

HIST200A

Developments in Western Culture through the Ages

Spring 2008
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:45–11:00
Mueller 12

Instructor _____ Prof. Matthew Lundin
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Office Hours _____ Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:00–4:00

Course Description

In this course, we will study major developments in Western history from ancient Greece to the eve of World War I. We will survey the dramatic sweep of Western European history, exploring the major cultural, political, intellectual, and social conflicts that shaped Western culture and, ultimately, the world we know today. At the same time, we will examine the complex and often combustible mix of cultural inheritances and political forms that has characterized Western Europe through the centuries—from classical reason to Christian belief, from self-governing communities to hereditary monarchies and vast empires. The chief aim of the course is to offer a deep perspective on the present. Even as we recall the distant origins of our own world, we will also be reminded of the extent to which the past is “a foreign country.”

Requirements and Grading

Class Participation _____ 20%

- Attendance at all class sessions is required. Repeated unexcused absences may result in a failing grade for the course.
- You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings for the day. There will be a few (no more than six) unscheduled quizzes over the course of the semester; these will test your comprehension of the day's assigned readings.

Two primary source analysis papers _____ 20% each

- Each paper (1400–1600 words) will analyze one of the course's major primary source readings. The first paper will take as its subject *The Letters of Abelard*

and Heloise (due February 21). For the second paper, you will compare Bacon's *New Atlantis* and Marx's *Communist Manifesto* (due May 6). Written guidelines for both assignments will be distributed later in the semester. No late papers will be accepted without the prior approval of the instructor.

Midterm _____ 15%

- Thursday, February 28 (in class)

Final _____ 25%

- Thursday, May 8, 8:00–10:00 a.m.

In all your work for the course, you are expected to abide by the Valparaiso University Honor Code. If you have any questions about what constitutes “unauthorized aid” or how to cite sources, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor.

Required Reading

- Perry, Marvin. *Western Civilization: A Brief History*. 6th ed., Houghton Mifflin. ISBN: 978-0618739004
- *The Letters of Abelard and Heloise*. Penguin Books, Revised ed., 2004. ISBN: 978-0140448993
- *Three Early Modern Utopias (Utopia, New Atlantis, The Isle of Pines)*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999. ISBN: 978-0192838858
- Marx, Karl. *The Communist Manifesto*. New York: W. W. Norton, 1988. ISBN: 978-0393025354

All texts are available for purchase at the Valparaiso Book Center.

A number of additional readings are on electronic reserve; they are designated by the marker “†” in the course schedule. These readings are accessible as PDF files on CourseVU (under the “Assignments” section).

If a reading is on electronic reserve, it is your responsibility to **print out** the assigned document, **read it**, and **bring it to class**. Your printing allocation for the semester has been increased for this purpose. If you have any trouble locating a reading, you should contact the instructor prior to class.

Course Schedule

The instructor reserves the right to change or update this syllabus during the semester.

† indicates reading on electronic reserve (i.e., available as PDFs on CourseVU)

WEEK ONE

- Jan. 10: Introduction

Unit One: Antiquity

WEEK TWO: ANCIENT GREECE

- Jan. 15: The Greek Polis
 - Perry, ch. 3
- Jan. 17: Greek Thought and Culture
 - Selections from Thucydides, Socrates, and Plato in Bailkey, *Readings in Ancient History* †

WEEK THREE: ANCIENT ROME

- Jan. 22: Pax Romana: From Republic to Empire
 - Perry, ch. 4
- Jan. 24: Life in Imperial Rome
 - Suetonius, “Life of Augustus” and “Life of Nero” (excerpts) †
 - Selections on gladiatorial games, luxury, and slavery from *Roman Civilization, vol. 2, Selected Readings* †

WEEK FOUR: THE CHRISTIAN REVOLUTION

- Jan. 29: The Rise of Christianity
 - Perry, ch. 5
 - Pliny’s correspondence with the Emperor Trajan †
- Jan. 31: The Fall of the Roman Empire
 - Eusebius, “Oration in Praise of Constantine,” chs. 1–3 †
 - Augustine, “The Two Cities” †

