

WESTERN CIVILIZATION II

History 111
TTh 11:00-12:15

Sarah Curtis
Fall 2011

This course surveys the history of Europe and the West from approximately 1500 to the present. We will spend about a third of the course examining the early modern period up to the French Revolution, about a third on the period between the French Revolution and the First World War, and the remaining third on the 20th century. Although the course takes a balanced approach, we will focus somewhat more on social and cultural history than diplomatic, military, or political history.

Due to the large enrollment in this course, it will be primarily a lecture course, but I welcome questions and comments during class.

Learning objectives:

- understand the role of Europe in the history of the world since 1500
- learn how historians use sources to make history
- learn how to craft and support a historical argument

Reading:

The textbook for this course is Lynn Hunt, et al, *The Making of the West: Peoples and Cultures*, vol. II, 3rd edition. There is also a documents reader, Merry Wiesner, et al, *Discovering the Western Past: A Look at the Evidence*, vol II, 6th edition. These books are available for purchase at the bookstore. If you choose to purchase them elsewhere, please make sure they are the same editions.

The reading should be done in the same week that it is assigned. The purpose of the textbook reading is to reinforce the lecture material but also to give you more detail and perspective than I can possibly cover in class. The documents reader is designed to provide you with primary sources in history that illuminate the lecture material; we will discuss some of these documents in class, they will be included in the exams, and you will have one written assignment based on them.

Requirements:

You should attend class regularly and take careful notes of the lecture material. There is a direct correlation between students who do not attend class and poor grades. If you have to miss an occasional class, ask one of your classmates if you can borrow their notes. Although I am happy to discuss the course material with you during my office hours, I cannot repeat the lecture if you miss class.

In order to test your mastery of the subject content of this course, there will be two in-class midterms (September 29, November 3) and a final (December 15). Although the final will not be comprehensive, it will cover more material than the midterms and you will have a longer period in which to write it. I will provide study guides for the exams, all of which will consist of a combination of short answer and essay questions. Makeups for exams will only be allowed under exceptional circumstances with documentation of absence and if you contact me before the exam is held. Making up an exam is a lot of extra work for me, so there has to be a very good reason on your part (severe illness, death in the family, wrongful incarceration, etc.)

In order to learn how to work with historical documents, there will be a writing assignment based on the material in the documents reader. More details can be found on the last page of this syllabus. This assignment is due November 29.

iLearn:

I will be using the iLearn website to post lecture outlines, study guides for the exams, and other useful documents, so you should check it on a regular basis. To access this class on iLearn, go to <https://ilearn.sfsu.edu> (you will need your SFSU ID and password to sign in).

Classroom etiquette:

Please arrive to class on time to avoid disturbing other students. Do not leave before the class period is over. Please turn off cell phones before class and leave them off until class is over. Do not do anything in class (talk to your neighbors, play computer games, chew noisily, etc.) that you would find irritating or rude if you were trying to keep the attention of 75 individuals in a crowded room.

Cheating and plagiarism:

Your work for this course must conform to University policies concerning scholastic honesty. Scholastic dishonesty will result in an “F” for the assignment and possibly for the course. This includes, but is not limited to, cheating on assignments or examinations, plagiarizing (misrepresenting as one’s own anything done by another), submitting the same or substantially similar papers for more than one course without prior consent of all instructors concerned, sabotaging another’s work, and unauthorized collaboration (such as substantial rewriting of an essay by another) on assignments or exams. You are encouraged to work together in preparing for discussions and other group activities, reviewing for exams, and improving your writing, but should not contribute substantial content to other students’ papers. All cases of academic dishonesty will be reported to the University Judicial Officer. For more information on SFSU’s policies on cheating and plagiarism, refer to the University Bulletin.

Grading:

Grades will be determined as follows:

Midterms: 25% each

Final: 30%

Documents paper: 20%

If you are unable to complete the course requirements by the end of semester, it is your responsibility to withdraw from the course. I will issue no instructor-initiated withdrawals or incompletes. Student-initiated incompletes are reserved for serious medical excuses (with documentation) or other natural disasters within the last three weeks of the semester. The last day to drop a course without a “W” is September 6, and the last day to withdraw with a “W” (except in extreme circumstances) is November 15. Students who wish to take the course CR/NC can change their grading status via “My SFSU” by October 18.

Disability policy:

Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor. The Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC) is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. The DPRC is located in the Student Service Building and can be reached by telephone (voice/TTY 415-338-2472) or by e-mail (dprc@sfsu.edu) and at <http://www.sfsu.edu/~dprc>. It is your responsibility to make arrangements with this office for accommodations (for example, longer test times) at least two weeks prior to the exams.

