

Chaminade University of Honolulu

SSE '00

Summer Term 2000 July 7, to September 8, 2000.

PM

Marine Corps Base, Kaneohe, 1730-2140.

HI323²⁰, Early Modern Europe

Instructor: Donald W. Wilson

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Text: R.R. Palmer and Joel Colton, A History of the Modern World to 1815, Eight Edition.

Course Description: The course surveys Europe during the period when it emerged from the Middle Ages to establish the bases for what has come to be termed "Modern Civilization". In particular it examines the process of secularization that resulted in the development of scientific inquiry, and subsequently led to, in addition to industrialization, the political, economic, and social concepts that still influence the contemporary world.

Objectives: To provide the student with an appreciation of the historical events that led to changes in political, social, economic, and philosophical outlooks, that created modern european civilization. Also, as a corollary, by observing the outcome of the answers our predecessors utilized to solve their problems, to provide a background by which to judge the solutions preferred by today's leaders.

Reading/Writing Assignments: The lecture schedule lists the required readings from the text. Students are also responsible for two three page essay answers to the questions listed under the heading "Essay Topics".

Class Format: A combination of lectures and discussions. Handouts, and visual aids will be utilized where applicable. **Students are encouraged to raise questions, or make comments, at any time.**

Grading: Grading will be based on a point system as follows:

Mid-term Exam.....45 points	Letter Grade Scale:	200-180=A
Essays.....60 points		179-160=B
2 Quizzes 15pts/ea30 points		159-140=C
Final Exam.....65 points		139-120=D
Total.....200 points		119- 0=F

CLASS SCHEDULE and READING ASSIGNMENTS

Date Subject

Jul 7 Introduction. Background, European Heritage: Classical Age, Middle Ages.

14 Renaissance/Reformation.

Essay: The Reformation is considered one of the most significant events in western history. What were its causes, who were its major figures, and what were its major doctrines? Why is it so significant?

Text: 46-105

21 The Age of Exploration. The Spanish Empire. The new economy, Spain's crusade, the Religious Wars.

Essay: In the 15th and 16th centuries Europe began its outward expansion. The process was led by Spain and Portugal. What were the motivations for the voyages of exploration, the major events, and the results?

In Europe the 16th and 17th centuries were characterized by long violent wars. As a result of these conflicts major political, social, economic, and religious changes occurred. What were the motivations for these wars, what was distinctive about each, who were the major personages, and what were the changes that were their result.

Text: 106-159

28 Establishing Modern Europe's foundations (the West) Absolutism/Constitutionalism. Utrecht.

Essay: In the 17th century absolutism became the dominant form of government in Europe. What was the appeal of this type of government, what were its basic features, how did the reign of Louis XIV reflect these features?

During the 17th century, while absolutism was becoming the model for government on the continent, England developed a very different political structure. Describe the process by which this occurred, and the features that contrasted with the absolutist state.

Text: 160-209

QUIZ #1

Aug 4 Modern Europe (the East). Prussia, Austria, Russia, the Polish partitions.

Essay: Peter the Great is credited with the modernization of Russia. Discuss Peter's program and what changes he brought to the nation. What remained that differentiated Russia from the western model?

Text: 210-249

MID-TERM EXAMINATION

11 From Utrecht to the Peace of Paris. The new world order, England vs France.

Essay: In what way did the "great war of the mid-eighteenth century" reflect the struggle between France and Great Britain for economic, colonial, and naval supremacy? What issues on the European continent blended with this rivalry? How did the settlement of 1763 resolve these issues?

Text: 250-285

PAPER #1 DUE

18 The Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment. Enlightened Despots, and Reform.

Essay: During the 16th and 17th centuries a movement described as a "Scientific Revolution" took place in Europe. What type of revolution was this, who and what were its persons, and ideas, and how did it develop?

The Enlightenment has been termed the "the age of reason", and involved the application of science to the study of human society. What were the key beliefs of the Enlightenment? In what way did the philosophes represent its concepts, and how did its beliefs reflect the scientific revolution?

Text: 286-351

25 The Revolutions in America and France.

Essay: When Louis XVI came to the throne France was considered the most stable nation in Europe. Yet, in a short time a violent revolution arose that deposed and executed the King, and completely overturned the political and social structure of the society. How did this happen, what were its causes, and how did the "Revolution" evolve? Was the original intent of the revolutionaries to violently transform the society, if not, what drove it beyond its original goals?

Text: 351-392

QUIZ #2

Sep 1 Napoleon and the Nation State.

Essay: Discuss the career of Napoleon Bonaparte, what were its highlights, and what were the events that brought it to a close? In what way did his regime represent new political concepts and the ideas of the French Revolution. What was his effect on Europe?

Text: 392-452

PAPER #2 DUE

8 FINAL EXAMINATION

ESSAY TOPICS

Group #1

1. What were the most powerful forms of resentments and discontents toward the economic, government, social, and clerical institutions prior to the revolt of Luther?
2. Compare the importance of national feeling with religious and feudal loyalties in the Thirty Years War and the revolt of the Netherlands.
3. Discuss the political, economic, and cultural factors that created Spain's "Golden Age". What caused its decline?
4. In the 17th century, in England, Parliament both defeated the King, and established a workable form of government. Explain why royal absolutism failed and Parliament triumphed in England between 1600 and 1689.
5. Evaluate Louis XIV's reign. How did it benefit France? What harm did it cause?
6. To what extent did Peter carry out a "revolution" in Russia. Examine the social, political, and economic aspects of his policies.
7. What role did the military play in the emergence of Russia and Prussia as major powers in the 17th and early 18th centuries?

Group #2

8. Compare and contrast the political and economic development of Great Britain and France during the period 1715 to 1763.
9. Compare the personalities and policies of Frederick the Great and Maria Theresa. Who achieved more for their people?
10. Discuss the implications of the 17th century scientific revolution for European society. (Why did it help form the basis for the concepts of "progress" and "optimism").
11. Describe the evolution of astronomical thought from Copernicus to Newton. What was Newton's great achievement of synthesis?
12. Select what you believe are two of the central ideas or attitudes of the 18th century Enlightenment. Explain their importance and what impact they had on the 18th century.
13. What was enlightened about the concepts of Frederick and Catherine the Great? What wasn't?

14. What measures did Robespierre and the Committee of Public Safety take in 1793-94 to save the Revolution? Were these measures justified?

15. How crucial was the role of the peasants and working classes in the French Revolution? Did they have the same goals, and did they reach these goals?

16. The peace settlement of 1814-1815, concluded at the Congress of Vienna, was the most far reaching diplomatic agreement between 1648 and 1919. What were the major provisions of the settlement. What were its strengths and weaknesses?

17. Describe the rise of nationalism in Germany at the end of the 18th and beginning of the 19th centuries. What were the ideas of such thinkers as Herder and Fichte about German nationalism?