

History 2040 (AU HIS314): European History since the Renaissance
Grande Prairie Regional College
(6 Credits)

Fall/Winter, 1999-2000

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Introduction:

This course surveys the political, economic, social and cultural history of the European people during the last five centuries. In the first term the class will trace European developments from the Renaissance and Reformation periods to the Age of Revolution. In the second term students will probe the development of industrialized mass democracy and the imperialism and nationalism which culminated in the great Twentieth Century wars. The course concludes with a study of the new Europe which has risen from the ashes of 1945. To complete the course successfully, students will write one brief critical essay and a Christmas examination in first term, one research paper and final examination in the next.

Texts: (Available at GPRC Bookstore)

Kagan, Ozment and Turner, The Western Heritage: since 1300.
Prentice-Hall, 1998. (Heritage)

Dennis Sherman, Ed. Western Civilization: Images and Interpretations -- From the Renaissance to the Present.
McGraw-Hill, 1998 (3rd Edition) (Civilization)

ON LIBRARY RESERVE: Golden, Richard. Social History of Western Civilization. Volume II, St. Martin's, 1992. (SHWC)

Course Outline:

Week One: Sept. 9, 1999: Beginnings
Course Introduction -- The Survivors

Week Two: Renaissance Roots
Sept. 14: The Ancient Heritage
Medieval Society and Government
READ: Heritage, Introduction.
Sept. 16: Crisis and Conflict
READ: Heritage, Chapter 9

Week Three: Renaissance: Society and Culture
Sept 21: Society and Culture
READ: Heritage, Chapter 10
Sept 23: The Arts

- Week Four: Renaissance: Statecraft and Thought
 Sept 28: The Prince and the Republic in Tension
 Sept 30: Renaissance Humanism: The Debate
 READ Civilization, Chapter 1
- Week Five: The Reformations
 Oct 5: Protestant and Roman Catholic
 READ: Heritage, Chapter 11
 Oct 7: Battle of Beliefs
 READ: Civilization, pp. 25-46.
- Week Six: Societies Militant
 Oct 12: Sixteenth Century Society
 READ: SHWC, pp.1-27 RESERVE
 Oct 14: Militant Theologians
 SEMINAR: READ Introduction to Contemporary Civilization in the West, 3rd Edition, Vol. 1, pp. 629-646, 700-712, 717-730; 740-751, 767-776 (RESERVE)
- Week Seven: War and Crisis
 Oct 19: Religious Fury
 READ: Heritage, Chapter 12
 Oct 21: Crisis
 READ: Civilization, pp. 53-86.
- Week Eight: Age of Kings
 Oct 26: Constitutionalism
 READ: Heritage, Chapter 13
 Oct 28: The French royal crisis.
- Week Nine: The Scientific and Commercial Revolutions
 Nov 2: Absolutism
 READ: Heritage, Chapter 14; Civilization, pp. 87-100
 Nov 5: Scientific Revolutions
 SEMINAR: READ Civilization, pp. 102-113.
- Week Ten: Enlightened Despotism
 Nov 9: The Conduct of the Kings
 READ: Heritage, Chapters 15, 17, Civilization, pp. 114-131.
- Week Eleven: The Enlightenment
 Nov 16: Society and Thought
 READ: Heritage, Chapter 16, 18
 Nov 18: The Smile of Reason
 SEMINAR: READ Civilization, Chapter 8, SHWC, pp. 28-105
 RESERVE
- Week Twelve: Age of Revolution
 Nov 23: Crisis of the Ancien Regime
 READ: Heritage, Chapter 19
 Nov 25: A New Age of Man
 SEMINAR: READ Civilization, Chapter 9; SHWC, pp. 106-117
 RESERVE.

- Week Thirteen: Personalities and Principles
 Nov 30/Dec 2: Terror and Tyranny in a World in Chaos (Film)
- Week Fourteen: Napoleon - For and Against
 Dec 6: Napoleon: Conflicting Interpretations
 READ: Heritage, Chapter 20.
 Dec 8: Thursday -The Twenty-Five Years' War.
 READ: Civilization, Chapter 10

