Course Overview:

This course is an introduction to European history that centers on key patterns and events from seventeenth-century absolutist monarchies to the end of the Cold War in the early 1990s. The course explores European history by focusing on three important themes:

(1) Social and economic change over time
Some of the most rapid and drastic social and economic changes in European history, including industrialization and further urbanization, occurred during this time period. This course explores the similarities and differences between pre-industrial, industrial, and post-industrial societies, especially in the areas of living conditions, gender relations, and power hierarchies.

(2) Major turning points in political and cultural history
The course focuses particularly on the causes and effects of the French Revolution, the further consolidation and expansion of European empires, the First World War, the Russian Revolutions, the National Socialist dictatorship, and the collapse of Communist rule in Eastern Europe.

(3) Evolution of political ideologies
This course traces the origins and developments of the ideologies of liberalism, conservatism, nationalism, socialism, and feminism. It connects the evolution of these ideologies with changes in economies and societies throughout early-modern and modern European history.

Course Methodology:

This course seeks to introduce you to the ways historians investigate the past by engaging you in close reading, in-depth analysis, and discussion of a series of primary sources. It also lays the foundations for the explorations of other facets of European and global histories in mid- and upper-level courses. The course textbook provides you with historical narratives that establish the context for the events and developments depicted in the primary sources.
Course Requirements and Policies:

Class Discussion: You must read the assigned primary sources and textbook passages before coming to class and participate actively in class discussions. Your participation grade is primarily based on your willingness to engage in class discussion in a constructive and consistent manner.

Attendance: You cannot participate in class discussion if you do not attend class! Class meetings are mandatory. You may miss two meetings for any reason (I do not need to know the 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.

Extensions and Late Assignments: If you turn in an assignment late, your grade will drop by a third of a letter grade (for example from a ‘B’ to a ‘B-’) for every 24-hour period for which it is late. You must submit both a hard and electronic copy of your late work.

Accommodations: 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 JRC (x3702).

Required Readings:

* Grinnell College Department of History, *Documents to Illustrate Basic Issues in European History Since 1650*. (Photocopied course packet)

You must purchase the following (available at the Grinnell College bookstore):


Assignments and Grading:

I will hand out more information about these assignments in class (and post them on the course webpage) periodically throughout the semester (within one week of the due date).

* Class Participation (25%)

*Map Quiz (5%): 10 September (Monday)
*3 Short Papers (30% total, 10% each):
21 September (Friday), 2 November (Friday), 30 November (Friday)

You will write three analytical papers that examine specific historical sources. You will receive
the assignment a week prior to the due date. In response to a question, you should develop an
argument and thesis that is based on a close reading of the source(s). The papers will vary in
length from 3 to 5 pages. Papers are due at the beginning of class. I will post a style manual
with more hints on how to compose these papers on the course webpage. Please also consider
consulting the writing lab.

*Mid-semester Exam (20%): 12 October (Friday) in class

* Take-Home Final Exam (20%): **Due 21 December (Friday), by 5 PM, in my office.** You will receive the exam questions and format in the last week of class. You may submit the finished exam earlier if you wish.

**Reading Schedule:**

**Introduction:**
Week 1:
Friday, 31 August

****Saturday, 1 August, 3pm, ARH 102****
**Screening of The Return of Martin Guerre**
This film will be on reserve in the AV Center (ARH 210) throughout the weekend.

The Old Order in Europe:
Week 2:
Monday, 3 September
Please try to already have seen *The Return of Martin Guerre* by class on Monday.
Read: Kishlansky, “How to Read a Document”; Documents 1:AB; WC, 500-504

Wednesday, 5 September
Early Modern Europe
Read: Documents 1:CDE; WC, 513-530

Friday, 7 September
NO CLASS

Week 3:
Monday, 10 September (**MAP QUIZ in class**)
Louis XIV and the Ancien Regime
Read: Documents, 1:FGH; WC, 539-548, 553-559
Scientific and Cultural Challenges to the Old Order:
Wednesday, 12 September
Empiricism and the Scientific Revolution
Read: Documents 2:ABC; WC, 548-553, 573-599

Friday, 14 September
The Enlightenment: Montesquieu and Voltaire
Read: Document 2:DE; WC, 603-617

