
INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION, FROM 1500

Instructor:

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Office Hours:

Tuesday, 12:00-1:00 pm, or by appointment

Time:

M/T/W/R/F: 8:30-10:30 am

Location:

Drake Centre, Room 108

Course Description: This course surveys the broad themes and developments in the history of Europe, and its interactions with the rest of the world, from the religious Reformations of the sixteenth century to the Present. It covers a dynamic period defined by a series of religious, political, intellectual, and social revolutions that created the modern world, providing a valuable foundation for further study in history. Through the combination of lectures, readings, discussions, and written assignments you will be introduced to the ways in which historians think and work, while also developing valuable critical and analytical reading and writing skills.

Readings: The assigned readings are an essential part of this course. They are intended to complement the lectures and written assignments, as well as help you develop critical reading skills. On examinations you are responsible for all the material covered in the readings and lectures. The required books are available in the University Book Store.

Books

John P. McKay, Hill, Buckler, Crowston, Wiesner-Hanks, Perry, *Understanding Western Society, Volume 2, From the Age of Exploration to the Present*.

Wolfgang Behringer, *A Cultural History of Climate*, trans. Patrick Camiller (Polity Press, 2010).

Assignments and Evaluation

Participation and Scholarly Contribution (20%): This portion of your grade is a cumulative one made by your participation in class discussions, as well as the way you engage with the course material and help drive the wider class discussion in productive and thoughtful ways.

***A Cultural History of Climate* Essay Assignment, 1500 words, due June 12th (20%):** This assignment is based on Wolfgang Behringer, *A Cultural History of Climate*. Today many are worried about climate change, but this is only one of the most recent examples of humankind's concern with the weather and climate. This book examines some of the ways our ancestors coped

with the dramatic effects of climate change and in so doing it addresses a number of important issues and questions: what do we know about climate variations 500 or 5,000 years ago? How can we reliably know anything about the history of weather? How have climate changes impacted human society in the past? Climate change is not new and the extent of its impact is in large measure determined by the prevailing cultural images and values of the contemporary world in which they occur. It is therefore important to examine the *cultural history* of the climate and how past cultures and societies have reacted to climate change. This assignment helps put the matter in a deeper historical context and shift the focus onto the crucial cultural forces that have shaped and continue to shape human responses to climate change. Detailed explanation of this assignment will be provided in class.

Research Essay, 1500-2000 words, due June 16th (30%): This assignment can be on any topic covered in this course. Your essay must draw on both primary and secondary sources and present a clear, well-organized, and persuasive analysis of the topic. All sources must be cited properly using footnotes or endnotes and listed in a formal bibliography. Your essay will be evaluated on the strength of its research, analysis, and composition. Spelling, grammar, cogency and style will all be taken into consideration. So too, will the format of your citations and bibliography.

While your choice of topic is open, you must consult with me and have your topic approved by **June 9th**. Failure to do so will result in a penalty of **5%**.

Final Exam, June 22, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, Room 108 Drake Centre (30%)

Student Responsibilities

Summer session courses are short but intensive, making it especially important for students to attend class and keep up with the course readings and other assignments. In this course participation also accounts for a significant part of your final grade (20%) and it is therefore highly recommended that students attend class and actively participate in class discussions and activities.

Students are responsible for completing assignments on time. Extensions will only be granted 48 hours prior to the due date, except in exceptional circumstances. Late papers will be penalized 2% per day, including weekends. No allowance will be given for technical difficulties. Back up your work often.

The last date for Voluntary Withdrawal is **June 14**.

The essay assignments and format of the final examination will be clearly explained in class. However, it should be stressed that since this is a course that meets the University Senate's "W" requirement, **students must complete all essay assignments and receive a passing grade on each of them in order to pass the course.**

If you wish to appeal a grade given for term work must do so within 10 working days after the term work has been made available to them. Uncollected term work will become the property of the Faculty of Arts and will be subject to confidential destruction.

Grade Scale:

A+	85-100%, Outstanding	C+	65-69%, Satisfactory
A	80-84%, Excellent	C	60-64%, Adequate
B+	75-79%, Very Good	D	50-59%, Marginal
B	70-74%, Good	F	49% or below, Failing

A note on plagiarism: The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism on a written assignment is a grade of F on the paper and a final grade of F (DISC) (for Disciplinary Action) for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as purchase of an essay and repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five (5) years from registration in courses taught in a particular department/program in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty. The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism or to other experts for authentication.

The common penalty in Arts for academic dishonesty on a test or examination is F for the paper, F (DISC) for the course, and a one-year suspension from courses acceptable for credit in the Faculty. For more serious acts of academic dishonesty on a test or examination, such as repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department or program in Arts or from all courses taught in or accepted for credit by this Faculty.

A note on technology: Technology can be a powerful tool, but it can also be distracting. I allow the use of computers to take notes during class, though studies show that this practice actually tends to hinder success for both users and nearby peers. Obviously, use of a Laptop or Tablet is not license to surf the Internet or chat with your friends on social media. Also, cell phones, iPods, and other such personal devices must be turned off or silenced and stowed for the duration of the class.

Student resources:

You have access to several important resources to help you navigate your classes and university life more generally. There are writing tutors available to help you with your essays through the Academic Learning Centre (ALC): <http://umanitoba.ca/student/academiclearning/>. The ALC page also has resources to help you with study skills, organization, as well as assistance for students using English as an Additional Language (EAL). Other issues, including accessibility services, workshops, and tips about academic integrity are addressed at the Student Advocacy Services webpage (http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/).

All of the above services can also be accessed through this link:
<http://umanitoba.ca/student/saa/accessibility/student-resources.html>

History students can also take advantage of the huge range of academic materials (including primary and secondary sources, as well as pages to help with writing and referencing) made available by the History subject librarian, Kyle Feenstra, tailored just for you!

They are available on the Libraries page at this link:

<http://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/content.php?pid=219304>

General Lecture and Reading Schedule

Week One

May 29: Introduction & Early Modern Europe

May 30: Renaissance & Religious Reformation

May 31: Europe in the World

June 1: Spiritual Discipline & the Enemies Within – Wars of Religion

June 2: Crisis & Changing Fortunes

Readings: Behringer, Chapters 1-4

McKay, et al., Chapters 14, 15, 16, 17, 19.

Week Two

June 5: The Scientific Revolution

June 6: Impact of the Scientific Revolution & Discussion

June 7: Enlightenment

June 8: French Revolution & the Destruction of the Ancient Regime

June 9: The Napoleonic Era & Discussion of *A Cultural History of Climate*

Readings: Behringer, Chapters 5-6

McKay, et al., Chapters 20, 21, 22, 24

Week Three

June 12: Industrial Revolution

June 13: Ideologies & Upheavals

June 14: Nationalism & the New Imperialism

June 15: WWI, Dictatorship, & WWII

June 16: Cold War, Decolonization, & Conflict

Readings: McKay, et al., Chapters 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

Week Four

June 19: Rock ‘n’ Roll Rebellion: Social Transformations

June 20: Review

June 22 - Final Exam