

Grinnell College
Department of History
Fall 2008

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 AM, Science 1245
Office Hours: M 1-2:30 p.m.; T 10:30-11:30 p.m.; W 11-12 p.m

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. 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 (20%)

This course is organized around class discussion. 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. As part of your discussion grade, you will be required to respond (on six occasions) to a question or a set of questions that I will post to PioneerWeb about the readings throughout the semester. (I will distribute a separate schedule of discussion response dates once the course roster stabilizes). You will post a thoughtful short response (approximately two paragraphs) to PioneerWeb by 12 a.m. the day before discussion. These responses are required, but not graded. Because the primary purpose of these responses is to facilitate discussion, late postings will not be accepted for any reason. Non-submission will have an unfavorable impact on your final grade, as will, of course, non-attendance in class.

2. Papers (60%) (10% for paper 1, 16.7% for the remaining three papers)

There will be four papers for this course: a three-page primary source analysis and three five-page papers. The first paper will critically analyze a primary source from our course packet; the second and third papers will be slightly broader and comparative in scope, while the last paper will concentrate on Christopher Browning's monograph, *Ordinary Men*. Paper topics, style guidelines and grading criteria will be distributed in class.

3. Final Examination (20%)

There will be a take-home final exam.

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)

Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa, *The Leopard* (New York: Pantheon, 2007)

Vera Brittain, *Testament of Youth* (New York: Penguin Classics, 2005)

Christopher Browning, *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland* (New York: Harper Perennial, 1993)

Many 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 day of the semester.

Other readings will be posted to PioneerWeb, and are indicated as "PioneerWeb" on the syllabus.

Schedule of Course Meetings and Assignments

<u>Week 1A</u> August 29	The Old Order Introduction (For class, read Mark A. Kishlansky, "How to Read a Document," in idem, ed., <i>Sources of the West</i> (New York: Longman, 2001), xiii-xxii (PioneerWeb))
August 30	FILM AFTERNOON The Return of Martin Guerre (<i>Le Retour de Martin Guerre</i>) (Dir.: Daniel Vigne, 1982), ARH 102, 3 p.m.
<u>Week 1</u> September 1	The Old Order Discussion of <i>The Return of Martin Guerre</i> and early modern Europe <i>Readings: Documents 1AB; WC, 500-513</i>

- September 3 Europe in 1648
Readings: Documents 1CDE; WC, 513-530
- September 5 The Absolutist State and Louis XIV
Readings: Documents 1FGH; WC, 539-548, 553-559

Week 2

The Enlightenment

- September 8 Gallileo, Hobbes, and Locke
Readings: Documents 2ABC; WC, 548-553, 573-599
- September 10 Montesquieu and Rousseau
Readings: Documents 2DF; WC, 603-624
- September 12 Popular Culture, Historical Change
Robert Darnton, "Workers Revolt: The Great Cat Massacre of the Rue Saint-Séverin" (PioneerWeb)

Week 3

French Revolution

- September 15 Revolutionary origins
Readings: Documents 3ABC; WC, 643-653
- September 17 The Revolution solidifies
Readings: Documents 3DEG; WC, 653-661
- September 19 The Terror
Readings: Documents 3H; "The Festival of the Supreme Being" (PioneerWeb)

Week 4

Revolution and Restoration

- September 22 Napoleonic Europe
Readings: "The Constitution of the French Republic" (PioneerWeb); Documents 3J #6 (the Civil Code); WC, 661-673
- September 24 Romanticism, Conservatism and the Post-Napoleonic Order
Readings: Documents 4ABDF; WC, 708-715
PAPER #1 DUE SEPTEMBER 24, MEARS 212, 5 P.M.
- September 26 Liberalism and the Industrial Revolution
Readings: Documents 5CDF; WC, 677-690, 715-717

Week 5

Industrial Revolution and its Ideologies

- September 29 Early Utopian Responses
Readings: Robert Owen, "A New View of Society: Fourth Essay" (PioneerWeb); Selections from Charles Fourier (PioneerWeb)
- October 1 Marxism
Readings: The Communist Manifesto (49-99 at the very least; feel free to read the introduction and the multiple prefaces); WC, 717-722
- October 3 1848
Readings: Documents 5GH, 6E; WC, 732-737