Week 4:
Monday, 17 September
Enlightenment: Rousseau and Condorcet
Read: Documents 2:FG; WC, 617-624

The French Revolution:
Wednesday, 19 September
Read: Documents 3:ABC; WC, 643-653

Friday, 21 September (1ST PAPER DUE in class)
Read: Documents 3:DEFG; WC, 653-661

Week 5:
Monday, 24 September
Read: Documents 3:HIJ; WC, 661-673

The Nineteenth Century:
Wednesday, 26 September
Romanticism and Nationalism
Read: Documents 4:ABC; WC 711-715

Friday, 28 September
The Metternichean Age
Read: Documents 4:DEFG; WC, 708-711

Week 6:
Monday, 1 October
Liberalism
Read: Documents 5: ABC; WC, 677-690, 715-717

Wednesday, 3 October
Industrial Revolution
Read: Documents 5:DEF; WC, 690-703
Friday, 5 October
Marxism
Read: Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*, pp. 49-91; WC, 717-722

Week 7:
Monday, 8 October
1848
Read: 5:GH and 6:EF; WC, 732-737

Wednesday, 10 October
Italian and German Unification
Read: Documents 6:ABCDGHIJ; WC, 742-761

Friday, 12 October
Mid-Semester Exam in class

Week 8:
Monday, 15 October
Industrialization
Read: Documents 7:ABC; WC, 765-771, 777-782

Wednesday, 17 October
Nineteenth-Century Social Change
Read: Documents 7:DEF; WC, 782-805

Friday, 19 October
Images of Race and Class in Late Nineteenth-Century Europe

Fall Break:
20-28 October

Fin de siècle:
Week 9:
Monday, 29 October
Socialism and Unionization
Read: Documents 8:ABCDEF

Wednesday, 31 October
Feminism
Read: Documents 9:BCDEFG; WC, 821-832

Friday, 2 November (2ND PAPER DUE in class)
Colonization
Read: Documents 10:ABCDF; WC, 810-821
The Great War and the Russian Revolutions

Week 10:
Monday, 5 November
   Outbreak of the Great War
   Read:   Documents 8:H and 10: EGH; WC, 832-839

Wednesday, 7 November
   The Great War
   Read:   WC, 843-856

Friday, 9 November
   The Rise of the Bolsheviks
   Read:   Documents 11:ABC; WC, 857-861

Week 11:
Monday, 12 November
   Russian Revolution
   Read:   Documents 11:DEFGHI; WC, 861-865

Wednesday, 14 November
   Interwar Europe
   Read:   Documents 12:ABCE; WC, 865-875, 881-884, 895-900, 903-911

Friday, 16 November
   The Rise of Authoritarianism
   Read:   Documents 12:FGH; WC, 886-895, 913-925

Nazism

Week 12:
Monday, 19 November
   The Collapse of Weimar
   Read:   Allen, chapters 1-6
   WC, 900-903, 925-927; Document 12:D

Wednesday, 21 November
   The Rise of Nazism
   Read:   Allen, chapters 7-11

Friday, 23 November
   NO CLASS, Thanksgiving Break

Week 13:
Monday, 26 November
   Life in the Third Reich
   Read:   Allen, chapters 13-16
Wednesday, 28 November
Triumph of the Will
Read: Allen, chapters 17-20; WC, 927-932, 938-945

Friday, 30 November (3rd PAPER DUE in class)
Genocide and Restitution
Read: Document 12:1; WC, 949-973, 982-983

**Postwar Europe**

**Week 14:**
Monday, 3 December
The Cold War
Read: Documents 14:ABC; WC, 973-978, 985-990, 999-1005

Wednesday, 5 December
The Emergence of the Welfare State
Read: Documents 13: DEFGHI; WC, 990-998

Friday, 7 December
Decolonization
Read: Documents 13: ABC; WC, 978-981, 1005-1010

**Week 15:**
Monday, 10 December
Resistance in Eastern Europe
Read: Documents 14:CEF; WC, 1011-1017

Wednesday, 12 December
The Collapse of Communism
Read: Documents 14:DGH; WC, 1017-1019, 1025-1031

Friday, 14 December
Conclusion and Review
Read: WC, 1031-1042, 1047-1051, 1057-1066

**Take-Home Final Exam Due 21 December (Friday), by 5 PM, in my office.**