

Grinnell College
Department of History
Fall 2007

History 101: Basic Issues in European History, 1650-Present

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Mears 212

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Course Meetings: MWF 8-8:50 a.m., ARH 314

Office Hours: Monday 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m., Thursday 1 p.m.-3 p.m. and by appointment

The course is an introductory-level survey exploring key patterns in the development of early modern and modern European history from the period of seventeenth-century absolutism to the collapse of Eastern European Communism and the end of the Cold War in 1989-91. The last 350 years have witnessed some of the most rapid and drastic developments in European history, including the emergence of nationalism, industrialization and representative democracies. Modernity has also brought with it industrial poverty and social displacement, imperialism, colonialism and totalitarianism. These different facets raise questions about the basic nature of the so-called “progress” of the modern age. We will examine these developments in ideas, lifestyles and institutions over this critical time period.

This course is not intended, however, to be an exhaustive survey of modern European history. Instead, it primarily provides an introduction to historical methodology through the lens of certain important developments that took place during this era. It is designed as a laboratory of historical thinking. We will take the role of historians, examining a sizeable and diverse body of evidence that illustrates various aspects of the social, political, intellectual, economic and cultural history of Europe in the modern age. In accordance with this approach to learning, we will focus on carefully analyzing our primary sources through in-depth reading, open discussions and written analyses. While we have a textbook to provide contextualization, our focus will be on the documents themselves.

Course Requirements (with percentage of grade in parenthesis)

1. Discussion (15%)

This course is organized around discussions and student presentations, along with periodic short introductory talks. You are required to read the assigned primary sources and textbook passages before coming to class and to participate actively in our discussions. Our class meetings are mandatory. While you may miss two meetings for any reason, any further failure to attend will have a negative impact on your participation grade unless this absence occurs due to a medical condition or a family emergency.

In addition, I reserve the right to not issue a passing grade to any student who misses more than six class sessions (again barring medical or family emergencies).

2. Panel Presentations (5%)

During the second week of the course, you will sign up for a panel presentation. (The presentation dates are indicated on the syllabus). These presentations have the format of a debate with a fellow student about a distinct problem in modern European history, and are based on one or more of the assigned primary sources. You should base your position on a close and careful reading of the source(s) in question, and will be responsible for defending your position. You will then open the debate to the rest of the class and facilitate the ensuing discussion.

3. Papers (45% total; 15% per paper)

There will be three five-page papers for this course. The first two will critically analyze sources from our course packet and the last will integrate primary sources and your reading of William Sheridan Allen's *The Nazi Seizure of Power*. Paper topics, style guidelines and grading criteria will be handed out in class.

4. Midterm and Final Examinations (10%, 25%)

There will be an in-class midterm examination and a final exam on December 18 at 2 p.m.

Required Texts

The following are available for purchase at the Grinnell College Bookstore.

Thomas Noble, Barry Straus, et al., *Western Civilization: The Continuing Experiment*, 4th Edition (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2005).

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. *The Communist Manifesto* (New York: Signet, 1998)

William Sheridan Allen, *The Nazi Seizure of Power: The Experience of a Single German Town, 1922-1945* (New York: Franklin Watts, 1984)

Most of our daily readings will come from the *Documents to Illustrate Basic Issues in European History* (a photocopied course packet). You must pick up the course packet from me in my office (Mears 212) (ideally on the first Friday of the semester).

A few readings will be posted to PioneerWeb, and are indicated with a double asterisk (**) on the syllabus.

Schedule of Course Meetings and Assignments

(As a general note, *Documents* refers to the course packet, and WC not surprisingly refers to the Nobel and Straus *Western Civilization* text).

Week 1A: Introductions

August 31 Introduction
(For class, read Mark A. Kishlansky, "How to Read a Document," in idem, ed., *Sources of the West* (New York: Longman, 2001), xiii-xxii**

September 1 (SATURDAY)

FILM: *The Return of Martin Guerre (Le Retour de Martin Guerre)* (France, 1982), ARH 102, 3 p.m.

Week 1: The Old Order

September 3 Discussion of *The Return of Martin Guerre*
Readings: Documents 1AB; WC, 500-513

September 5: Europe in 1648
Readings: Documents 1CDE; WC, 513-530

September 7 Louis XIV
Readings: Documents 1FGH; WC, 539-548, 553-559

Week 2: Enlightenment

September 10 The Scientific Revolution and the Church
Readings: Documents 2ABC; WC, 548-553, 573-599
Panel #1

September 12 Montesquieu and Voltaire
Readings: Documents 2DE; WC, 603-617

September 14 Rousseau and Condorcet
Readings: Documents 2EF; WC, 617-624
Panel #2

Week 3: French Revolution

September 17 Revolutionary origins
Readings: Documents 3ABC; WC, 643-653

September 19 The Revolution solidifies
Readings: Documents 3DEFG; WC, 653-661

September 21 From the Terror to Napoleon
Readings: Documents 3HIJ; WC, 661-673
Panel #3

