

SYLLABUS

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HI -323 - Early Modern Europe

October 4-December 13 - Thursday - 5:30-9:40 PM

Instructor: Donald Wilson

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

Course Description: The course surveys Europe during the period when it emerged from the Middle Ages, to establish the foundations 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 industrialization, and 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 outlook, that has created modern European civilization. Also, by observing the outcome of the answers of our predecessors to their problems, to provide a background by which to judge the solutions offered by today's leadership.

Reading/Writing Assignments: The lecture schedule lists the required readings from the text. Students will also be responsible for a writing assignment to be decided in class.

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.....	50 points	Letter Grade: 200-180=A
Writing Assign.....	45	179-160=B
2 Quizzes 15pt/ea..	30	159-140=C
Final Exam.....	75	139-120=D
Total.....	200	119- 0=F

CLASS SCHEDULE and READING ASSIGNMENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>
Oct 4	Introduction, European Heritage	Text: 9-45
11	Renaissance/Reformation.	Text: 46-105
18	The Age of Exploration - The Spanish Empire - The Religious Wars.	Text: 105-159
25	Establishing Modern Europe's Foundations. Absolutism/Constitutionalism. Utrecht. <i>Quiz #1</i>	Text: 160-209
Nov 1	Modern Europe (the East). The Polish Partitions. <u>MID-TERM EXAMINATION</u>	Text: 210-249
8	From Utrecht to the Peace of Paris. England vs. France.	Text: 250-285
15	The Scientific Revolution/Enlightenment/Reform.	Text: 286-351
22	HOLIDAY	
29	The Revolutions; America, France. <i>Quiz #2</i>	Text: 351-392
Dec 6	Napoleon and the Nation State.	Text: 392-452.
13	<u>FINAL EXAMINATION</u>	

DISCUSSION/ESSAY TOPICS

1. The Reformation is considered one of the most significant events in western history. What were the causes, major figures, and doctrines?
2. In the 15th and 16th centuries Europe, led by Spain and Portugal, began its outward expansion. Discuss the motivations for the voyages, the major events, and the significance of the movement.
3. In Europe the 16th and 17th centuries were characterized by long and violent wars. What were the motivations for these wars, was distinctive about each, the major personages, and the changes that were their result?
4. In the 17th century absolutism became the dominant form of government in continental Europe, while in England constitutionalism began its development. Discuss the basic features of these two forms of government, the processes by which they were established, and the most important persons who brought them about.
5. Peter the Great is credited with the modernization of Russia on the Western model. Discuss Peter's program, and the changes it brought to the nation. What remained to differentiate Russia from its Western counterparts?
6. 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?
7. During the 16th and 17th centuries a movement described as the Scientific Revolution took place in Europe. Discuss its basic discoveries, and its effect on European society.
8. The Enlightenment has been termed the "age of reason", and involved the application of science to human society. What were the beliefs of the Enlightenment, how did the philosophes reflect its concepts, and how did the scientific revolution become involved?
9. When Louis XVI came to the throne France was considered the most stable nation in Europe. Then a violent revolution arose that deposed and executed the king, and completely overturned the political and social structure of the society. Discuss the causes and course of this revolution, its objectives, and final result.
10. Discuss the career of Napoleon Bonaparte both military, and domestic, what were its highlights, and what mistakes 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 developing a modern Europe?

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