

# History 104

INTRODUCTION TO THE MODERN WORLD

FALL 2025

## Course Overview

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This course, Introduction to the Modern World, traces the historical development of the West from the Renaissance to the 2000s. You will learn about patterns of human experience, artistic works and historical problems.

## Instructor Information

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- Instructor: Dr. Mary FV Barford
- Email: mbarford@purdue.edu
- Office Hours: by appointment – please contact me, I do want to chat!

## Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

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By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Recognize and describe humanistic, historical, or artistic works or problems and patterns of the human experience.
2. Analyze and evaluate texts, works, objects, events, or ideas in their cultural, intellectual, or historical contexts.
3. Analyze diverse narratives and evidence in order to explore the complexity of human experience across space and time.
4. Describe the history, literature, languages, arts, philosophy, religion, or traditions of other world cultures.
5. Identify the history and the basic principles and operation of government in the United States or other countries.
6. Apply disciplinary methodologies, epistemologies, and traditions of the humanities and the arts.

## Required Texts and Materials

- John P. McKay, Clare Haru Crowston, Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks, Joe Perry, A History of Western Society, Value Edition, Vol. II, 14th edition (2023) Value Edition

## Course Format and Requirements:

- This course will be exclusively online. There will be no in-person exams, meetings or lectures. This requires you the student to keep up with reading, assignments, and communication.
- Each week a new module will be posted on Sunday evenings for the week ahead.
- There will be weekly assignments worth 10 points each due by the next Sunday at 11:59 pm through Brightspace.
- There will be a midterm assignment (not an exam) with options to choose from worth 100 points submitted through Brightspace.
- There will be a final assignment (not an exam) with options to choose from worth 120 points submitted through Brightspace.

Weekly assignments: 140 total points

Midterm: 100 points

Final: 120 points

- This course is on BrightSpace (BS) at [Purdue.brightspace.com](https://Purdue.brightspace.com)
- Announcements will be posted in Brightspace. Time-sensitive announcements will also be emailed.

### Late Assignment Policy:

As an active learning class, your participation in course activities is essential for your success in this course. Because the course is divided into weekly units, assignments in this course have weekly deadlines. The purpose of deadlines is to maintain your consistent involvement in the course and to limit procrastination. Because of the importance of regular participation, late assignments will not be accepted, except by permission of the instructor. Exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis.

## GRADING SCALE

A+ = 96.5 – 100%

A = 92.5 – 96.5%

A- = 89.5 – 92.5%

B+ = 86.5 – 89.5%

B = 82.5 - 86.5%

B- = 79.5 – 82.5%

C+ = 76.5 – 79.5%

C = 72.5 - 76.5%

C- = 69.5 – 72.5%

D+ = 66.5 – 69.5%

D = 62.5 - 66.5%

D- = 59.5 – 62.5%

F= 0 – 59.5%

## Course Schedule

<b>DATES</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>ADMIN</b>
<b>Week One:</b> <b>(August 25-31)</b> <b>Welcome + European</b> <b>Exploration and Conquest</b>	Read over course syllabus Watch welcome video  Read Chapter 14 Watch YouTube videos  Complete weekly activity	
<b>Week Two:</b> <b>(September 1<sup>st</sup>- 7<sup>th</sup>)</b> <b>Absolutism and</b> <b>Constitutionalism</b>	Read Chapter 15 Watch Videos  Complete weekly activity	Monday, September 1 <sup>st</sup> is Labor Day
<b>Week Three:</b> <b>(September 8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>)</b> <b>Toward a New World View</b>	Read Chapter 16 Watch Videos  Complete weekly activity	
<b>Week Four:</b> <b>(September 15<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup>)</b> <b>The Expansion of Europe</b> <b>and Life in the Era of</b> <b>Expansion</b>	Read Chapter 18 Watch Videos  Complete weekly activity	
<b>Week Five:</b> <b>(September 22<sup>nd</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>)</b> <b>You say you want a</b> <b>REVOLUTION</b>	Read Chapter 19 Watch Videos  Complete weekly activity	
<b>Week Six:</b> <b>(September 29<sup>th</sup>- October</b> <b>5<sup>th</sup>)</b> <b>Industrialization and</b> <b>Romanticism – what a</b> <b>combo!</b>	Reading TBA Watch Videos  Complete weekly activity	

