

Introduction to the Modern World
History 104-1 / Spring 2011
Prof. William G. Gray

Test the West!

This is the third in a sequence of courses at Purdue designed to provide a comprehensive survey of what used to be known (with stern capital letters) as WESTERN CIVILIZATION. Don't worry if you haven't taken History 102 and 103, the ancient and medieval components; there are no prerequisites for this course. Its purpose is, after all, foundational: to acquaint you with some of the big themes in European history since 1500.

There is always something arbitrary about the design of a "Western Civ" survey. Our attention will wander geographically as the course progresses; by the 19th Century we'll have discovered Hungary and forgotten all about Spain. Like journalists, we follow the action: our eye is on Paris in 1789, Moscow in 1917, Berlin in 1933. Be forewarned that the rush of details tends to become dizzying in a course like this! On essay exams and in your written work, you will face the challenge of wielding details accurately and effectively while developing balanced and persuasive arguments.

Our course material is arranged chronologically. Experience suggests that this is the most straightforward means of conveying how values, technologies, and institutions varied over time. By December, you should be in a position to contrast, say, absolutist rule under Louis XIV with the "totalitarian" claims of 20th-Century dictatorships; or the mercantile Dutch capitalism of the 17th Century with the pinnacle of European imperialism two centuries later. As these examples suggest, we will focus much of our attention on three basic threads or "genres" over time:

- political ideas and institutions
- economic and technological developments
- intellectual, cultural, and religious priorities

Course Requirements

As with any lecture course, exams will weigh heavily in your final grade. There will be two midterms (each worth 20%) and a final exam (worth 30%). In all cases, the exams will feature a combination of short factual questions and long essays. You will receive the essay questions in advance so that you can prepare well-considered responses.

The final component of your grade (30%) will reflect your performance on written exercises. During the course of the semester, you'll need to complete a total of five of these assignments. There will be many exercises to choose among; but we will not accept assignments submitted after the due date for a particular exercise (the due dates are labeled "WRW, Chap. x" in the course schedule below). We will not grade exercises on the Lisbon Earthquake in April! Also, bear in mind that if you do not turn in five exercises, each missing assignment will be recorded as a "zero." That could easily drop you down to the next letter grade...

Course Textbooks

We will make do with just two course books. Purchase them both. The combined price is higher than we would like, but you will find yourself at a serious disadvantage if you don't have ready access to them on the nights before exams and other due dates.

1) Textbook. We have ordered a custom edition of the book; please buy *this* version at Follett's, at the University Bookstore, or on-line from the publisher at <http://www.mypearsonstore.com>. The textbook comes in loose-leaf form, which dropped the price by some 30%. It's true that you probably won't be able to resell this textbook. Instead, you're receiving the savings up front.

The textbook is: Brian Levack, Edward Muir, and Merideth Veldman [LMV], *The West: Encounters and Transformations*, 3rd edition, Volume 2. ISBN: 0-205-79780-6.

If you choose to order the LMV textbook on-line, I highly recommend that you use this exact ISBN number to order your book. This way it will include a pass code to access the text on line as well; this will allow you to read three required chapters at the very beginning of the semester which do not appear in the paper version of the textbook.

2) Sourcebook. Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks, Julius Ruff, and William Bruce Wheeler [WRW], eds. *Discovering the Western Past: A Look at the Evidence. Volume II: Since 1500*, 6th edition. Wadsworth, 2008. ISBN-13 (paper): 978-0-618-76611-6. (currently \$59.49 on amazon)

Course Policies

Attendance is required. The TAs will distribute attendance sheets requiring signatures at each lecture. Over the course of the semester, you may accumulate six (yes, six!) unexcused absences without penalty. It is not our job to "approve" absences one way or another, but if you expect to be representing the university repeatedly in an official capacity (sports, band, etc.), please do discuss this with me early on this semester.

If you miss class more than six times, expect your course grade to drop accordingly.

Common courtesy suggests that you should arrive on time. If you must leave early, please inform us ahead of time and then raise your hand at the appropriate time. A lecture is not the same thing as a television viewing! Your coming and going may represent a significant distraction.