Extra help:

This class has a TA, Amy Liebert. She can be reached at aalieber@gmail.com. She will be giving two lectures, helping with class discussion, and helping to grade and exams. You can also contact her with questions about the course.

If you feel you need further help, there are two resources centers on campus: the Learning Assistance Center (www.sfsu.edu/~lac) which has mainly daytime hours and the Campus Academic Resource Program (www.sfsu.edu/~carp1/) which provides tutoring mainly in the late afternoon and evenings.

Office hours and contact information:

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30-3:00, and by appointment
office and phone: Science 267, 338-2250

e-mail: scurtis@sfsu.edu

website: <http://bss.sfsu.edu/scurtis>

If you regularly use a different e-mail address than your assigned SFSU e-mail, please put a forward on your SFSU account using the directions below; I only have access to SFSU e-mail accounts: <http://www.sfsu.edu/~helpdesk/email/studentemail.html#forward>

SCHEDULE

***Important: The syllabus and schedule are always subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to attend every class, check email announcements and consult classmates for any additional readings, schedule changes, or examination/due date changes.

August 23-25

Old and New Worlds

Reading: Hunt, chap. 14

August 30-September 1

Religious Crisis and Warfare

Reading: Hunt, chap. 15; Wiesner, chap. 1

September 6-8

State and Empire Building in Early Modern Europe

Reading: Hunt, chaps. 16 and 17 (to p. 545), Wiesner, chaps. 2, 4

September 13-15

The Age of Reason

Reading: Hunt, chaps. 17 (from p. 545) and 18; Wiesner, chap. 3

September 20-22

The French Revolution

Reading: Hunt, chap. 19; Wiesner, chap. 5

September 27-29

Napoleonic Europe

Reading: Hunt, chap. 20

Thursday: Midterm

October 4-6

The Industrial Revolution

Reading: Hunt, chap. 21; Wiesner, chap. 6

October 11-13

Politics after the Dual Revolution

Reading: Hunt, chap. 22; Wiesner, chap. 7

October 18-20

Europe as a Global Power

Reading: Hunt, chaps. 23-24; Wiesner, chap. 9

October 25-27

The Great War

Reading: Hunt, chap. 25 (to p. 821); Wiesner, chap. 11

November 1-3

The Tenuous Peace

Thursday: Midterm

November 8-10

Totalitarianism

Reading: Hunt, chap. 25 (from p. 821); Wiesner, chap. 12

November 15-17

World War II and Holocaust

Reading: Hunt, chap. 26

November 22-24

Thanksgiving Break

November 29-December 1

Europe Divided

Reading: Hunt, chaps. 27-28; Wiesner, chap. 13

Documents paper due Nov. 29

December 6-8

The New Europe

Reading: Hunt, chap. 29; Wiesner, chap. 14

Thursday, December 15 (10:45-1:15)

Final exam

Documents paper

You are required to write one paper based on the documents in Wiesner, et al, Discovering the Western Past, vol. II. The paper is due in class on Tuesday, November 29. I need a hard copy; do not e-mail me the paper as an attachment. Papers turned into me by Thursday of the same week will be penalized one-half grade (e.g. A to A-), the following Tuesday one full grade (e.g. A to B). **Papers more than one week late will not be accepted** without proof of illness or natural disaster.

Each essay should make an argument that answers the question and presents specific evidence (in the form of quotations or examples) from the documents to support it. Use the documents themselves as evidence, not simply the introductory material to the chapter. Do not answer the question without reference to the documents. Your argument should be clearly stated in the introduction of your paper as a thesis statement. Please underline your thesis statement. Each paper should be 3-4 pp., typed and double spaced, in 12-point font, with adequate margins.

For a brief paper such as this, you may simply indicate the document number and page number in parenthesis after the quote or reference rather than using footnotes. You are not expected to use outside sources, but if you do so, please provide a list of these sources at the end of the paper. All work must be your own; any material taken from another source (including the internet) must be clearly cited and direct quotations must be in quotation marks. Any evidence of plagiarism will result in your failing the assignment.

Choose one from the following list of topics:

1. How did the “new media” of print and woodcuts help spread the Protestant message? (chap. 1)
2. How did Louis XIV use ritual and display in order to strengthen his authority? (chap. 2)
3. How did the new scientific thinking affect intellectuals’ reactions to the Lisbon earthquake of 1755? (chap. 3)
4. What factors explain the outbreak of violence on July 14, 1789? (chap. 5)
5. How did industrialization change the working conditions of Europeans? (chap. 6)
6. How did European politicians sell imperialism to the public? (chap. 9)
7. What factors made World War I a disillusioning experience for Europeans? (chap. 11)
8. How did the Nazis use propaganda to gain support for their regime? (chap. 12)