

Tentative Course Syllabus

THE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

DIVISION OF HUMANITIES

**HUMA 2590: THE MAKING OF THE MODERN WORLD: RENAISSANCE TO THE
PRESENT**

SPRING SEMESTER 2024

(the course outline for this year will be identical to last year's, except the dates will be slightly different)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The modern Spanish philosopher Jorge Santayana once declared: "Those who do not know the past are forever condemned to repeat its errors." This famous quote nicely summarizes a major purpose for this course. Hopefully, when you complete this course, you will be sufficiently knowledgeable about the past 600 years of Europe's history to have a good understanding of current and future developments in our complex world. You will share a sense of who people were born and reared, how they worked and played, and how they were governed in Europe since 1400. We shall read, see, and hear what some of the most articulate figures of the age have bequeathed to us. As this is a survey course, it must be highly selective and cannot include everything as we roughly cover a century in two weeks. But hopefully this course will whet your appetite for further specialized study.

LECTURES

Most of the time there will be two 80-minute lectures a week on topics specified in the syllabus for a total of 26 for the academic semester. However please note the calendar. A number of classes will be holidays: Easter Monday, Ching Ming, and Labour Day. Power-point slides will accompany each lecture, and the power-point slides will be placed each week on the university's intranet system.

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ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

Essay (20%) Every student will be expected to read in its entirety *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Marie Remarque. The novel is fairly short, and describes life and death along the Western Front during World War I some 100 years ago, from the German perspective. The book is a classic and is quite easy to read. By the end of the fourth week of class, or in early March, I will pass out a list of questions based on the book. You will need to select ONE of those questions and write an essay of some **3 to 4 pages**, not exceeding **1000 words**, based on answering the question you select. The essay must employ the basic rules of English grammar and usage. The essay will be due at the last Monday class of the semester or **May 9**. You are welcome to do supplementary research, which should be noted in the essay as footnotes. But the crux of the essay must come from the book itself. This is **not** a book review in which you summarize or critique the book.

Participation (10%) Attendance in the class is very important. At the start of each class, I shall take attendance. If you should miss more than **THREE (3)** classes without good reason, I will deduct marks from your final average. Given the large size of the class, it is highly unlikely there can be much substantive discussion. Unfortunately there are no tutorials in the course.

Map Quiz (10%) During the third week of the semester or on **February 21**, I will pass out a blank outline map of Europe, as well as an accompanying map key. You should use the next week to fill in the outline map. Then on **February 28**, I will pass out another outline map. You should identify numbers 1 to 5, and then locate numbers 6 to 10 on the map itself.

Content Quizzes (30%) Twice during the semester, I will give a quiz, which will be based on the readings and the lectures. Each quiz will be consist of short answer questions: fill in the blank, multiple choice, matching and true and false questions. They will take no more than 20 to 30 minutes.

Final Examination (30%) In addition to the midterm, there will be a comprehensive final examination during the designated time after the semester. It will embody a combination of short answer and essay questions. More details will follow during the term.

REQUIRED READINGS

Joshua Cole, Carol Symes, Judith Coffin, and Robert Stacey. *Western Civilizations*, 4th edition, Combined volume, paper. 2012

Eric Maria Remarque. *All Quiet on the Western Front*. Paper.

Thomas Sanders, Samuel H. Nelson, Stephen Morillo, and Nancy Ellenberger. *Encounters in World History: Sources and Themes from the Global Past*, Vol. 2. 2005.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS

I. Europe in Transition, 1400 to 1550

---Major themes for Medieval Europe

---The Renaissance

---The Age of Discovery: Spain and Portugal

---The new Monarchies: Britain and France

Western Civilizations: Chapter 11: Commerce, Conquest, and Colonization, pp. 290-296, 299-311; Chapter 12: Renaissance Ideals and Realities, pp. 313-341.

Encounters: Chapter 1, Columbus' First Voyage. pp. 27-35; Chapter 2, pp. 36-42.

Bartolome de Las Casas. "*Destruction of the Indies*"

Marco Polo "*The Travels*"

Mirandola "*The Dignity of Man*"

Roy. "*The Excellence of this Age*"

II. Time of Troubles, Europe, 1550 to 1648

---The Reformation

---The Counter Reformation

---The Religious Wars: Civil Wars in France and England

---The Thirty Years War

---The Rise of France: Richelieu and Mazarin

---The Age of Discovery: Britain, France and other countries

Map Quiz—February 28

Western Civilizations: Chapter 13: The Age of Dissent and Division; pp. 343-367; Chapter 14: Religion, Warfare and Sovereignty. Pp. 369-392, 398-399.

