

Course Syllabus

Chaminade University of Honolulu

History 323: History, Politics and Culture of Premodern Europe
Professors Castle, Takeda & Yamasaki

Course Description

This Course is an interdisciplinary examination of the significant people, events and developments in Europe from the Renaissance through the French Revolution. **Historically**, it examines the rise of Renaissance urban civilizations; the wars and political settlements resulting from the Reformation; the rise of absolute monarchs such as Louis XIV and Peter the Great; political revolutions in England, France and other European nations. **Artistically**, it studies the Renaissance masters from Giotto to Michelangelo; Dutch masters such as Rembrandt and Vermeer; Baroque, Rococo and Neoclassical forms of architecture; Romantic artists such as Turner and Delacroix. **Scientifically**, it explores Bacon's advocacy of the inductive method; the astronomical innovations of Copernicus, Brahe, Kepler and Galileo; Newton's formulation of the laws of gravity and motion; Harvey's work on blood and circulation; Lavoisier's contributions to chemistry. In terms of **religion**, it looks at the religious influences on Renaissance art and literature; the causes of the Protestant Reformation; the writings of Luther and Calvin; the founding of new Catholic orders such as the Society of Jesus; the Council of Trent and the Catholic Reformation; the legacy of the Reformation on European history and culture. It reviews the **political science** of Machiavelli, More, Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau. It investigates Adam Smith and laissez faire **economics**. In terms of **literature**, it analyzes Boccaccio's *Decameron*, Petrarch's sonnets, Shakespeare's *Hamlet* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Cervantes' *Don Quixote*, Voltaire's *Candide*, Shelley's *Frankenstein*, poems of Wordsworth, Coleridge and Byron. It probes the **philosophical** concepts of Descartes, Bacon, Kant and Schelling. **Musically**, it studies Baroque compositions of Bach, Handel and Telemann; Classical works of Hayden, Mozart and Beethoven; Romantic creations Chopin, Wagner and Tchaikovsky.

Course Objectives

- Gain a working knowledge of the key people, events and developments of the era.
- Refine writing, speaking and cognitive skills through essays, discussions and presentations.
- Encourage learning that embodies cooperation, self-discipline and mutual respect.
- Promote knowledge that enhance concern for social justice, ethics and civic responsibility.

Course Requirements

- Regularly attend and actively participate in class meetings.
- Turn in short writing assignments that promote cognitive and writing skills.
- Take two mid-term examinations.
- Take a final examination.

Grades

Class participation and short writing assignments	100 points
First mid-term examination	100 points
Second mid-term examination	100 points
Final examination	100 points

Grading: 370-400 points = A; 330-369 = B; 280-329 = C; 240-279 = D; Below 240 = F.

Course Outline

- Week 1: Orientation / Origins of the Renaissance / Late Gothic and Early Renaissance Art
- Week 2: Quattrocento Art / Pragmatic Politics of Machiavelli's *The Prince* / Before Specialization -- the Range Leonardo da Vinci's Works and Visions
- Week 3: The Sonnets of Petrarch and Ronsard / Montaigne and the Creation of the Essay / High Renaissance Art of Raphael, Michelangelo and da Vinci
- Week 4: Renaissance's Thinking Man -- Shakespeare's *Hamlet* / Art of Story Telling -- Boccaccio's *Decameron* / Flemish and Venetian Art
- Week 5: Mannerist Style of Art / Durer and other German Art Masters / Shakespeare's Comedic Touch -- *A Midsummer Night's Dream* / Dreamer on Horseback -- Cervantes' *Don Quixote*
- Week 6: **Mid-Term Examination** / Causes and Legacy of the Reformation / Writings of Luther and Calvin / Baroque Art and Architecture
- Week 7: Seventeenth Century Flemish and Spanish Art / Birth of the Scientific Revolution / Baroque Music of Bach, Handel and Telemann
- Week 8: Bacon's Ideas and Writings / Dutch Realist Art of Rembrandt and Vermeer / Astronomical Innovations of Copernicus, Kepler and Galileo
- Week 9: Newton's Laws of Nature / Absolute Monarchies of Premodern Europe: Versailles and the Reign of Louis XIV / French Classicism
- Week 10: Harvey's Work on Human Blood and Circulation / Intellectual History of the Age of Enlightenment / Rococo Style of Art and Architecture
- Week 11: **Mid-Term Examination** / Philosophical Concepts of Kant and Schelling / Political Science of Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau / Neoclassicism in European and American Art and Architecture

- Week 12: Intellectual Liason of Catherine the Great and Diderot / Classical Compositions of Mozart, Hayden and Beethoven / Biting Satire of Voltaire's *Candide*
- Week 13: Causes and Legacy of the French Revolution / David -- Artist of the Revolutionary Era / Feminist Writings of Wollstonecraft
- Week 14: Introduction to Romanticism / Writings of Goethe and Schiller / Romantic Art from Goya to Turner
- Week 15: Visions and Fears of the Modern World in Shelley's *Frankenstein* / Delacroix and other French and German Romantic Artists / Romantic Compositions of Chopin, Tchaikovsky and Wagner
- Week 16: **Final Examination**

Required Text

Palmer and Colton, *A History of the Modern World to 1815*, Eighth Edition.

Office Hours

Professor Castle

Kieffer (J)

Monday 11:00-12:00 noon & 1:00-3:00 PM; Wednesday 11:00-12:00

Phone: 739-4628

Professor Takeda

Eiben 205

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 1:00-2:00 PM

Phone: 735-4716

Professor Yamasaki

Eiben Annex B

Wednesday 3:00-5:00 PM & Thursday 2:00-4:00 PM

Phone: 735-4824