

WESTERN CIVILIZATION SINCE 1648

HIST 101 – FALL 2019

Instructor: Michał J. Wilczewski, PhD

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Office Hours: UH 916, Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:00pm-2:00pm or by appt.

Class Time: MW 12:00pm – 12:50pm, Science and Engineering South (SES), Room 130
F 12:00pm – 1:00pm and 1:00pm – 2:00pm, locations vary

Teaching Assistants:

Ajapa Sharma

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Office Hours: UH 1027, MW
2:00pm-3:00pm or by appt.

Class Times: Fridays: 12:00pm-
1:00pm ETMSW 2233, 1:00pm-
2:00pm ETMSW 2419

Joanna Dobrowolska

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Office Hours: UH 1027, MW
10:30-11:30 or by appt.

Class Times: Fridays: 12:00pm-
1:00pm ETMSW 2435, 1:00pm-
2:00pm ETMSW 2433

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 Eurocentric in nature, historians have recently 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 the so-called “West” has affected the world. Starting in 1648, with the dawn of what historians call 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 and cultural transformations.

The course first begins by attempting to understand the consolidation of European state power in the 17th Century, turning then to the 18th 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 and political impact of the Industrial Revolution, nationalism, and the rise of capitalism, but also the rise of capitalist resistance. Additionally, we will survey the shifting role of women in the 19th Century and the European scramble for overseas colonies. Moving forward into the 20th Century, we will look at the World Wars and the global Cold War. Lastly, we will consider the future of the “West.”

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 though not required, 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 (30%) – see course schedule for quiz dates
- Paper #1 (20%) – **due October 7, 2019**
- Paper #2 (20%) – **due November 4, 2019**
- Paper #3 (20%) – **due December 2, 2019**
- Attendance and Participation (10%)

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 and take quizzes. 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:** There will be ten quizzes over the course of the semester to ensure that students are taking careful notes and internalizing information presented in class. These quizzes will be based on the week's lectures. Quizzes will be administered online via Blackboard. When a quiz is scheduled, it will be released on Wednesday after lecture and will be open until noon on Friday. Students are free to take the quiz at any time during this period. Quizzes will be timed for 10 minutes. Missed quizzes cannot be made up without a valid excuse.
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. TAs can make their own decisions regarding technology use in Friday sections. 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 taught 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 – What is Western Civilization?

Aug 26 Course Introduction; Review of Syllabus
Aug 28 Europe before 1648

Aug 30 **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 – The Solidification of State Power

Sept 2 **NO CLASS – Labor Day**

Sept 4 Absolutism and the State in 17th and 18th Century Europe

Sept 6 **Quiz 1 due on Blackboard**

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)

Week 3 – The Scientific Revolution and the Age of Enlightenment

Sept 9 The Scientific Revolution

Sept 11 The Enlightenment

Sept 13 **Quiz 2 due on Blackboard**

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

Week 4 – The Age of Revolution

Sept 16 Slavery and the Atlantic World

Sept 18 The French Revolution, Part I

Sept 20 **Quiz 3 due on Blackboard**

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)

Week 5 – The Global Echoes of Revolution

Sept 23 The French Revolution, Part II

Sept 25 The Haitian Revolution

Sept 27 Alejo Carpentier, *The Kingdom of this World*

Week 6 – Industrialization and the Birth of Capitalism

Sept 30 The Napoleonic Wars

Oct 2 Industrialization and its Discontents

Oct 4 **Quiz 4 due on Blackboard**

Reading: Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, "The Communist Manifesto." (Blackboard)

Week 7 – Transformations in Identity: The Rise of Mass Politics and Nationalism

Oct 7 The Rise of Modern Mass Politics in the 19th Century

Due: Paper #1

Oct 9 The 1848 Revolutions

Oct 11 **Quiz 5 due on Blackboard**

Reading: Émile Zola, *The Ladies' Paradise*, 1-152.

Week 8 – The Problems of Modernity

Oct 14 The Unification of Germany and Italy

Oct 16 The Changing Role of Women

Oct 18 **Quiz 6 due on Blackboard**

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

Week 9 – Shopgirls and the Department Store

Oct 21 **Screening of “Shopgirls: The True Story of Life Behind the Counter”**

Oct 23 **NO CLASS**

Oct 25 Émile Zola, *The Ladies' Paradise*, 303-432.

Week 10 – Imperialism and its Contradictions

Oct 28 The Great Land Grab

Oct 30 Imperialism and the “Invention of the Savage”

Nov 1 **Quiz 7 due on Blackboard**

Reading: John Stuart Mill, “On Colonies and Colonization,” 1848;
Anthony Trollope, “The Diamond Fields of South Africa, 1870”; Rudyard
Kipling, “The White Man’s Burden” (Blackboard)

Week 11 – The World at War, Part I

Nov 4 **Screening of “The Human Zoo: Science’s Dirty Secret”**
Paper #2 Due

Nov 6 World War I

Nov 8 **Quiz 8 due on Blackboard**

Reading: Belinda Davis, “Food, Politics, and Women’s Everyday Life
during World War I,” in K. Hagemann and S. Schuler-Springorum eds.,
*Home Front – Battle Front: Military and Gender Relations in the Two World
Wars*, 115-138; Wilfred Owen, “Dulce et Decorum Est,”; Julian Tuwim, “To
the Common Man” (Blackboard)

Week 12 – Cultural and Political Revolutions in the Interwar Period

Nov 11 The Russian Revolution

Nov 13 The Anatomy of Fascism

Nov 15 **Quiz 9 due on Blackboard**

Reading: Rosa Luxemburg, “The War and the Workers,”; Benito
Mussolini, “What is Fascism?,” 1932; Robert O. Paxton, “The Five Stages
of Fascism,” *The Journal of Modern History* vol. 70, no. 1 (March, 1998) 1-23.
(Blackboard)

Week 13 – The World at War, Part II

- Nov 18 World War II and its Bloodlands
Nov 20 The Holocaust
Nov 22 **Reading:** Tadeusz Borowski, *This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen*

Week 14 – The Rise of Communism

- Nov 25 NO CLASS
Nov 27 The Rise of Communism in Eastern Europe
Nov 29 NO CLASS – Happy Thanksgiving!

Week 15 – The Collapse of Communism and the Future of the West

- Dec 2 Reform Communism
Due: Paper #3
Dec 4 The Revolutions of 1989 and the Post-Socialist World
Dec 6 **Quiz 10 due on Blackboard**
Reading: Slavenka Drakulic, *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed*, excerpts (Blackboard)