

WESTERN CIVILIZATION SINCE 1648
HIST 101 – FALL 2018

Instructor: Michał J. Wilczewski, PhD

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Office Hours: UH 916, Mondays 12pm-1pm, Tuesdays 11am-12pm or by appt.

Class Times: MW 11:00am-11:50am, Lecture Center F, Room 1

Teaching Assistants:

Joshua Bergeron

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Office Hours: UH 1027, MW 12pm-1pm, or by appt.

Class Times: Fridays, 11:00am-11:50am, ETMSW 2419 and 12:00pm-12:50pm, ETMSW 2235

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Office Hours: UH 1014, M 12pm-2pm, W 10am-11am, or by appt.

Class Times: Fridays 11:00am-11:50am, BSB 281 and 12:00pm-12:50pm, LH 321

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In the last few decades or so, historians have begun to take issue with the concept of “Western Civilization,” questioning what exactly it meant to study the “West” and its “civilization.” Cautioning that such courses tended to be too Euro-centric in nature, historians have called on one another to think more broadly about the “West” and to consider more seriously its global impact. This course, then, considers the ways in which the so-called “West” has affected the world. Starting in 1648, with the dawn of what historians called the modern era, this course surveys the myriad connections between Europe and the rest of the globe. As Europeans encountered various other civilizations, through their overseas trade, migration, and imperialism, the world was irrevocably changed. But, so too, was Europe. This course focuses on these social transformations.

The course first begins by attempting to understand the consolidation of European state power in the 17th century, turning then to the 18 century Enlightenment and its global implications. From there, the course will look at the Atlantic World, specifically, connections between the French and Haitian Revolutions. Diving into the 19th century, we will study the social impact of the Industrial Revolution and the rise of capitalism, but also the rise of capitalist resistance. Additionally, we will survey the European scramble overseas colonies. Moving forward into the 20th century, we will look at the World Wars, the global Cold War, and decolonization. The course concludes by considering the role of the “West” in the 21st century.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Alejo Carpentier, *The Kingdom of this World* (ISBN: 978-0374537388)

Émile Zola, *The Ladies' Paradise* (ISBN: 978-0199536900)

Tadeusz Borowski, *This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen* (ISBN: 978-0140186246)

Because these books are translated from the languages in which they were originally written, it is preferable that students purchase the editions listed above to ensure that everyone's translation is the same. ISBN numbers that correspond to the preferred editions are provided above to help students find the preferred version.

There is no textbook for this course, though students may want to consult the following:

Edward Berenson, *Europe in the Modern World: A New Narrative History since 1500*

Joshua Cole and Carol Symes, *Western Civilizations*

Anthony Grafton and David A. Bell, *The West: A New History*

Jackson J. Spielvogel, *Western Civilization*

Additional readings will be posted on Blackboard and are marked in the course schedule below. Required books are available in the UIC bookstore, though they are all easily available from other vendors. Please complete readings prior to class and come prepared to discuss them. Please feel free to bring articles that you think are interesting to discuss to class and recitation sections.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND METHODS OF EVALUATION: Students will be evaluated on the quality of their performance on the following required assignments:

- Quizzes (25%) – see course schedule for quiz dates
- Paper #1 (20%) – due October 8, 2018
- Paper #2 (20%) – due October 29, 2018
- Paper #3 (20%) – due November 28, 2018
- Attendance and Participation (15%)

GRADES: Students' final grades will be rendered according to the following:

A = 90% – 100%

B = 80% – 89%

C = 70% – 79%

D = 60% – 69%

F = 0% – 59%

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

1. **Plagiarism:** Please make sure you understand the definition of plagiarism. Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class. If you take words from any source, you must use quotation marks and acknowledge the sources with proper citations. Even when you use your own words, but have borrowed an idea from another source, you must reference it. Presenting someone else's work as your own can result in the disqualification of your work and a failing grade for this class. It can also result in suspension from the University. This is a very serious offense and should be treated that way. If you are ever unsure of whether you

are at risk of plagiarizing, please ask. Students are required to produce original work for each assignment for this course. Reusing parts of papers written for this or other courses is considered self-plagiarism and will also result in the disqualification of that assignment.

