

Introduction to the Modern World

History 104-1 / Fall 2008

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 the ancient and medieval components yet; 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 (also worth 20%). 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 will reflect your performance on written papers. Each of the two papers (worth 20% each) will feature a very specific set of essay questions; you will *not* receive credit for essays that do not fall within our parameters. The first paper is a comparative exercise involving Molière and Beaumarchais; the second compares the Arendt and Solzhenitsyn texts. You will be tested on the Karl Marx reading during the second midterm.

Course Textbooks

We have ordered a custom edition of the course textbook; 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: Levack, Muir, Maas, and Veldman [LMMV], *The West: Encounters and Transformations*, 2nd edition. Our custom ISBN is 0-205-68202-2.

Note that this text comes "bundled" together with three other books from the same publisher:

Hannah Arendt, *Eichmann and the Holocaust*
Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*
Molière, *The Misanthrope*

In addition, the following texts are available for sale at the bookstores or on line. Please only order *these* editions! In your papers, you will need to refer to specific page numbers from these texts. I have taken special care to order inexpensive editions.

Beaumarchais, *The Figaro Trilogy* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003). ISBN [paperback]: 0-192-80413-8
Alexander Solzhenitsyn, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (New York: Signet Classics, 1963, 1998). ISBN [paperback]: 0-451-52709-7

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 nine (yes, nine!) unexcused absences without penalty. It is not my 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 nine 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.

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

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

Lecture and Reading Schedule**For class read:
(LMMV 2nd ed.)**

Aug. 25	Intro: Europe in 1500	
Aug. 27	Europeans as explorers, conquerors & traders	377-406
Aug. 29	Renaissance humanism	409-415
Sept. 1	NO CLASS	
Sept. 3	Luther's Reformation	415-430
Sept. 5	Reform in the Catholic world	430-440
Sept. 8	Confessional identities in a polarized Europe	443-475
Sept. 10	Louis XIV, center of the universe	477-499
Sept. 12	Molière's mores	Molière
Sept. 15	Toward a scientific world view	513-539
Sept. 17	Where absolutism failed	499-506
Sept. 19	England's peculiar moderation	506-510, 541-554
Sept. 22	Aristocrats and bourgeois in 18th-Century Europe	575-585
Sept. 24	What is Enlightenment?	585-604
Sept. 26	The classical era	Beaumarchais
Sept. 29	Citizens under the Constitution, 1789-1791 [FIRST PAPER DUE]	607-613
Oct. 1	The Republic and the Reign of Terror, 1792-1794	613-627
Oct. 3	Napoleon – revolutionary conqueror	627-641
Oct. 6	FIRST MIDTERM	
Oct. 8	Putting a lid back on Europe	675-685
Oct. 10	The mood of Romanticism	
Oct. 13	OCTOBER BREAK	
Oct. 15	Wheels are spinning: the potential of industrialization	643-659

Oct. 17	Dark satanic mills: the problems of industrialization	659-672
Oct. 20	Liberals and 1848	685-698
Oct. 22	Basics of Marxism	Marx
Oct. 24	Uniting nations – by force	698-708
Oct. 27	Urban life transformed	
Oct. 29	European nation-states in the age of mass politics	711-740
Oct. 31	The new imperialism	743-785
Nov. 3	Fin-de-siècle Europe: nervousness and angst	785-794
Nov. 5	The onset of war	
Nov. 7	SECOND MID-TERM	
Nov. 10	In the trenches	794-800
Nov. 12	The Bolshevik revolution	800-811
Nov. 14	Europe’s featherweight democracies	813-826
Nov. 17	Modernism at its peak	
Nov. 19	The appeal of fascism	826-832
Nov. 21	Hitler’s racial revolution	Arendt
Nov. 24	A clash of ideologies: Europe in the 1930s	832-847
Dec. 1	A second world war	849-882
Dec. 3	The Holocaust in History	
Dec. 5	In Stalin’s dictatorship	Solzhenitsyn
Dec. 8	<i>Another</i> clash of ideologies: the Cold War	885-906
Dec. 10	Europe divided	907-921
	[SECOND PAPER DUE]	
Dec. 12	The post-Cold War world	923-957
TBA	FINAL EXAM	