Unit Two: The Middle Ages

WEEK FIVE: THE EMERGENCE OF CHRISTENDOM

- Feb. 5: After the Fall. . .
 - Perry, ch. 6
 - “Prologue” and Chs. 1, 4–5, 33–35 from *The Rule of St. Benedict* †
 - “Coronation of Charlemagne” †
- Feb. 7: Church and Crusades
 - *Dictatus Papae* (1075) †
 - “The Crusades” †
 - “St. Bernard and the Second Crusade” †

WEEK SIX: THE MEDIEVAL WORLD

- Feb. 12: The Twelfth-Century Renaissance
 - Abelard, *Historia calamitatum*, in *Letters of Abelard and Heloise*, 3–43
- Feb. 14: Religion, Love, and Gender in the Middle Ages
 - Abelard and Heloise, “Personal Letters,” in *Letters of Abelard and Heloise*, 47–89

WEEK SEVEN: CONFLICT AND CRISIS

- Feb. 19: Conflict of Church and State
 - Perry, ch. 7
 - Selections from Tierney, *The Crisis of Church and State* †
- Feb. 21: The Black Death and other late medieval crises
 - **First paper due by the beginning of class**
 - Boccaccio, Account of the Black Death in Florence †

WEEK EIGHT: MID-TERM

- Feb. 26: Review Session
- Feb. 28: Mid-term

Spring Break
March 1 – March 16

Unit 3: Early Modern Europe

WEEK NINE: THE RENAISSANCE

- March 18: The Renaissance
 - Perry, ch. 8 (through p. 184)
 - Pico della Mirandola, *Oration on the Dignity of Man* †
 - Rabelais, *The Education of Gargantua* †
- March 20: Printing and other early modern revolutions
 - Eugene Rice, “The Invention of Printing” and “The New Warfare” †

WEEK TEN: THE REFORMATION

- March 25: The Protestant Reformation
 - Perry, ch. 8 (pp. 185–195)
 - Martin Luther, “The Three Walls” †
- March 27: Religious Violence
 - Michel de Montaigne, “On the Lame” †
 - Excerpts from the diary of Hermann Weinsberg †

WEEK ELEVEN: EUROPEAN EXPANSION

- April 1: State-Building
 - Perry, ch. 9 (through p. 211)
 - Hobbes, *Leviathan* (excerpts) †
 - Bossuet, *Politics Drawn from the Very Words of Holy Scripture* (excerpts) †
- April 3: Conquest and Commerce
 - Perry, ch. 9 (pp. 211–220)

WEEK TWELVE: SCIENCE AND ENLIGHTENMENT

- April 8: The Scientific Revolution
 - Perry, ch. 10 (through p. 231)
 - *Three Early Modern Utopias*: Introduction (pp. ix–xv, xxvii–xxxvi) and Bacon, *New Atlantis*, pp. 150–186
- April 10: The Enlightenment
 - Perry, ch. 10 (pp. 231–246)
 - Immanuel Kant “What is Enlightenment?” †

Unit 4: Modern Europe

WEEK THIRTEEN: THE AGE OF REVOLUTION

- April 15: The French Revolution
 - Perry, ch. 11
 - “Declaration of the Rights of Man” †
 - Olympia de Gouge, “Declaration of the Rights of Woman” †
 - Robespierre, Address to the National Convention (1794) †
- April 17: The Industrial Revolution
 - Perry, ch. 12
 - Thomas Carlyle, “The Mechanical Age” †
 - William Blake, Poems from *Songs of Innocence and Experience* †

WEEK FOURTEEN: POLITICAL AND INTELLECTUAL UPHEAVAL

- April 22: Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism
 - Perry, ch. 13 & 15
- April 24: Marxism
 - Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*

WEEK FIFTEEN: NATIONS & EMPIRES

- April 29: Nationalism
 - Perry, ch. 14
 - Reserve reading t.b.a.
- May 1: Imperialism
 - Perry, ch. 16
 - Reserve reading t.b.a.

WEEK SIXTEEN

- May 6: Review session
 - **Second paper due by the beginning of class**

FINAL

- Thursday, May 8, 8:00–10:00 a.m.