2. **Blackboard and SafeAssign:** This course will require that students access Blackboard (uic.blackboard.com) to read additional readings. Please make sure that you have access to Blackboard from the beginning of the semester. If for some reason you do not, please write to the instructor immediately. All papers must be submitted electronically through SafeAssign via Blackboard before the beginning of the class on the due date **AND** turned in in hard copy in class.
3. **Late Papers:** Late papers drop one letter grade per day after the deadline. An A becomes a B, then a C, and so on. If you cannot complete the assignment on time and need an extension, please contact the instructor or your TA ahead of the due date.
4. **Quizzes:** Five quizzes will be administered in this class. These quizzes will be based on the week's previous lectures. Please check the schedule below for dates quizzes will be administered.
5. **Cell Phones:** Please come to class on time with cell phones set to silent and stored away. Please refrain from texting or reading text messages during class. Such behavior is extremely disruptive for both you and those around you. Students who are active on their phones **will** be called out in class. Continued use of your phone will result in being counted as absent for the day.
6. **Use of Technology:** The use of computers to take notes during lecture is permitted **ONLY** if students have the self-discipline to stay off various websites and messaging applications. Again, this is distracting to those around you. Please do not abuse this privilege. Students who are found surfing the internet during class will not be able to use their laptops in the future. Those who wish to record lectures must receive permission to do so from the instructor first. This refers only to audio recordings; video recordings are not allowed.
7. **Common Courtesy:** Students are expected to respect, though certainly not always agree with, others' ideas, interpretations, and comments. Healthy and respectful debate is expected and encouraged. Students are also expected to respect the diversity of their classmates. Everyone is encouraged to help create and sustain a healthy, safe, and productive learning environment. Racism, sexism, homophobia, and other sort of disruptive and abusive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who regularly come in late, leave to take phone calls, chat with their neighbors during lecture, and are otherwise disrespectful will also have their participation grade severely diminished.
8. **Attendance and Participation:** Regular attendance and thoughtful participation are crucial if students want to perform well in this class. Attendance of Friday recitation sections is mandatory. An absence will only be excused if proper documentation is provided. Students who cannot attend class due to religious observances should communicate their absence with both the instructor and TA.

Students are responsible for any work and announcements that they may miss during their absence.

9. **Friday Recitation:** Fridays are reserved for class discussion days that will be administered by your individual TAs. Attendance in Friday sections is mandatory. Students are encouraged to participate regularly in these sections to get the most out of the course and to ensure a solid participation grade. Please complete the assigned readings prior to your Friday section. If you do not complete the assigned readings, TAs may choose to mark you absent for the day.
10. **E-mailing the Instructor and TAs:** Please make sure that your e-mails to the instructor and TAs are written carefully and completely with a greeting, message, and signature that identifies yourself. You should use this as an opportunity to building your professional communication skills.
11. **Office Hours:** The instructor is available to meet with students during office hours. Please feel free to stop by. If you cannot attend the scheduled office hours, students can also ask to make an appointment to meet. Office hours are an excellent time to discuss paper drafts, your performance in the class, or to clarify any additional questions you may have. Students who want to go over drafts of their papers must meet with the instructor in person; paper drafts will not be reviewed over e-mail.
12. **Students with Disabilities:** The University of Illinois at Chicago is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at UIC. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome, but must be registered with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). You may contact DRC at 312-413-2183 (v) or 773-649-4535 (VP/Relay) and consult the following: <http://drc.uic.edu/guide-to-accommodations>.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

This course outline is tentative and subject to change during the semester. Students are responsible for all changes announced in class.

WEEK 1 (Aug 27, 29, 31): What is Western Civilization?

