

WESTERN CIVILIZATION II HIST A102-602 – Fall 2009

Please read this syllabus carefully and let me know if you have any questions. Otherwise, I will assume you have read and understand the syllabus.

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This course is an introduction to Western (predominantly European) history from the seventeenth to the late twentieth century. The period was incredibly vibrant, with many of the conflicts of these centuries continuing to resonate within contemporary Western societies and, in some cases, far beyond. We will be examining some of the major themes and events of Western intellectual, political, economic, and social life over this period.

A major focus of this course will be the development of mass societies. Economic changes disrupted traditional lifestyles and forced large numbers of people into cities ill-prepared for them. Government officials in new bureaucracies became an increasingly common feature of everyday life, giving rise to debates of the rights of individuals in society. New means of communication—from letter-writing to newspapers to advertising—and spreading literacy opened new lands and new ideas to increasingly inquisitive populations. Forms of associational life from corporations to political movements to special interest societies utilized all these changes in promoting their goals to ever-larger groups of people—often with violent outcomes. As you study the readings, ask yourself both in what ways the ideas expressed by the authors are influenced by the development of mass societies and how various groups in society might interpret and act upon the ideas expressed.

The three main goals of this course are:

1. To introduce the major events and chronological sequence of modern Western history.
2. To introduce the major issues and themes of this history, and the debates over them as seen through the eyes of the participants themselves and by historians seeking to understand the past. To this end, you will be reading a large number of primary and secondary works.
3. To introduce the basic techniques of the historical profession, especially those needed for analyzing both primary and secondary material. Most of these techniques will be useful to you in whatever major you are pursuing at UAA.

READINGS

All books are available at the UAA Bookstore.

It is the student's responsibility to acquire all textbooks.

TEXTS: Levack et al., *The West: Encounters and Transformations, volume II* (referred to below as "Levack")
Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels. *The Communist Manifesto*
Levi, Primo. *Survival in Auschwitz*.

BLACKBOARD: Most daily readings are available through the class Blackboard site; assume that any readings not listed above are available through Blackboard unless noted otherwise. You will want to have a copy (electronic or print) out for reference during class discussions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1) This course requires the fulfillment of all class assignments and participation in class activities. Key to fulfilling these requirements is regular class attendance and turning in assignments on time. **All overdue assignments will be penalized 1 letter grade per day (including weekends and holidays). It is your responsibility to contact me about any missed absences or conflicts.**

2) ***Cheating and plagiarism (the usage of another's work without citation) will be handled with the greatest possible severity including an automatic failure in the course.*** It is your responsibility to understand the provisions of the *Student Code of Conduct for Student Rights, Freedoms, and Responsibilities* in this regard.

No Incomplete grades will be given except under extremely unusual circumstances.

3) Active participation in class discussions is a requirement for this course. ***Please note that we will be discussing topics of a mature and/or controversial nature; I expect everyone to adhere to common standards of courtesy and decorum.*** For class discussions, you will need to come to class having read all assignments and prepared to discuss the issues they raise; bring the readings and your notes to class with you each day. The textbook readings will provide background information for the week's topics, assist you in establishing a basic chronology, and help place the additional readings in their historical context.

4) Pop quizzes may be given throughout the semester. These will be short quizzes drawn from the day's readings, and will be given at the beginning of class. **There will be no make-up quizzes.**

5) Writing is an important component of the course, and essential to an active life as a citizen. Three written papers are required. These will be graded on both content (accuracy, argument and evidence) and writing (grammar, syntax, clarity, structure and style).

All citations for this class will need to follow the Turabian (also known as the Chicago) format. Links to examples of this format can be found on the Blackboard site for this course.

6) E-Mail Policy: I will be checking e-mail daily, but I am not necessarily online constantly. Please do not expect immediate replies. ***Note, however, I will not accept papers through e-mail or file attachment.*** There will also be a Blackboard site where I will be posting items of interest to the entire class (including information on extra-credit opportunities). You will want to check Blackboard a few times over the course of a week.

7) Extra-Credit: Throughout the semester, there might be some talks of interest to our class. I will post these on the Blackboard site as extra credit opportunities. Generally, you will be asked to attend the talk and do a brief write-up. Events and instructions will be posted on Blackboard as appropriate.

