

HST 102: History of Western Civilization

Meeting Time & Place: MTWTh 1-3:20, Cramer Hall 258

Instructor: William H. York
Office: 492E Cramer Hall
Mailbox: 441 Cramer Hall

Phone: 503-725-4955
email: why@pdx.edu
Office Hours: MW 5-6pm or by appointment

Course Description:

In this course we will examine the political, economic, social and cultural institutions of western civilization from roughly 1450-1815. We will discuss such topics as the age of exploration, the era of religious reform and the wars of religion, the scientific revolution, the Enlightenment and the French Revolution. Throughout the course we will focus on societal definitions of self and other, the search for a set of guidelines to regulate society, and the promise of science for human society. We will approach the history of this period through reading and discussion of a series of primary documents relating to the themes established for the course.

Required Materials:

Please note that the following texts are available at th PSU Bookstore. However, there have been many printings and editions of these books and you may feel free to purchase used copies of any of them in any edition you choose.

- Thomas More, *Utopia*. Penguin Books, 1965.
- Voltaire, *Candide*. Penguin Books, 1947.
- “Western Civilization 2”- Course Packet (marked as “CP” in syllabus below)
- Some other readings available online.

Optional Materials:

For those of you who wish to have additional information or a text for use as a study aid, there is an *optional* textbook available for the course in the bookstore:

- Mark Kishlansky, Patrick Geary, & Patricia O’Brien, *Civilization in the West*, 4th edition. Addison-Wesley Educational Publishers, Inc., 2001.

Grading Criteria:

Regular attendance and participation in classroom discussions is expected. Readings should be completed prior to the lecture for which they are assigned. If you are unable to attend a lecture, it is your responsibility to borrow notes from one of your classmates. If you require specific instructional accommodations, please notify me early in the course.

Attendance and Participation: 15%
Short Reading Responses (2 of them*): 40% (20% each)
Midterm Exam: 20%
Final Exam: 25%

- Students will be required to write two reading response papers for this course. These papers will revolve around some aspect of the readings from the required texts. Specific guidelines for these papers will be handed out at a later date. Each paper should be roughly 4-5 pages (1000-1500 words) in length.

Lecture, Reading and Assignment Schedule:

Week 1: 7/22-7/25

M: Introduction: Renaissance Society & Humanism

Required Readings:

- Thomas More, *Utopia* (begin reading this for discussion next week)

Optional Readings:

- Kishlansky, et al., pp. 353-385.

T: Renaissance Science & Scientific Thought

Required Readings:

- Heinrich Kramer & James Sprenger, *Malleus Maleficarum*, Montague Summers (ed. & trans.) (New York: Benjamin Blom, Inc., 1929, reissued 1970), pp. 41-48, 54-61, 66, 140-144. (CP)

W: Protestant Reformation

Required Readings:

- Martin Luther, “Heidelberg Disputation,” in Timothy F. Lull (ed.), *Martin Luther’s Basic Theological Writings*, (Fortress Press, 1989), pp. 30-49. (CP)

Optional Readings:

- Kishlansky, et al., pp. 427-461.

Th: Wars of Religion I

Required Readings:

- The Massacre of St. Bartholomew’s Day, August 24, 1572: available at <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1572stbarts.html>

Optional Readings:

- Kishlansky, et al., pp. 465-496.

Week 2: 7/29-8/1

M: Wars of Religion II

Discussion: Sir Thomas More, *Utopia*

T: Age of Exploration

Required Readings:

- Christopher Columbus, *Journal of First Voyage to America*, with an introduction by Van Wyck Brooks. (New York: Albert & Charles Boni, 1924), pp. 22-42, 209-221. (CP)
- Montaigne, “Of the Cannibals,” in his *Essays* v. 1 (New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. Inc., 1946), pp. 215-229. (CP)

Optional Readings:

- Kishlansky, et al., pp. 388-406.

W: Economy & Society in Early Modern Europe: Health & Everyday Life

Required Readings:

- Charter of the Dutch West India Company, 1621: available at <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/westind.htm> (skim)
- St. Francis Xavier, Letter from India to the Society of Jesus at Rome, 1543: available at <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1543xavier1.html>

Optional Readings:

- Kishlansky, et al., pp. 500-535 & 592-611.

Th: **Midterm Exam**

Week 3: 8/5-8/8

M: Absolutism

Paper 1 Due

Required Readings:

- Jean Domat, *On Social Order and Absolute Monarchy*: available at <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1687domat.html>
- Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, October 22, 1685: available at <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1685revocation.html>

Optional Readings:

- Kishlansky, et al., pp. 539-573.

T: English Constitutionalism

Required Readings:

- Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* selections: available at <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/hobbes-lev13.html>

W: Scientific Revolution

Required Readings:

- Francis Bacon, *Novum Organum* (selection), Robert Maynard Hutchins (ed.), *Great Books of the Western World* (Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., 1952), pp. 105-111, 127-130, 137-140. (CP)

Optional Readings:

- Kishlansky, et al., pp.577-591.

Th: NO CLASS

Week 4: 8/12-8/16

M: Enlightenment

Discussion: Voltaire, *Candide*

Optional Readings:

- Kishlansky, et al., pp. 649-681.

T: Debating Revolutionary Ideas

Required Readings:

- Edmund Burke, *Reflections on The Revolution in France*, 1791: available at <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1791burke.html>
- Thomas Paine, *The Rights of Man*: available at <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/paine/ritesone.htm> – NOTE only read as far as the paragraph: “We now come more particularly to the affairs of France. Mr. Burke’s book ... is darkness attempting to illuminate light.”

Optional Readings:

- Kishlansky, et al., pp. 685-717.

W: The French Revolution

Required Readings:

- Maximilien Robespierre, *On the Principles of Political Morality*: available at <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1794robespierre.html>
- Maximilien Robespierre, *Justification of the Use of Terror*: available at <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/robespierre-terror.html>

Th: **Final Exam**