Week 4: The Early 19th-Century Order

September 24 Romanticism and Nationalism
Readings: Documents 4ABC; WC, 711-715

September 26 The Post-Napoleonic European Order
Readings: Documents 4DEFG; WC, 708-711

September 28 Liberalism
Readings: Documents 5ABC; WC, 677-690, 715-717
Panel #4

PAPER # 1 DUE IN CLASS, SEPTEMBER 28

Week 5: Europe in Revolution

- October 1 Industrial Revolution
Readings: Documents 5DEF, WC, 690-703
- October 3 Marxism
Readings: The Communist Manifesto (entire); WC, 717-722
- October 5 1848
Readings: Documents 5GH, 6EF; WC, 732-737
Panel #5

Week 6: Unifications

- October 8 Italy
Readings: Documents 6ABCD; WC, 742-750
- October 10 Germany
Readings: Documents 6GHIJ; WC, 750-761
Panel #6
- October 12 Industrial Revolution (2nd Wave)
Readings: Documents 7ABC; WC, 765-771, 777-782

Week 7: Reactions to Industrialization

- October 15 Reformist Instincts
Readings: Documents 7DEF; WC, 782-805
- October 17 Midterm Review
- October 19 **MIDTERM EXAMINATION IN CLASS**

FALL BREAK!

Week 8: Discontents

- October 29 Socialism
Readings: Documents 8ABCDEF
- October 31 Feminism
Readings: Documents 9BCDEFG; WC, 821-832
Panel #7
- November 2 Imperialism
Readings: Documents 10ABCDF; WC, 810-821
Panel #8

Week 9: War and Revolution

- November 5 The "Great War"
Readings: Documents 8H, 10GH; WC, 832-839, 843-853
- November 7 Russian Revolution
Readings: Documents 11ABDEFGHI; WC, 853-861, 861-865
Panel #9
- November 9 **NO CLASS!**

Week 10: Interwar Europe

- November 12 Interwar Europe

November 14 *Readings: Documents 12ABCE; WC, 865-875, 881-884, 895-900, 903-911*
Authoritarian Responses
Readings: Documents 12FGH; WC, 886-895, 913-925

PAPER #2 DUE IN CLASS, NOVEMBER 14

November 16 Nazism's Origins
Readings: Allen, Nazi Seizure of Power, 4-52; WC, 900-903, 925-927

Week 11: From Weimar to the Third Reich

November 19 The Nazi Rise to Power
Readings: Allen, Nazi Seizure of Power, 54-147

November 21 Nazism (continued)
Readings: Allen, Nazi Seizure of Power, 152-216

November 23 **NO CLASS**

Week 12: Nazism and World War II

November 26 Triumph of the Will
Readings: Allen, Nazi Seizure of Power, 216-279, 282-303; WC, 927-932, 938-945
Panel #10

November 28 War and Genocide
Readings: Documents 12I; WC, 949-973, 982-983

November 30 Origins of the Cold War
Readings: Documents 12I, 14AB; WC, 973-978, 985-990, 999-1005
Panel #11

Week 13: Economic Boom and the Critics of Prosperity

December 3 Welfare States and European Cooperation
Readings: Documents 13DEFH; WC, 990-998

December 5 Decolonization and Immigration
Readings: Documents 13ABC; WC, 978-981, 1005-1010
Panel #12

December 7 Prosperity and its Discontents (May 1968)
*Readings: Documents 13I; Feenberg and Freeman, May 1968 documents***

Week 14: Towards a New Europe?

December 10 From Budapest to Charter 77
Readings: Documents 14CEF; WC, 1011-1017

PAPER #3 DUE IN CLASS, DECEMBER 10

December 12 1989 and the Collapse of Eastern Europe
Readings: Documents 14DGH; WC, 1017-1019, 1025-1031

December 14 Conclusion – Europe in 2007
Readings: WC, 1031-1042, 1047-1051, 1057-1066

FINAL EXAMINATION TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2 P.M.

Additional Ground Rules:

1. Deadlines are to be taken most seriously. I will automatically grant you one extension on any of the three papers. You must e-mail me 48 hours before the paper is due; you do not need to explain the circumstances necessitating the extension. The extension will be for 72 hours. Barring exceptional emergency circumstances, I will not grant you an extension on another paper. Normally, I take off 1/3 of a letter grade for every 24 hours a paper is overdue.
2. Papers must be double-spaced and have one-inch margins, and should not employ anything larger than 12-point font. E-mailed papers will not be accepted.
3. All written work at Grinnell College is subject to the Student Handbook. If you have questions as to how a particular assignment relates to the Student Handbook, please consult with me in advance of that assignment's due date.
4. All written work submitted for a grade must be completed in order to pass the course. In addition, any student who misses more than six classes (again, barring exceptional emergency circumstances) will not receive a passing grade.
5. If you have specific physical, psychiatric or learning disabilities and require accommodations, please let me know early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to the Dean for Student Academic Support and Advising, Joyce Stern, located on the third floor of the Rosenfield Center (x3702).