

## Course Syllabus

HIS-222: Europe, 1450-1789

Spring 2016

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Welcome to HIS 222. This course is a survey of the major socio-economic, political, and cultural trends in Europe from the Renaissance to the French Revolution. Because this is an online course covering a large amount of material, you will be required to complete a large quantity of independent readings, and submit your reflections on these readings.

### Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:

#### Students will:

- Develop an understanding of the major socio-economic, cultural, and political trends in Europe from 1450-1789.
- Develop and utilize such “historical thinking skills” as analyzing change over time, causality, and the impact of human agency on events and developments.
- Develop original arguments using historical evidence.
- Analyze primary source documents for context, bias, and significance.

**Course Text:** Merry Wiesner-Hanks, *Early Modern Europe, 1450-1789* (second ed.) This book can be ordered from the University Bookstore or other online retailers—just make sure you order the second edition. Other readings accessible online.

**Reading Assignments:** Reading Assignments will be completed and submitted through Blackboard. They are, in short, five guided reading questions that you should answer either as you read the assigned chapter or after you have finished. They are not focused on details or facts, but rather the broad themes of the readings. The type of answer will depend, to some extent, on the question, but generally speaking, answers should:

- Be in your own words
- Provide specific examples from the text to support your answer
- Be no more than a paragraph long

**Midterm:** Your midterm exam will consist of several short answer questions and one essay. Together, they assess your understanding of material from Part I (1450-1600). The midterm will be assigned about ten days ahead of time, and will be due on March 4 (the Friday before spring break).

**Primary Source Activities:** Historians learn much of what we know about the past by studying primary source documents. During the class (once during the first half and once during the second,) you will complete two primary source activities that require you to analyze a set of topically-specific primary source documents. These activities will give you a taste of the sort of information that can be gleaned

from primary source documents, and will, like the reading assignments, require you to provide short answers to a series of questions.

**Final:** The final, which assesses your understanding of Part II, will be identical to the midterm except that it will include an additional cumulative essay. It will be assigned on the week beginning April 25. Due date TBA, likely May 2.

**Reading Assignments:** With a couple of exceptions, indicated below, all readings for these assignments are drawn from the course text (Wiesner-Hanks, *Early Modern Europe*). As indicated above, you will read each chapter and submit answers to questions posted in the assignments section on Canvas. You will find assignments posted Sunday evening or Monday morning of each week under "Assignments" on the course Canvas site.

**Plan of Study:** The following is a plan of study, including due dates, for the semester. Please note that I reserve the right to make minor changes in this plan as I deem necessary.

### **Part One (1450-1600)**

Jan. 11-15

Introduction: Wiesner-Hanks, pp. 1-5; Peter Stearns, "Why Study History" at <https://www.historians.org/about-aha-and-membership/aha-history-and-archives/archives/why-study-history-%281998%29> (Links to an external site.)

Jan. 18-22

*Reading Assignment #1:* Chapter 1, Wiesner-Hanks, Europe in the World of 1450

Jan 25-29

*Reading Assignment #2:* Chapter 2, Wiesner-Hanks, Individuals in Society, 1450-1600

*Feb 1-5*

*Reading Assignment #3:* Chapter 3, Politics and Power

*Feb. 8-12*

*Reading Assignment #4:* Chapter 4, Cultural and Intellectual Life  
*PRIMARY SOURCE ASSIGNMENT #1*

*Feb. 15-19*

*Reading Assignment #5:* Chapter 5, Religious Reform and Consolidation

*Feb. 22-26*

*Reading Assignment #6:* Chapter 6&7, Economics and Technology/Europe in the World

Feb. 29-Mar. 4

MIDTERM EXAM

### **Part Two (1600-1789)**

*Mar. 7-Mar. 11*

*SPRING BREAK*

*Mar. 14-Mar. 18*

*Reading Assignment #7: Chapter 8, Individuals in Society, 1600-1789*

*Mar. 21-25*

*Reading Assignment #8: Chapter 9, Politics and Power, 1600-1789*

*Mar. 28-Apr. 1*

*Reading Assignment #9: Chapter 10, Cultural and Intellectual Life*

*PRIMARY SOURCE ASSIGNMENT #2*

*Apr. 4-8*

*Reading Assignment #10: Chapter 11, Religious Consolidation and Renewal*

*Apr. 11-15*

*Reading Assignment #11: Chapter 12, Economics and Technology, 1600-1789*

*Apr. 18-21*

*Reading Assignment #12: Chapter 13, Europe in the World, 1600-1789*

**GRADING:**

This course will employ a total points system, as explained below:

Reading Assignments: 10 pts each (for a total of 130 pts)

Midterm Exam: 70 pts

Primary Source Activities: 25 pts each (for a total of 50 pts)

Final Exam: 100 pts

**Total points: 350**

**Academic Integrity:** Please see the Dean of Students site for a brief outline of what constitutes a breach of academic integrity. If you have any questions, please ask. <http://sa.uncg.edu/dean/academic-integrity/>

**Canvas:** This course is solely administered through Canvas, so it is important that you have a working knowledge of the platform. If you have any questions please contact me AFTER you have consulted the Help and tutorial features on Canvas. It is ultimately your responsibility to familiarize yourself with Canvas.