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

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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.


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, 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 (2\textsuperscript{nd} 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 8ABCDEFG

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  
**Authoritarian Responses**  
*Readings: Documents 12ABCE; WC, 865-875, 881-884, 895-900, 903-911*

**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*
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 receiving 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).