posting – 1/16

Week 1 Reading Quiz – 1/16

Week 2 – 1/17-1/23 – The Reformation

Jan. 17 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – University Closed

Readings: Chapter 13 in *The West*
Martin Luther, “Freedom of a Christian” – pg. 24-26
John Calvin, “Articles Concern Predestination” & “The Necessity of Reforming the Church” – pg. 26-28
St. Ignatius of Loyola, “A New Kind of Catholicism” – pg. 28-31

Due: Week 2 Blackboard Posting – 1/23

Week 2 Reading Quiz – 1/23

Week 3 – 1/24-1/30 – The Changing Nature of Government

Readings: Chapter 14 in *The West*
Ludwig Fabritius, “The Revolt of Stenka Razin” – pg. 62-65
“A True and Exact Relation of the Raising of the Siege of Vienna” – pg. 65-68

Due: Week 3 Blackboard Posting – 1/30

Week 3 Reading Quiz – 1/30

Week 4 – 1/31-2/6 – The Scientific Revolution

Readings: Chapter 15 in *The West*
Thomas Hobbes, Excerpt from *Leviathan* – pg. 53-59
John Locke, Excerpt from *The Second Treatise of Government* – pg. 59-62

Due: Week 4 Blackboard Posting – 2/6

Week 4 Reading Quiz – 2/6

Week 5 – 2/7-2/13 – The Age of Enlightenment

Readings: Chapter 16 in *The West*
Montesquieu, “Persian Letters: Letter 37” – pg. 85-86
Mary Astell, “Reflections upon Marriage” – pg. 87-91
Jacques-Louis Menetra, “Journal of My Life” – pg. 95-97
Cesare Beccaria, “On Crimes and Punishments,” 97-100

Due: Week 5 Blackboard Posting – 2/13

Week 5 Reading Quiz – 2/13

Week 6 – 2/14-2/20 – Revolutions in the Americas and France

Readings: Chapter 17 in *The West*
The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen – pg. 113-115
Olympe de Gouges, “Letters on the Trial” – pg. 119-122
Toussaint L’Overture, “Revolution in the Colonies” – pg. 123-124

Due: Week 6 Blackboard Posting – 2/20
Week 6 Reading Quiz – 2/20

Unit 2 – The Nineteenth Century

Week 7 – 2/21-2/27 – The Industrial Revolution

Readings: Chapter 18 in *The West*
“Factory Rules in Berlin” – pg. 143-146
Sarah Stickney Ellis, “Characteristics of the Women of England” – pg. 146-149
Friedrich Engels, “Draft of a Communist Confession of Faith” – pg. 150-154

Due: Article Analysis – 2/25
Week 7 Blackboard Posting – 2/27
Week 7 Reading Quiz – 2/27

Week 8 – 2/28-3/4 – Consolidation, Unification, and the Growth of Nationalism

Last Day to Withdraw without Academic Penalty – 3/4

Readings: Chapter **20 to page 571** in *The West*
Camillo di Cavour, “Letter to King Victor Emmanuel” – pg. 163-165
Rudolf von Ihering, “Two Letters” – pg. 165-167

Due: You have no assignments due this week but you are responsible for knowing this material for the final exam.

Week 9 – 3/5-3/13 – Spring Break!

Week 10 – 3/14-3/20 – The Age of Ideology

Readings: Chapter **19 and pages 571-573** in *The West*
John Keats, “Letter to Benjamin Bailey” – pg. 136-137
Mary Shelley, Excerpt from *Frankenstein* – pg. 137-141

Due: Week 10 Blackboard Posting – 3/20
Week 10 Reading Quiz – 3/20

Week 11 – 3/21-3/27 – Nineteenth Century Imperialism

Readings: Chapter 21 in *The West*
Jules Ferry, “Speech Before the French National Assembly” – pg. 173-177
“The White Man’s Burden” and “Editorial from the *San Francisco Call*” – pg. 177-180
Ernest Edwin Williams, “Made in Germany” – pg. 181-185

Due: Week 11 Blackboard Posting – 3/27
Week 11 Reading Quiz – 3/27

Unit 3 – Contemporary Europe

Week 12 – 3/28-4/3 – World War I

Readings: Chapter 22 in *The West*
Fritz Franke and Siegfried Sassoon, “Two Soldiers’ Views” – pg. 211-214
L. Doriat, “Women on the Homefront” – pg. 214-216

Due: Week 12 Blackboard Posting – 4/3
Week 12 Reading Quiz – 4/3

Week 13 – 4/4-4/10 – The Interwar Years

Readings: Chapter 23 in *The West*
Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, “Letter to Nikolai Aleksandrovich Rozhkov” – pg. 217-218
Benito Mussolini – “The Doctrine of Fascism” – pg. 218-223
Adolf Hitler, Excerpt from *Mein Kampf* – pg. 223-225

Due: Week 13 Blackboard Posting – 4/10
Week 13 Reading Quiz – 4/10

Week 14 – 4/11-4/17 – World War II

Readings: Chapter 24 in *The West*
“Estimate of the Enemy Situation” – Under Other Readings on Blackboard
“Japanese Peace Feelers” – Under Other Readings on Blackboard
Michihiko Hachiya, “Hiroshima Diary” – pg. 241-245

Due: Week 14 Blackboard Posting – 4/17
Week 14 Reading Quiz – 4/17

Week 15 – 4/18-4/25 – Decolonization and the Cold War

April 22 – Spring Holiday – University Closed

Readings: Chapter 25 and **pages 716-723** in *The West*
“*Glasnost* and the Soviet Press” – pg. 277-282

Due: Week 15 Blackboard Posting – 4/25
Week 15 Reading Quiz – 4/25

Final Exam: Due Wednesday, 5/4 by 11:59 pm