

Grinnell College
Department of History
Spring 2008

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

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Mears 212

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Course Meetings: MWF 9-9:50 AM, Science 1245

Office Hours: Monday 10:15-12 p.m., Thursday 2:30-3:30 p.m., or 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.

When reading a text of any kind, consider these kinds of questions:

What are the questions that the author is attempting to answer?

How well does he or she answer these questions?

What types of arguments and evidence does the author use to convince you?

Does the author succeed in convincing you? Why or why not?

What does the author leave out? Why?

Course Requirements (with percentage of grade in parenthesis)

1. Discussion (20%)

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. As part of your discussion grade, you will be required to respond (on seven 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 thus post a thoughtful short response (approximately two paragraphs) to PioneerWeb by 11 p.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 (50%) (10% for paper 1, 20% for paper 2, 20% for paper 3)

There will be three papers for this course: a three-page primary source analysis and two five-page papers. The first paper will critically analyze a primary source from our course packet; the second paper will be slightly broader and comparative in scope, while the last paper will concentrate on William Sheridan Allen's monograph, *The Nazi Seizure of Power*. Paper topics, style guidelines and grading criteria will be distributed in class.

4. Midterm and Final Examinations (30%) (10% for the midterm, 20% for the final)

There will be an in-class mid-term and a normal in-class 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)

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 day of the semester).

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

Schedule of Course Meetings and Assignments

<u>Week 1</u>	The Old Order
January 21	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 (PioneerWeb))

January 22

FILM NIGHT

**The Return of Martin Guerre (*Le Retour de Martin Guerre*)
(Dir.: Daniel Vigne, 1982), ARH 102, 7 p.m. (most likely)**

January 23

Discussion of *The Return of Martin Guerre* and early modern Europe
Readings: Documents 1AB; WC, 500-513

January 25

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

Week 2

Absolutism and the Enlightenment

January 28

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

January 30

The Scientific Revolution and the Church
Readings: Documents 2ABC; WC, 548-553, 573-599

February 1

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

Week 3

French Revolution

February 4

Rousseau and Condorcet
Readings: Documents 2EF; WC, 617-624

February 6

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

February 8

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

Week 4

Revolution and Restoration

February 11

The Terror
Readings: Documents 3H; "The Festival of the Supreme Being" (PioneerWeb); WC, 661-673

February 13

Romanticism and Conservatism
Readings: Documents 4ABC; WC, 711-715

February 15

Napoleon, Reaction and Restoration
Readings: "The Constitution of the French Republic" (PioneerWeb); Documents 3J #6 (the Civil Code); Documents 4DF; WC, 708-711

PAPER #1 DUE FEBRUARY 15, MEARS 212, 5 P.M.

Week 5

Industrial Revolution and its Ideologies

February 18

Liberal Economic Theory
Readings: Documents 5ABC; WC, 677-690, 715-717

February 20

Industrial Revolution
Readings: Documents 5DEF, WC, 690-703

February 22

Marxism

Readings: The Communist Manifesto (49-99 at the very least; feel free to read the introduction and the multiple prefaces); WC, 717-722

Week 6

Revolts and Unifications

February 25

1848

Readings: Documents 5GH, 6E; WC, 732-737

February 27

Italian Unification

Readings: Documents 6ABCD; WC, 742-750

February 29

Germany

Readings: Documents 6GHIJ; WC, 750-761

Week 7

Reactions to Industrialization

March 3

Industrialization: Statistics and Reformers

Readings: Documents 7ABD; WC, 765-771, 777-782

March 5

Midterm Review

March 7

MIDTERM EXAMINATION IN CLASS

Week 8

Discontents

March 10

Socialism

Readings: Documents 8ABCE; WC 782-805

March 12

Feminism

Readings: Documents 9BCDEFG; WC, 821-832

March 14

Imperialism

Readings: Documents 10CDF, "Modern Egypt" (PioneerWeb); WC, 810-821

SPRING BREAK!!

Week 9

World War I

March 31

Origins of World War I

Readings: Documents 8H, 10GH; WC, 832-839, 843-853

April 2

World War I, continued

*Readings: Henri Barbusse, *Under Fire*, Ch. 20 ("Fire") and Ch. 22 ("The Jaunt") (PioneerWeb)*

April 4

NO CLASS!

Week 10

Revolution and Interwar Europe

April 7

Russian Revolution

Readings: Documents 11ABDFGHI; WC, 853-861, 861-865

April 9

Interwar Europe

Readings: Documents 12ABCD; WC, 865-875, 881-884, 895-900, 903-911

April 11

Authoritarian Responses

Readings: Documents 12FGH; WC, 886-895, 913-925

PAPER #2 DUE APRIL 11, MEARS 212, 5 P.M.

Week 11**From Weimar to the Third Reich**

April 14

Nazism's Origins

Readings: Allen, Nazi Seizure of Power, 4-52; WC, 900-903, 925-927

April 16

The Nazi Rise to Power

Readings: Allen, Nazi Seizure of Power, 54-147

April 18

Nazism, part III

*Readings: Allen, Nazi Seizure of Power, 152-216***Week 12****Nazism and World War II**

April 21

Triumph of the Will

Readings: Allen, Nazi Seizure of Power, 216-279, 282-303; WC, 927-932, 938-945

April 23

War and Genocide

Readings: Documents 12I; WC, 949-973, 982-983

April 25

Origins of the Cold War

*Readings: Gale Stokes, From Stalinism to Pluralism, 19-42 (PioneerWeb); WC, 973-978, 985-990, 999-1005***Week 13****Economic Boom and the Critics of Prosperity**

April 28

Welfare States and European Cooperation

Readings: Documents 13DEFG; WC, 990-998

April 30

Decolonization and Immigration

*Readings: Documents 13ABC; WC, 978-981, 1005-1010***PAPER #3 DUE APRIL 30, MEARS 212, 5 P.M.**

May 2

Prosperity and its Discontents

*Readings: Documents 13I; Feenberg and Freeman, May 1968 documents (PioneerWeb)***Week 14****The End of the Cold War**

May 5

From Budapest to Charter 77

Readings: Stokes, From Stalinism to Pluralism (PioneerWeb), 81-87 and 122-38; WC, 1011-1017

May 7

1989 and the Collapse of Eastern Europe

Readings: Documents 14DE; Stokes, From Stalinism to Pluralism (PioneerWeb), 253-267; WC, 1017-1019, 1025-1031

May 9

Europe in 2007

*Readings: WC, 1031-1042, 1047-1051, 1057-1066***FINAL EXAMINATION FRIDAY, MAY 16, 9 A.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 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).