

University of Wisconsin  
Semester I, 1990-1991  
HISTORY 119: THE MAKING OF MODERN EUROPE, 1500-1815

Prof. Desan  
5124 Humanities

READING:

TEXTBOOK: Chambers, Grew, Herlihy, et al., The Western Experience, The Early Modern Period, vol 2.  
Machiavelli, The Prince  
Montesquieu, The Persian Letters.

Kinko's Reader: There is also a xeroxed Reader of documents and articles available at Kinko's at 620 University Avenue. The books are available in paperback at the University Book Store and at Brown's Books. The Reader and all the books are required.

This course will introduce you to the major social, intellectual, political, and religious developments in Europe from the Renaissance to the fall of Napoleon. We will focus on the lives of everyday people as well as on the most important events and cultural trends in European history.

There will be three lectures and one discussion section per week. You will be expected to attend both lecture and section and to participate in discussion section. You should complete the weekly reading assignments before section each week. There will be one two-hour final exam and two one-hour exams. If you wish to take this course for four credits, you will also be required to write a term paper on a topic chosen by you in consultation with the T. A. or with me. Final grades will be based on the final exam, the hour-exams, and section participation (and the paper in the case of four-credit students.)

I will also show the film The Return of Martin Guerre during the course of the semester.

Week 1 (September 5-7): INTRODUCTION  
Reading: TEXT, Chapter 11

Week 2 (September 10-14): THE RENAISSANCE  
Reading: TEXT, Chapter 12  
R1 (i.e. Reader 1): Sources: Petrarch, Bruni, Pico, da Vinci  
Machiavelli, The Prince, pp. 29-98 (Letter & Chs. 1-18)

Week 3 (September 17-21): THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION  
Reading: TEXT, Chapter 14  
Machiavelli, The Prince, pp. 99-138 (Chs. 19-26)  
R2: Excerpt from Thomas More, Utopia  
R3: Excerpts from Erasmus, Luther, Calvin

Week 4 (September 24-28): REFORMATION AND RESPONSE  
Reading: R4, M. Weisner, "Women's Response to the Reformation"  
R5, Keith Thomas, Religion and the Decline of Magic, Ch. 3  
R6, Loyola, Excerpts on Politics and on Catholic Response

Week 5 (October 1-5): EVERYDAY LIFE OF THE PEASANTRY  
Reading: TEXT, Chapter 13

Week 6 (October 8-12): OVERSEAS EXPANSION & EXAM  
\*HOOR EXAM, Friday, October 12  
No Reading

Week 7 (October 15-19): WITCHCRAFT & THE ENGLISH REVOLUTION  
Reading: TEXT, Chapter 15  
R7, Documents on Images of Women  
R8, Christopher Hill, The English Revolution 1640: An Essay  
R9, G. Trevelyan, from England under the Stuarts

Week 8 (October 22-26): 17TH-C. CRISIS & SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTION  
Reading: TEXT, Chapter 16  
R10, "The Crime of Galileo"  
R11, Francis Bacon

Week 9 (October 29-November 2): THE AGE OF ABSOLUTISM  
Reading: TEXT, Chapter 17  
R12, "Louis XIV, The Sun King"  
R13, Bossuet  
R14, "Peter the Great"

Week 10 (November 5-9): EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY SOCIAL HISTORY  
Reading: TEXT, Chapter 18  
R15, Jeffrey Kaplow, The Names of Kings, 126-70  
R16, Isabel de Madariaga, "The Revolt of the Cossacks and  
the Peasant War in Russia"  
R17, Sebastian Haffner, "Prussia and Frederick the Great"

Week 11 (November 12-16): 18TH-CENTURY POWER STRUGGLES & EXAM  
No reading  
\*HOOR EXAM, Friday, November 16

Week 12 (November 19-21): ORIGINS OF THE ENLIGHTENMENT  
Reading: TEXT, Chapter 19  
R18, Encyclopedia Excerpt  
Begin Montesquieu, The Persian Letters, pages to be  
announced

Week 13 (November 26-30): THE ENLIGHTENMENT & POLITICS  
Reading: TEXT, Chapter 20  
Finish Montesquieu, selected pages  
R19, Sources on French Revolution

Week 14 (December 3-7): THE INDUSTRIAL AND FRENCH REVOLUTIONS

Reading: TEXT, Chapter 21

R20, More sources on French Revolution

Week 15 (December 10-14): NAPOLEONIC EUROPE

No reading

FINAL EXAM