GRADING

• CLASS PARTICIPATION/QUIZZES	10%	
• MAP TEST	10%	(Given 10 September)
• SCAVENGER HUNT ASSIGNMENT	25%	(Due 1 October)
• SHORT ESSAY (5-6 pages)	25%	(Due 27 October)
• <u>FINAL PAPER (5-6 pages)</u>	30%	(Due 10 December)
	100%	

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Week 1: Seventeenth Century Crises

Tuesday, 25 Aug. Course Introduction

Thursday, 27 Aug. Levack, “What is the West?” and Chapter 14

Week 2: Absolutism, Constitutionalism and the Examination of Society

Tuesday, 1 Sep. Levack, Chapter 15
Hobbes, selections from *Leviathan*

Thursday, 3 Sep. Locke, selections from *Second Treatise Concerning Government*

Week 3: Life in the Old Regime

Tuesday, 8 Sep. **LABOR DAY BREAK:** No Class

Thursday, 10 Sep. **MAP QUIZ** (beginning of class)
Robert Darnton, “The Great Cat Massacre”

Week 4: Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment

Tuesday, 15 Sept. Levack, Chapter 16
Kant, “What is Enlightenment?”

Thursday, 17 Sept. Levack, Chapter 18
Rousseau, selections from *The Social Contract*

Week 5: The French Revolution

Tuesday, 22 Sep. Levack, Chapter 19

Thursday, 24 Sep. Burke, selections from *Considerations on the Revolution in France*
Rousseau, “Report on Political Morality”

Week 6: Revolution and Reaction: New Ideologies

Tuesday, 29 Sep. Levack, Chapter 21
Napoleon, “Napoleonic Ideas”

J.S. Mill, selections from *On Liberty*

Thursday, 1 Oct.

SCAVENGER HUNT DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS
In-Class Discussion of 19th Century Liberalism and Conservatism

Week 7: New Economies

Tuesday, 6 Oct.

Levack, Chapter 20
Smith, selections from *The Wealth of Nations*

Thursday, 8 Oct.

“Poverty Knock” (song and lyrics)
Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*

Week 8: New Communities

Tuesday, 13 Oct.

Levack, Chapter 22

Thursday, 15 Oct.

Mazzini, “Duties to Country”
Pearson, selections from *National Life from the Standpoint of Science*

Week 9: New Publics

Tuesday, 20 Oct.

Levack, Chapter 23

Thursday, 22 Oct.

Vanessa Schwartz, “Public Visits to the Morgue”

Week 10: Europe and the World: the New Imperialism

Tuesday, 27 Oct.

SHORT PAPER # 1 DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS
Rudyard Kipling, “The White Man’s Burden”

Thursday, 29 Oct.

M. K. Gandhi, “The Disease of Civilization”
George Orwell, “Shooting an Elephant”

Week 11: The Great War

Tuesday, 3 Nov.

Levack, Chapter 24
Scheidemann, “The Hour We Yearned For”
Doregelès, “That Fabulous Day”

Thursday, 5 Nov.

John Maynard Keynes, selections from *The Economic Consequences of the Peace*
Arthur Koestler, selections from *The God That Failed*

Week 12: Interwar Crises and the Questioning of Belief

Tuesday, 10 Nov. Levack, Chapter 24
Lenin, selections from *What is to Be Done?*

Thursday, 12 Nov. Mussolini, selections from *Fascist Doctrine*
Hitler, selections from *Mein Kampf*

Week 13: Totalitarianism, the Second World War, and Victims

Tuesday, 17 Nov. Levack, Chapter 26
Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*, 22-37 (“On the Bottom”)

Thursday, 19 Nov. Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*, 77-100 (“This Side of Good and Evil”); 151-173 (“The Story of Ten Days”)

Week 14: A Political Winter

Tuesday, 24 Nov. Levack, Chapter 27
Churchill, “Speech at Fulton, MO”
Khrushchev, selections from Speech at the XXth Party Congress

Thursday, 26 Nov. THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY: No Classes

Week 15: Brave New Worlds

Tuesday, 1 Dec. Levack, Chapter 28
Vaclav Havel, selections from *Living in Truth*
Mikhail Gorbachev, selections from *Perestroika*

Thursday, 3 Dec. Slavenka Drakulic, selections from *How We Survived
Communism and Even Laughed*
Selections from the *Treaty for European Union* (2005)

***FINAL PAPER DUE AT 12:45pm THURSDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2009 IN ADM 145
(end of final exam period for this class)***