<b>Week Seven:</b> <b>(October 6<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup>)</b> <b>Life in Urban Society</b>	Read Chapter 22 Watch Videos  Complete Weekly Activity Read Midterm Assignment	
<b>Week Eight:</b> <b>(October 13<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>)</b> <b>Nationalism and Imperialism – uh-oh</b>	Reading TBA Watch Videos  Complete Weekly Activity	October 13 <sup>th</sup> and 14 <sup>th</sup> Fall Break
<b>Week Nine:</b> <b>(October 20<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>)</b> <b>WWI and the Russian Revolution</b>	Read Chapter 25 Watch Videos  Midterm due, no weekly activity	<b>MIDTERM DUE 10/26</b>
<b>Week Ten:</b> <b>(October 27<sup>th</sup>- Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>)</b> <b>Cont'd WWI and aftermath, modernism in Art, Great Depression and New Deal in the US</b>	Read Chapter 26 Watch Videos  Complete Weekly Activity	
<b>Week Eleven:</b> <b>(November 3<sup>rd</sup>- 9<sup>th</sup>)</b> <b>Dictatorships, WWII Spanish Civil War</b>	Read Chapter 27 Watch Videos  Complete Weekly Activity	
<b>Week Twelve:</b> <b>(November 10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>)</b> <b>The Cold War</b>	Reach Chapter 28 Watch Videos  Complete Weekly Activity	
<b>Week Thirteen:</b> <b>(November 17<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>)</b> <b>The Cold War and American Culture</b>	Reading TBA Watch Videos  Complete Weekly Activity	
<b>Week Fourteen:</b> <b>(November 24<sup>th</sup>- 30<sup>th</sup>)</b> <b>Challenging the Post War Order</b>	Read Chapter 29 Watch Videos  Read over Final Exam guidelines.	Thanksgiving Break November 27 <sup>th</sup> - 30 <sup>th</sup>

<b>Week Fifteen:</b> <b>(December 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>)</b> <b>More 1960s – 1990s</b> <b>Vietnam</b>	Reading TBA Watch Videos  Complete Weekly Activity	
<b>Week Sixteen:</b> <b>(December 8<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup>)</b> <b>1990s to the present</b>	Reading TBA Watch Videos	<b>FINAL DUE</b> <b>12/15</b>

## Advice for Success:

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- Ask questions! If there is something you are unsure of, please email me, schedule an appointment with me or let me know through Brightspace that you are struggling or confused. Since we do not meet in person, you may feel reluctant to reach out, but I am truly here to help and to teach!
- Don't leave your work until the last minute. Each weekly activity will be due at the end of the week by Sunday at 11:59 pm, I would suggest working on the reading throughout the week so that you're not cramming to finish by the deadline. Even though I say this, I also struggle with procrastination so I am sympathetic.
- Academic Integrity: Plagiarism and cheating are strictly prohibited and will result in disciplinary action. DO NOT USE AI for your weekly assignments. Where's the learning in that? I will provide more specific guidance for Midterm and Final projects.

## Important Dates

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- Midterm Due: October 26th
- Final Due: December 15<sup>th</sup>

## Mental Health

If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of mental health support, services are available. Such individuals should contact Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at (765) 494-6995 and on the website during and after

hours, on weekends and holidays, or by going to the CAPS office of the 2nd floor of PUSH during business hours.

## Basic Needs Security

Primarily through the Dean of Students Office, Purdue has a range of ways to support students through times of struggle and insecurity. In addition to highlighting the availability of the Dean of Students, you may also want to familiarize yourself with some of the following resources:

- The ACE Campus Food Pantry (open to the entire Purdue community)
- The Center for Advocacy, Response & Education (open to the entire Purdue community)  
“provides support and advocacy for survivors of sexual violence, dating violence, and stalking.