

SYLLABUS (MAY CHANGE AT ANY TIME)
HST 103: History of Western Civilization
Spring 2004; 10:15-11:20

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Office hours: After class or by appointment (call or e-mail)

Course Description: The origins of Western civilization from 1800 to the present. This is the third in a three-course sequence. In this course we will alternately examine the social and political events and the intellectual and artistic achievements that shaped the Western world. The reading will focus on the theme of the “outsider.”

Grading Criteria:

Attendance and Participation: You will be penalized for missing more than three classes. You are expected to finish assigned reading before the class for which it is due and to come with written question and notes that will inform your discussion.

For tests, you will be held responsible for all material from lecture. If you do not understand something, it is your responsibility to ask about it. You may always ask about any material presented in previous classes.

Response papers: From time to time you will write a short, one- or two-paragraph paper in which you respond to material from a day’s class.

Midterm Examination:

You will be given a midterm examination on May 8. We will discuss the format in class.

Papers:

You will write two papers of about 5 pages each, the first due on April 28 and the second due on June 2. A grade adjustment may be made for late papers. Papers should be typed and around 1250-1500 words long. You will be given a choice of topics for these papers, and the topics will be handed out about a week and a half before they are due. These are not research papers, but will rather ask you to pull together course material.

Final Examination:

This examination will take place on June 9.

READING:

Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave, Written by Himself*, Yale, 2001.

Emile Zola, *Germinal*, Viking reprint, 1954.

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*, Dover, 1990.

Elie Wiesel, *Night*, Bantam, 1982.

Maxine Hong Kingston, *The Woman Warrior*, Vintage, 1989.

Plus assigned materials on-line or distributed in class.

I highly recommend that you buy a good used Western Civilization textbook at a place like Powells. New textbooks are so expensive that I decided not to assign one. However, such a text may prove an invaluable supplement to the lectures and a useful tool for the rest of your life.

Some authors who have published such textbooks are: R.R. Palmer and Joel Colton; Margaret King, Gloria Fiero; Donald Kagan; and Roy Mathews and F. DeWitt Platt. Others have also published useful books, Most of which have titles like: “Western Civilization” or “Western Humanities.”

Course outline, assignments, and a few major themes:

- Mar 29 Introduction:
The Enlightenment;
The 18th century revolutions (American, French, Industrial)
- Mar 31 Napoleonic Wars and the treaty of Vienna
- Apr 2 1815-50 Ideas, Art and Science
Romanticism and Realism
Cell theory
Electricity
Atomic theory
- Apr 5 Revolutions in 1830 and 1848
The growing industrial revolution
The growing working class
National movements
- Apr 7 Slavery: Discuss Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*
- Apr 9 Continue Douglass; American Civil War
- Apr 12 Liberalism, Socialism, and Communism
- Apr 14 Darwin and Darwinism
- Apr 17 The birth of Germany
The birth of Italy
- Apr 19 Government response to working conditions and welfare
- Apr 21 Discuss Zola, *Germinal*
- Apr 24 Continue Zola
- Apr 26 The second industrial revolution
Urbanization
- Apr 28 Imperialism
Paper I due

- May 1 Discuss Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*
- May 3 Continue Conrad
- May 5 Nietzsche's critique of value
Impressionism, Postimpressionism, and Modernism
- May 8 Midterm Examination
- May 10 World War I; The roaring twenties
The Great Depression
- May 12 Modern Science
- May 15 Totalitarian movements
- May 17 World War II
The bomb
- May 19 **Discuss:** Elie Wiesel, *Night*
- May 21 The birth of the cold war
The end of colonialism
- May 24 Civil rights
The Vietnam War
- May 26 Discuss Maxine Hong Kingston, *The Woman Warrior*
- May 28 Continue Kingston; postmodernism
- May 31 No Class
- June 2 OPEC and the great inflation
The fall of the wall
Paper II due
- June 4 The European Union and a new world order
- June 9 Final Examination