

Syllabus: History 210  
Early Modern Civilization  
MWF 11-11:50  
Spring 2012

Daniel D. Trifan  
Office: Popplewell115 C

"Whether we consider the position of the rock layers that envelop the earth, the arrangement of the forms of life that inhabit it, the variety of civilizations to which it has given birth, or the structure of languages spoken upon it, we are forced to the same conclusion: that everything is the sum of the past, and that nothing is comprehensible except through its history."

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

The fundamental purpose of this course is to examine the development of the western world between the Renaissance and the end of the Napoleonic Wars. Principal topics which will be approached include the formation and restructuring of European empires, the impact of the Renaissance and Reformation on European development, and the influence of scientific, technological, cultural, philosophical, and political innovations on the formation of the 19th-century western power structure. While it is true that interpretations of historical events is an area in which cultural predispositions complicate the cultivation of a genuinely objective viewpoint, a condition to which I am no more immune than any other, it must be borne in mind that this is the ultimate goal of all serious students of history. Consequently, my purpose in this course is not to stuff your heads with my opinions, but to provide you with the facts and methods whereby you can reach your own objective, well-reasoned, and intellectually supportable conclusions.

**Attendance:** I do not have an attendance policy in my general studies classes. Success in history is dependent on mastery of the material, not sitting in a chair. However, please be aware that exams are primarily based on material presented in class, and consequently consistent and regular attendance is very strongly recommended.

**Academic Honesty Policy:** Academic honesty is required in all academic endeavors. Violations of academic honesty include any instance of plagiarism, cheating, seeking credit for another's work, falsifying documents or academic records, or any other fraudulent activity. Violations of academic honesty may result in a failing grade on the assignment, failure in the course, or expulsion from the University. When a student's grade has been affected, violations of academic honesty will be reported to the Provost or designated representative on the Academic Honesty Violation Report forms.

Please see the 2011-2012 Student Handbook and Calendar for specific activities identified as violations of this policy and the student due process procedure. This handbook is also available online at <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/handbook/index.pdf>. The department also has a grade appeal policy: for further information please consult the 2011-2012 Student Handbook.

**Students with Disabilities:** If you have been diagnosed with a disability or if you suspect

that you may have a disability that has never been diagnosed, and you would like to find out what services may be available, please visit the Office of Disability Services (ODS) in Eder Hall, room 203N or visit the ODS website at <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/ds/> as soon as possible. This syllabus, as well as all other printed or electronic materials, can be made available in alternative/accessible formats if requested with sufficient prior notice. Missouri Western is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.

As a part of the General Studies Program at MWSU, this course is designed to educate students in a traditional liberal arts manner so that they will demonstrate the skills, knowledge, and characteristics of an educated person. Students will be provided an opportunity to acquire and reinforce knowledge and skills to:

1. Think critically and reason analytically
2. Write and speak clearly and effectively
3. Understand common phenomena in social environments as well as the methods by which they are studied
4. Gain a greater awareness of the present through an understanding of other cultures and times
5. Understand and appreciate moral values and ethical choices
6. Understand and appreciate technological concepts and their influence on society

Discussion is strongly encouraged in this course. Please feel free to ask questions at any time.

Grades will be determined by performance on two one-hour examinations, one final examination, and two out-of-class essays. All examinations will consist primarily of multiple-choice questions. Students will be responsible for all material covered in the lectures and/or in the assigned readings.

The out-of-class essays must be done on a topic from a list which is available on the O-drive. These essays must be 2-3 pages long, TYPED and double-spaced. They will be due on the first and second exam days. All further specifications will be on the topic list.

In addition to the assignments listed above, you have the option of doing ONE of two extra-credit assignments. The first is a 2-3 page book review, on a book which must be approved by me, worth up to 4% of the course grade.. The second is a 1-2 page reaction paper to a film from the film list, which is available on the O-drive. This assignment will be worth up to 2% of the course grade. Extra-credit assignments will be due on the last day of class (April 30). Please remember, you can do only ONE extra-credit project.

