

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History

History 119: The Making of Modern Europe, 1500-1815

Spring 2013: MWF, 9:55-10:45 AM, Humanities 1121

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Course Description:

The goal of this course is to introduce students to the main trends of European history from 1500 to 1815. This course will help students analyze not only the political but also the social, cultural, and intellectual history of early-modern Europe. Ideally, this course will introduce students to the main contours of European history, and familiarize them with the processes of historical change as well.

Students are responsible for lecture content, which is keyed in part to text and readings but which also contains new material. No lecture notes or outlines are posted online. Students are expected to attend all lectures and take notes. Feel free to use laptop computers to take notes, but please refrain from looking at the internet in class. Each week, students must submit a short written response (100-150 words) to the assigned reading and a discussion question to their TA at the beginning of their discussion section. Your TA will e-mail you a question on the next week's reading each Friday. During the course of the semester, you may skip one weekly response and discussion without negatively affecting your grade. Students will complete two take-home midterm exams (due March 15, April 26) and a take a cumulative in-class final exam (May 14). Students are urged to familiarize themselves with the rules and guidelines concerning plagiarism. Cases of plagiarism and cheating will be dealt with severely.

Late Policy: Take-home exams may be turned in late, but I will take off one letter grade for each day they are overdue. Weekly responses may not be turned in late.

Required Reading:

All required books are available for purchase at the University bookstore and on 3-hour reserve at Helen C. White Library. Additional readings will be available on library e-reserve or at Learn@UW.

(Textbook) Brian Levack *et al.* *The West: Encounters and Transformations*. Volume B. 2nd

edition. Pearson Education, Inc. 2007.

Carlo Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms: The Cosmos of a Sixteenth-Century Miller*.
Translated by John Tedeschi and Anne Tedeschi. Johns Hopkins University Press,
1992.

Niccoló Machiavelli, *The Prince*. Edited and Translated by David Wootton. Indianapolis:
Hackett Publishing, 1995.

Voltaire, *Candide*. Translated by John Butt. London: Penguin Books, 1947.

Final Grade Breakdown:

First Midterm-20%

Second Midterm-20%

Final Exam-30%

Discussion Participation and Weekly Response Essays-30%

Course Schedule:

Week 1: Jan. 23, 25-Introduction

Reading for Lecture: Brian Levack, “What is the West?” In *The West: Encounters and Transformations*, 2-9.

1. Course Introduction
2. Background: Europe in 1500

NO DISCUSSION

Week 2: Jan. 28, 30, Feb. 1-The Italian Renaissance

Reading for Lecture: Levack, Chapter 12, “The Italian Renaissance and Beyond: The Politics of Culture.”

3. Background to the Renaissance
4. Florence and Renaissance Politics
5. Intellectual and Cultural Transformations

Reading for Discussion: Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*.

Week 3: Feb. 4, 6, 8-New Politics and Overseas Encounters

Reading for Lecture: Levack, Chapter 13, “The West and the World: The Significance of Global Encounters, 1450-1650.”

6. New European State Systems
7. European Exploration of the New World
8. The Colombian Exchange

Reading for Discussion: Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs, and Steel*. Chapter 11, “Lethal Gift of Livestock.” (e-reserve)

Week 4: Feb. 11, 13, 15- Religious Reformation

Reading for Lecture: Levack, Chapter 14, “The Reformations of Religion.”

9. The Lutheran Reformation
10. Zwingli and Calvin
11. Politics and Reformation-Henry VIII’s England

Reading for Discussion: Martin Luther, *The Babylonian Captivity of the Church*. (e-reserve)
John Calvin, “Of Justification by Faith: Both the Name and Reality Defined.” In *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. (e-reserve)

Week 5: Feb. 18, 20, 22-Confessional Division: Society and Politics

Reading for Lecture: Levack, Chapter 15, “The Age of Confessional Division.”

12. The Catholic Reformation
13. Sixteenth-Century Society and Economy
14. Witchcraft and Heresy

Reading for Discussion: Carlo Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms*, pp. vi-65.

Week 6: Feb. 25, 27, March 1-Confessional Division: Society and Politics, Part II.