NB: Christmas Test: To Be Announced

Term Two

- Week One: After the Deluge: Conservatism, Romanticism and Reform
 4 Jan: Politics and Ideas
 READ: Heritage, Chapter 21
 6 Jan: SEMINAR: READ Civilization, Chapter 12
- Week Two: Another Revolution
 11 Jan: Dark Satanic Mills
 READ: Heritage, Chapter 22
 13 Jan: SEMINAR: READ Civilization, Chapter 11
- Week Three: - To the Barricades!
 18 Jan: 1848 - The Revolutionary Cycle
 READ: Heritage, Chapt 22.
 20 Jan: Classes and Masses
 SEMINAR: READ SWHC, pp. 119-170. RESERVE
- Week Four: Classes and Nations
 25 Jan: Mid-Century Nationalism and Liberalism
 READ: Civilization, pp. 240-248, 260-261
 27 Jan: Wars of the Nations
 READ: Heritage, Chapt 23.
- Week Five: The Age of Progress
 1 Feb: Machines or People
 READ: Heritage, Chapters 24-25 SWHC, pp. 171-201, 215-228. RESERVE
 3 Feb: Cultures of Despair or Hope?
 SEMINAR: READ Civilization, Chapter 14.
- Week Six: Empire and War
 8 Feb: Imperialism
 READ: Heritage, Chapter 26
Civilization, pp. 249-257, 261-266; SWHC, pp. 229-245. RESERVE
 10 Feb: Slaughter
 READ: Civilization, pp. 296-304, 308-310, 313-319

Week Seven: War and Revolution

- 15 Feb: 1917 and its Aftermath
READ: Heritage, Chapter 27; Civilization,
pp. 304-309, 311-312, 319-321.
17 Feb: Why Lenin, Why Stalin?
READ: SHWC, pp. 202-214 RESERVE

Winter Break: February 21-25

Week Eight: Democracy and Depression

- 29 Feb: Disorder
READ: Heritage, Chapter 28
2 March: Disaster
SEMINAR: READ Civilization, Chapter 16;
SHWC, pp. 245-257 RESERVE

Week Nine: Totalitarianism

- 7 March: Italian, German and Russian Variants
READ: SHWC, pp. 257-264 RESERVE
9 March: The True Face of Tyranny
SEMINAR: READ Civilization, Chapter 17;
SHWC, pp. 264-274. RESERVE

Week Ten: Ordeal of Total War

- 14 March: Survival and Turning Points
READ: Heritage, Chapter 29
16 March: Hitler's Legacy

Week Eleven: Occupied Europe

- 21 March: Cold Warriors
READ: Heritage, Chapter 30.
23 March: Colonialism and Internationalism
SEMINAR: READ Civilization, Chapter 18

Week Twelve: Europe Restored, Again

- 28 March: Turbulence, Alarms and Dissidence
30 March: The New Europe
READ: Heritage, Chapter 31

Week Thirteen: Present Perspectives

- 4 April: READ: Civilization, Chapter 19.
6 April: European Prospects
READ: SHWC, pp. 275-309. RESERVE

Final Exam: To Be Marked by G.P.R.C. Instructor

Course Format and Philosophy:

The course consists of two lecture-discussions each week. The lectures will identify and discuss the most significant events and issues of the week and also serve as guides to the texts. Discussions with the class will cover both primary source selections and the approaches taken by historians to the topics as well as the issues raised by the events covered in each session. The tests will be short answer in nature, while the examination will consist of essay-type questions. Because debate, discussion and critical analysis are essential to university education, an attendance and participation mark will be given, which measures class appearance and contribution to discussions. All essay topics must be approved by me before final submission. Late assignments will be penalized 20% each day they are overdue, UNLESS special permission is secured from me in advance. Any students having difficulty with their assignments or with the course in general are encouraged to see me as soon as possible -- after class, by contacting me in the office or calling me at home (between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. please!) at 539-5787. Or use e-mail; I am always willing to help in any way I can.

Marking Scheme:

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| First Essay (eight pages) | 15 |
| Christmas Test | 25 |
| Second Essay (twelve pages) | 20 |
| Attendance and Participation | 10 |
| Final Exam | 30 |
| ----- | |
| | 100 % |

Essay Assignment: Term One

Topic: What was the essence of Renaissance Humanism? Is it the same as modern Humanism? Using the course textbooks and some of the materials in the LRC-Library, outline and evaluate the distinctive characteristics of Renaissance Humanism. Your essay must not be more than eight to ten double spaced (typed or word-processed) pages. Your paper must have a thesis and follow correct MLA format for footnotes and bibliography. The following readings, for example, are found in our library. You should consult at least ONE, and preferably TWO, to complete your research:

1. Paul Oscar Kristeller, Renaissance Thought and its Sources, or his Renaissance Thought and the Arts (RESERVE) at Library checkout desk.

2. Relevant articles from The Dictionary of the History of Ideas, found in the REFERENCE section of the Library.

3. Relevant articles from The Encyclopedia of Philosophy, also found in the REFERENCE section of the Library.

4. Copies of The Humanist, in Library Periodicals (look in the back issues stacks, as we no longer carry the current edition).

Worth: 15%

Due: Negotiate with Instructor