Description

This course introduces students to European history from around 1500 to the present. During this time, small, poor, and fragmented Europe became a world civilization, whose political, cultural, and economic power now touch the four corners of the globe. Our course will ask how and why this happened. How, in other words, did "modernity" become "western," for better and worse? As we cover this half-millennium, we will look at major landmarks in European cultural, intellectual, social, political, and economic development: the Renaissance, the epochal expansion of Europe into the new world, the break-up of Latin Christianity into competing religious communities, the construction of the modern state, the formation of overseas empires, the coming of capitalism, the Scientific Revolution, the French Revolution, liberalism and the industrial Revolution, socialism and the rise of labor, modern colonialism, the world wars, communism and fascism, decolonization, the Cold War, and the European Union. Our readings will include learned treatises in religion, classics in political theory, fiction, and other documents from the past, as well as a textbook. Work in sections centers on reading and discussion of original sources and of lectures, and on the improvement of writing skills.

Readings

Course reader

Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince* (1513-1514)
Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto* (1848)
Charles Dickens, *Hard Times* (1854)
Sigmund Freud, *Dora: An Analysis of a Case of Hysteria* (1905)
Christopher Browning, *Ordinary Men*:

Structure of Class

WARNING: this is a fast-moving survey course! We will meet three times a week for lecture. I know a two-hour lecture is long, so I will be giving you a 5 minute break during each lecture and you should feel free to bring the caffeinated stimulant of your choice. The section component, where you will be discussing the primary sources assigned as reading, is critical. Attendance is required in section; more than 2 excused absences will be grounds for failing the course. Your GSI has the prerogative of requesting reasonable additional assignments, such as reading responses, short papers, or quizzes, which will be factored into your section grade.

Assignments
The course has a midterm and final, and two short (5–6 page) papers which will be based on the primary sources in your reader and will not require any additional reading. Note that 20% of the grade is based on your work in section.

**Grading**

Your final grade will be based on the following percentages:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 2</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section grade (participation)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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**Schedule of Course Meetings**

**Week 1**

Mon., June 18  
Boundaries of the West / European Peoples in Early Modern Europe

Tues., June 19  
Renaissance State-building: Machiavelli and the State as a Work of Art

Thurs., June 21  
New States, New Worlds, New Goods

**Week 2**

Mon., June 25  
The Reformation Begins

Tues., June 26  
Institutionalization of the Reformation / Cultural Legacies of Early Modern Europe

Thurs., June 28  
Witchcraft, Rebellion and War: General Crisis of the 17th Century?

**Week 3**

Mon., July 2  
Paths out of Chaos: Constitutionalism

Tues., July 3  
Paths out of Chaos: Absolutism

Thurs., July 5  
The New Science / A Globalized Age?

**Week 4**

Mon., July 9  
The Enlightenment / Enlightened Absolutism

Tues., July 10  
French Revolution

Thurs., July 12  
* In-class Midterm Exam *

**Week 5**
Mon., July 16    The New Ideologies: Intellectual Legacies of the French Revolution
Tues., July 17   Industrialization and the Socialist Critique
Thurs., July 19  Mid-century Revolution and Reform

Week 6

Mon., July 23   The Age of Nationalism: the Unification of Italy and Germany
Tues., July 24  Nineteenth-Century Cultural and Social Developments
Thurs., July 26  The New Imperialism / Origins of the First World War

Week 7

Mon., July 30   The First World War
Tues., July 31  Totalitarianism: Russian Revolution / Fascism
Thurs., Aug. 2  A Broken Peace: the Interwar Years

Week 8

Mon, Aug. 6     The Second World War
Tues., Aug. 7    Postwar Europe: A Shadow Sovereignty / Decolonization
Thurs., Aug. 9   The End of Communism and Other Surprises / Europe Today

DATE TBA         Final Exam