At the discretion of the professor, each student will be allowed to take only one make-up exam for this course. Make-up exams will not be the same as scheduled ones. The format of make-up exams may be all essay questions, and for many this may prove more difficult. Two days will be provided for make-ups: one before midterm grades are due, and one prior to final exams. The day, time, and location of make-ups will be announced well in advance once they have been decided upon by the Department of History, Philosophy, and Geography. All other missed assignments will receive a grade of zero. In addition, the

professor retains the right to deny the opportunity for a make-up exam if the student cannot provide a valid reason for absence. Should a student miss the final exam, he/she will receive either a grade of zero for that exam or a course grade of "Incomplete," depending on the discretion of the professor. A make-up is not a right, but a privilege; and this policy will be adhered to rigidly in this class.

**Note:** For those students intending to teach History and the Social Sciences at the secondary level, please be aware that the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) requires the promotion of ten thematic standards that are designed specifically to assist students who are preparing for such a teaching career. These ten thematic standards are:

1. Culture and cultural diversity.
2. Time, continuity, and change.
3. People, places, and environments.
4. Individual development and identity.
5. Individuals, groups, and institutions.
6. Power, authority, and governance.
7. Production, distribution, and consumption.
8. Science, technology, and society.
9. Global connections.
10. Civic ideals and practices.

Each of these thematic standards will be integrated into this course. In particular, standards 2,3,4,5,6,8, and 9 will be emphasized. Students in secondary education are responsible for keeping **all** quizzes, papers, and examinations as artifacts for their electronic portfolios.

Grades will be determined according to the following formula:

Midterm exam- 25%	A- 90 to 100
Midterm exam- 25%	B- 80 to 89
Final exam- 25%	C- 70 to 79
First essay- 10%	D- 60 to 69
Second essay- 10%	F- below 60
Class participation- 5%	

Required Reading:

Kagan, Donald et al. The Western Heritage: Volume B: 1300-1815  
(10th edition).

**COURSE OUTLINE**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>NCSS Theme Links</b>
1/17-1/20:	The Late Middle Ages	K 257-280	2,3,5,6
1/23-1/27:	The Renaissance and the Growth of Empires	K 281-312	1,2,3,4,5,6
1/30-2/3:	The Reformation: Political and Theological Issues	K 313-333	1,2,4,5,6,9
2/6-2/10:	Humanism: Philosophy, Art and Culture: The Catholic Reformation	K 333-344	1,2,3,4,5,6,9
2/13-2/17:	The Religious Wars: Political, Theo- logical, Social and Military Aspects	K 345-370	1,2,3,4,5,6,8
2/21-2/24:	The Road to Constitutional Govern- ment: England in the 17 <sup>th</sup> Century	K 371-381	2,3,4,5,6,10
2/27-3/2:	The Age of Absolutism: Theory and Practice	K 381-406	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,10
3/5-3/9:	The Scientific Revolution: Intellectual and Popular Culture	K 407-432	1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9
3/19-3/23:	Imperial Politics in the Early 18th Century: The Rise of Russia and Prussia	K 433-461	2,3,4,5,6,8
3/26-3/30:	The Old Regime and the Industrial Revolution	K 462-478	2,3,4,5,6,7,8,10
4/2-4/6:	18th-Century Wars and the American Revolution	K 478-491	2,3,4,5,6,7,8,10
4/9-4/13:	The Enlightenment: New Political and Social Ideas	K 492-528	1,2,3,4,5,6,9,10
4/16-4/20:	The French Revolution	K 529-560	2,3,5,6,10
4/23-4/30:	The Napoleonic Period: The Found-		

ations of 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Europe      K 561-592      1,2,3,4,5,6,9,10

To some extent, there may be some "fine-tuning" on this outline, but if the sequence changes enough to warrant a similar change in the reading assignment, I will let you know beforehand in class.

One final note: midterm examinations will probably be held in week 6 and week 12. The actual dates for these exams will be announced well in advance in class.