Laptops will only be permitted in the classroom under exceptional circumstances, and only in the first two rows.

Examine the syllabus carefully and note the exam dates. Only in exceptional circumstances will students receive permission to make up exams that they miss. (Medical emergencies and extra-curricular activities are the most common grounds for being excused.) No matter what the reason for the absence, make-up exams will only be administered at the end of the semester, immediately prior to "dead week."

Academic integrity: The assignments in this course require you to formulate complex thoughts in your own words. Attempts to pass off another's words as your own – be it on an exam or in your written work – will carry harsh penalties. Plagiarized papers will earn a “zero” for the assignment and may lead to further consequences.

Disclaimer: In the event of a major campus emergency, the above requirements, deadlines and grading policies are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar. Any such changes in this course will be posted, once the course resumes, on the course website or can be obtained by contacting the instructor via email or phone.

Contact Information

Course Director

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Check the course web site for handouts & announcements:
<<http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~wggray/Teaching/His104/Index.htm>>

Podcasts of the lectures will be available via BoilerCast (web site TBA).

Lecture and Reading Schedule**For class read:
(LMV 3rd ed.)**

Jan. 10	Intro: Europe in 1500	
Jan. 12	Europeans as explorers, conquerors & traders	394-425
Jan. 14	Renaissance humanism	426-431
Jan. 17	NO CLASS	
Jan. 19	Luther's Reformation	431-450
Jan. 21	Reform in the Catholic world	450-455
Jan. 24	Confessional identities in a polarized Europe	456-491 <i>WRW, Chap. 1</i>
Jan. 26	Louis XIV, center of the universe	492-506
Jan. 28	Baroque culture	<i>WRW, Chap. 2</i>
Jan. 31	Toward a scientific world view	528-551
Feb. 2	Where absolutism failed	506-527
Feb. 4	England's peculiar moderation	
Feb. 7	Aristocrats and bourgeois in 18th-Century Europe	586-596
Feb. 9	What is Enlightenment?	596-617
Feb. 11	The classical era	<i>WRW, Chap. 3</i>
Feb. 14	Citizens under the Constitution, 1789-1791	618-627 <i>WRW, Chap. 4</i>
Feb. 16	The Republic and the Reign of Terror, 1792-1794	627-638
Feb. 18	Napoleon – revolutionary conqueror	638-653
Feb. 21	FIRST MIDTERM	
Feb. 23	Putting a lid back on Europe	684-695
Feb. 25	The mood of Romanticism	
Feb. 28	Wheels are spinning: the potential of industrialization	654-670

Mar. 2	Dark satanic mills: the problems of industrialization	670-683
Mar. 4	Liberal revolutions	695-708 <i>WRW, Chap. 6</i>
Mar. 7	Basics of Marxism	
Mar. 9	Uniting nations – by force	708-719 <i>WRW, Chap. 7</i>
Mar. 11	European nation-states in the age of mass politics	720-749
Mar. 21	Urban life transformed	<i>WRW, Chap. 8</i>
Mar. 23	The new imperialism	750-783
Mar. 25	Fin-de-siècle Europe: an era of nervousness and angst	<i>WRW, Chap. 9</i>
Mar. 28	The onset of war	784-791
Mar. 30	SECOND MID-TERM	
Apr. 1	In the trenches	792-807
Apr. 4	The Bolshevik revolution	807-819
Apr. 6	Europe's featherweight democracies	820-833 <i>WRW, Chap. 11</i>
Apr. 8	Modernism at its peak	
Apr. 11	The appeal of fascism	833-839
Apr. 13	Hitler's racial revolution	<i>WRW, Chap. 12</i>
Apr. 15	A clash of ideologies: Europe in the 1930s	839-855
Apr. 18	A second world war	856-877
Apr. 20	The Holocaust in history	877-889
Apr. 22	<i>Another</i> clash of ideologies: the Cold War	890-910
Apr. 25	Europe divided	911-942
Apr. 27	Détente and social change	<i>WRW, Chap. 13</i>
Apr. 29	The post-Cold War world	943-964
TBA	FINAL EXAM	