Reading for Lecutre: Levack, Chapter 15, “The Age of Confessional Division.”

15. Wars of Religion

16. Politics and Culture: Elizabethan England

17. The Thirty Years' War

Reading for Discussion: Carlo Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms*, pp. 65-128.

Week 7: March 4, 6, 8-Seventeenth-Century Politics and Society, Part I

Reading for Lecture: Levack, Chapter 16, "Absolutism and State Building, 1618-1715."

18. The English Civil War (**Questions for First Midterm Handed Out**)

19. Absolutism in France: Louis XIV

20. State Building in Spain and Prussia.

Reading for Discussion: Thomas Hobbes, *The Leviathan*. Chapters 17-18 (e-reserve) John Locke, *Two Treatises on Government*. Excerpts (e-reserve)

Week 8: March 11, 13, 15-Seventeenth-Century Politics and Society: Part II

Reading for Lecture: Levack, Chapter 15, "Absolutism and State Building, 1618-1715."

21. Stuart England and the Glorious Revolution

22. The Scientific Revolution

23. The Scientific Revolution and Religious Thought (**First Midterm Exam Due: March 15**)

Reading for Discussion: Francis Bacon, *Novum Organum*, "The Author's Preface." (e-reserve)
John Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration*. (e-reserve)

Week 9: March 18, 20, 22- Late-Seventeenth and Early-Eighteenth Century Politics and Society

24. Jewish Life in Europe, Part I

25. Jewish Life in Europe, Part II

26. The Growth of State Power

Reading for Discussion: Glückel of Hameln. *Memoirs of Glückel of Hameln*. Excerpts (e-reserve).

SPRING BREAK: March 23-31

Week 10: April 1, 3, 5-War and Empire

Reading for Lecture: Levack, Chapter 18, “The West and the World: Empire, Trade, and War, 1650-1815.”

- 27. European Empires
- 28. Anglo-French Rivalry
- 29. The Atlantic Slave Trade

Reading for Discussion: John Brewer, *The Sinews of Power*. Chapter 5, “The Paradoxes of State Power. (e-reserve)

Week 11: April 8, 10, 12- Eighteenth-Century Society and Culture

Reading for Lecture: Levack, Chapter 19, “Eighteenth-Century Society and Culture.”

- 30. Class and Conflict in the Eighteenth Century
- 31. Leisure and Consumption
- 32. Religious Life in the Eighteenth Century

Reading for Discussion: J. H. Plumb, “The Commercialization of Leisure.” In *The Birth of Consumer Society: The Commercialization of Eighteenth-Century England*. Indiana University Press, 1982. 265-285. (e-reserve)

Week 12: April 15, 17, 19-The Enlightenment

Reading for Lecture: Levack, Chapter 19, “Eighteenth-Century Society and Culture.”

- 33. The Enlightenment (**Questions for Second Midterm Handed Out**)
- 34. The Religious Enlightenment
- 35. Politics and the Enlightenment

Reading for Discussion: Voltaire, *Candide*.

Week 13: April 22, 24, 26-The Crisis of Empire

Reading for Lecture: Levack, Chapter 18, “The West and the World: Empire, Trade, and War.”

36. European Empires by the Late-Eighteenth Century

37. Atlantic Revolutions

38. France and the Coming of Revolution (**Second Midterm Due: April 26**)

For Discussion: Roland Joffé, "The Mission." (film)

Week 14: April 29, May 1, 3-The French Revolution

Reading for Lecture: Levack, Chapter 20, "The Age of the French Revolution, 1789-1815."

39. The French Revolution, Part I

40. The French Revolution, Part II

41. Revolution and War

Reading for Discussion: Emmanuel Joseph Sieyès, "What is the Third Estate?" (e-reserve),
"Declaration of the Rights of Man" (Learn@UW).

Week 15: May 6, 8, 10-War and Napoleon

Reading for Lecture: Levack, Chapter 20, "The Age of the French Revolution, 1789-1815."

42. War, Popular Culture, and the British State

43. The Napoleonic Wars

44. Europe in 1815

Discussion: Exam Review

Final Exam : May 14