Encounters: Chapter 3, pp. 70-84, "Perspectives on the Atlantic Slave Trade"

Martin Luther "*On Christian Liberty*"

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III. **The Age of Louis XIV, 1648-1715**

---Louis XIV and Absolutism

---The Wars of Louis XIV

---Competition from England

---Absolutism in Eastern Europe: Rise of Prussia and Russia

Western Civilizations: Chapter 15: Absolutism and Empire, pp. 401-423

Encounters; Chapter 4, pp. 101-103, "The Empirical Reasoning of John Locke, pp. 109-115. Chapter 5, pp. 123-125, "Peter the Great of Russia", pp. 145-151.

Cotes. "*Preface to Newton's 'Principia'*"

IV. **The Age of the Enlightenment, 1715-1789**

---The *Philosophes*

---The Enlightened Despots

---European Wars and Expansion

---The Scientific Revolution

---The Coming of the French Revolution

---Socio-economic developments in the eighteenth century

Western Civilizations: Chapter 16: The New Science of the Seventeenth Century, pp. 425-447; Chapter 17: the Enlightenment, pp. 449-464, pp. 470-475.

Voltaire. "*The Chinese*"

Condorcet. "*The Progress of the Human Mind*"

V. **The French Revolution and Napoleon, 1789-1815**

---Developments in the French Revolution, 1789-1792

---The Revolution and Europe

---The Terror and the Rise of Napoleon, 1792-1799

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---The Grand Empire, 1799-1808

---Reaction by Europe and the Defeat of Napoleon, 1808-1815

Content Quiz I: March 21

Western Civilizations: Chapter 18: The French Revolution, pp. 477-503.

Encounters; Chapter 6, "The French Revolution", pp. 176-179, 183-186.

VI. Restoration, Revolution, and Reaction, 1815-1871

---Turning back the Clock: Political Restoration

---The Industrial Revolution

---The Revolutions of 1830 and 1848

---Liberalism and Reform

---Nationalism and the Unifications of Italy and Germany

Western Civilizations: Chapter 19: The Industrial Revolution, pp. 505-529; Chapter 20: From Restoration to Revolution, pp. 531-551; Chapter 21, What is a Nation? pp. 561-577, 579-585.

Encounters. Chapter 7 "The Industrial Revolution", pp. 197-201, 209-211, pp. 215-220.

VII. The End of Old Europe, 1871-1914

---The German Empire and Bismarck

---Socialism and the Labor Movement

---The Advance of Democracy: France and Great Britain

---Imperialism

---The Decaying Empires: Austria-Hungary, Turkey, and Russia

---23: The Origins of World War I

Western Civilizations: Chapter 22 Imperialism and Colonialism, pp. 595-598, pp. 603-611, 614-617; Chapter 23: Modern Industry and Mass Politics, pp. 619-639.

Encounters. Chapter 10 "Nationalism and Nation Building", pp. 345-346, 349-352.

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VIII. World War I and the Twenty Year Interlude, 1914-1939

---World War I

---The Russian Revolutions and Lenin

---The Peace Settlements

---Weimar Germany and the Rise of National Socialism

---Stalin's Soviet Union

---The Democracies between the Wars: Britain and France

---The Origins of World War II

Western Civilizations: Chapter 24: The First World War, pp. 647-673;
Chapter 25: Turmoil between the Wars, 675-694.

Encounters. Chapter 11 "Collectivist Ideologies in the Twentieth Century", pp. 363-378; Chapter 12 "Confronting Human Aggression in the Twentieth Century, pp. 396-403, 418-421.

Lenin "*The Vanguard Party*"

IX. World War II and the Cold War, 1939-1989

----The course of World War II

---The Cold War

---Decolonization and Neocolonialism

---Death of Stalin and Post-Stalin USSR

---Economic and Political Recovery of Western Europe

Content Quiz II: April 18

Western Civilizations: Chapter 26: The Second World War, pp. 701-725;
Chapter 27: The Cold War World, 727-747.

Encounters. Chapter 13 "Perspectives on the Cold War", pp. 427-432,
440-445, 449-450, 455-458.

Borowski. "*This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen*"

X. Contemporary Europe, 1989---

---The 1989 Revolution in Eastern Europe—End of Cold War

---The Collapse of the Soviet Union

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---The development of the European Union

---Post Soviet Russia: Yeltsin and Putin

---Europe Today

Book Review Due: May 9

Western Civilizations: Chapter 28: Red Flags and Velvet Revolutions, pp. 760-777; Chapter 29: A World Without Walls, pp. 779-803.

Timothy Garton Ash. *"The Magic Lantern"*