Week 6**Unifications**

- October 6 Italian Unification
Readings: Lampedusa, The Leopard (3-132); WC, 742-750
- October 8 Italian Unification, part II
Readings: The Leopard (133-210)
- October 10 Italian Unification/Novels as History
Readings: The Leopard (211-279)

Week 7**Imperialism, Socialism and German Unification**

- October 13 German Unification
Readings: Documents 6GHI; WC, 750-761
- October 15 Imperialism
Readings: Documents 10CDF, "Modern Egypt" (PioneerWeb); WC, 810-821
- October 17 Socialism
Readings: Documents 8ABCE; WC 782-805
PAPER #2 DUE OCTOBER 17, MEARS 212, 12 P.M.

MIDTERM BREAK!**Week 8****The Fin-de-Siècle**

- October 27 Fin-de-Siècle Gender Divides
Readings: Brittain, Testament of Youth (15-93)
- October 29 Origins of World War I
Readings: Testament of Youth (94-164); WC, 836-839, 843-853
- October 31 The Great War at Home
Readings: Testament of Youth (165-204, 232-236)

Week 9**World War I and the Russian Revolution**

- November 3 Women and the War
Readings: Testament of Youth (239-361)
- November 5 Russian Revolution, Part I
Readings: Documents 11ABD
- November 7 Russian Revolution and Beyond
Readings: Documents 11FHI; WC, 853-861, 861-865

Week 10**Revolution and Interwar Europe**

- November 10 Interwar Europe: A Doomed Peace?
Readings: Testament of Youth, 543-661; WC, 865-875, 881-884, 895-900, 903-911
- November 12 Authoritarian Responses
Readings: Documents 12FG; WC, 886-895, 913-925
PAPER #3 DUE NOVEMBER 12, MEARS 212, 5 P.M.
- November 14 From Weimar to World War
Readings: Browning, Ordinary Men (1-37); WC, 900-903, 925-943

- Week 11** **The Third Reich and Total War**
- November 17 War on the Eastern Front
Readings: Browning, 38-142; WC, 947-969
- November 19 The War and Aftermath
Readings: Browning, 143-189
- November 21 Debating the Past, Assessing Responsibility
Readings: Browning, 191-223; Daniel Goldhagen, *Hitler's Willing Executioners*, 239-262 (PioneerWeb)
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- Week 12** **The Cold War Order**
- November 24 Origins of the Cold War
Readings: Gale Stokes, *From Stalinism to Pluralism*, 19-42 (PioneerWeb); WC, 969-978, 985-990, 999-1005
- November 26 Welfare States and European Cooperation
Readings: *Documents* 13DEG; WC, 990-998
- November 28 **NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING RECESS**
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- Week 13** **Economic Boom and the Critics of Prosperity**
- December 1 Decolonization: War and Insurrection
Readings: *Documents* 13BC; WC, 978-981, 1005-1010
- December 3 Immigration and the Changing Face of Europe
Readings: Mike Phillips, *Windrush* (PioneerWeb)
- December 5 Prosperity and its Discontents
Readings: Feenberg and Freeman, May 1968 documents (PioneerWeb)
PAPER #4 DUE DECEMBER 5, MEARS 212, 12 P.M.
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- Week 14** **The End of the Cold War**
- December 8 From Budapest to Charter 77
Readings: Stokes, *From Stalinism to Pluralism*, 81-87 and 122-138 (PioneerWeb); WC, 1011-1017
- December 10 1989 and the Collapse of Eastern Europe
Readings: *Documents* 14DE; Stokes, *From Stalinism to Pluralism*, 253-267 (PioneerWeb); WC, 1017-1019, 1025-1031
- December 12 Europe in 2008
Readings: WC, 1031-1042, 1047-1051

FINAL EXAMINATION TO BE TURNED IN BY 5 P.M. TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

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.
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).