Reading: Eugen Weber, "Western Civilization," 206-221 and Richard A. Voeltz, "No Longer From Pyramids to the Empire State Building": Why Both Western Civilization and World Civilization Should be Part of the History Major: A Case Study" (Blackboard)

WEEK 2 (Sept 3, 5, 7): The Solidification of State Power

Reading: Jean Bodin, "On Sovereignty"; Excerpts from Louis XIV's *Mémoires for the Instruction of the Dauphin*; The Political Testament of Frederick William ("The Great Elector") of Prussia, May 19, 1667 (Blackboard)

- No class September 3 in observance of Labor Day
- Quiz #1 in Friday Recitation

WEEK 3 (Sept 10, 12, 14): The Scientific Revolution and the Age of Enlightenment

Reading: Immanuel Kant, "What is Enlightenment?"; John Locke, "Two Treatises of Government,"; Larry Wolff, *The Invention of Eastern Europe*, 1-16 (Blackboard)

- Quiz #2 in Friday Recitation

WEEK 4 (Sept 17, 19, 21): The Age of Revolution

Reading: "Declaration of the Rights of Man;" Maximilien de Robespierre, "Justification of the Use of Terror;" *Le Code Noir*, issued by King Louis XIV, 1685; and Excerpts from *The Interesting Narrative of Olaudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa the African* (Blackboard)

- Quiz #3 in Friday Recitation

WEEK 5 (Sept 24, 26, 28): The Global Echoes of Revolution

Reading: Alejo Carpentier, *The Kingdom of this World*

WEEK 6 (Oct 1, 3, 5): Industrialization and the Birth of Capitalism

Reading: Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, "The Communist Manifesto," (Blackboard) and Émile Zola, *The Ladies' Paradise*, 1-152.

- Quiz #4 in Friday Recitation

WEEK 7 (Oct 8, 10, 12): Nationalism and its Discontents

Reading: Émile Zola, *The Ladies' Paradise*, 153-302.

- Paper #1 due on October 8, 2018

WEEK 8 (Oct 15, 17, 19): The Problems of Modernity

Reading: Émile Zola, *The Ladies' Paradise*, 303-432.

WEEK 9 (Oct 22, 24, 26): Imperialism and its Contradictions

Reading: Anthony Trollope, "The Diamond Fields of South Africa, 1870," and Ann Laura Stoler, "Sexual Affronts and Racial Frontiers" (Blackboard)

WEEK 10 (October 29, 31, Nov 2): The World at War, Part I

Reading: Rosa Luxemburg, "The War and the Workers,"; Robert Gerwarth and Erez Manela, "The Great War as a Global War: Imperial Conflict and the Reconfiguration of World Order, 1911-1923" (Blackboard)

- Paper #2 due on October 29, 2018
- Quiz #5 in Friday Recitation

WEEK 11 (Nov 5, 7, 9): Cultural and Political Revolutions in the Interwar Period

Reading: Mary Louise Roberts, "Samson and Delilah Revisited: The Politics of Women's Fashion in 1920s France," 657-684, and Benito Mussolini, "What is Fascism?"; Adolf Hitler, "The Jewish Peril" (Blackboard)

WEEK 12 (Nov 12, 14, 16): The World at War, Part II

Reading: Tadeusz Borowski, *This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen*

WEEK 13 (Nov 19, 21, 23): The Global Cold War

- No class November 23 in observance of Thanksgiving

WEEK 14 (Nov 26, 28, 30): Decolonization and the Collapse of Communism

Reading: Slavenka Drakulic, *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed*, Excerpts, and Walter Rodney, *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*, 205-223 (Blackboard)

- Paper #3 due on November 28, 2018

WEEK 15 (Dec 3, 5, 7): The Future of the West?

Reading: Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs* 72, no.3 (1993): 22-49, and Amartya Sen, "A World Not Neatly Divided" *The New York Times*, 23 November 2001 (Blackboard)