

HISTORY 102:
Evolution of Western Ideas and Institutions since the Seventeenth Century

Tuesday and Thursday, 2.30-3.45pm, Crown Center 141
Instructor: Professor Aidan Forth, Crown Center 546, afort@luc.edu
Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 10-12pm, or by appointment



This course is an introduction to history as a discipline, and an analysis of the development and structure of Western civilization from the 17th century to the present day. It begins with the three great waves of revolution that have forged the modern world: (1) a seventeenth- and eighteenth-century intellectual revolution associated with science, rationalism, and secularism; (2) a wave of political revolutions (British, American, French, 1848 and Russian) that ushered in a new era of mass politics and nationalism; and (3) a commercial and industrial revolution that enormously expanded the productive capabilities of human societies. Throughout the course, various political, social, and religious crises and resolutions will be emphasized, along with cultural responses to these events.

Outcome: Students will gain an understanding of history as a discipline; develop critical thinking skills based on historical knowledge about the key people, places, and events that shaped the modern world; and hone their communication skills.

EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to come to every class, read the assigned readings, and participate in class discussions. Students are strongly encouraged to ask questions during lecture period, and are also welcome to attend office hours to further discuss issues raised in class.

Unexcused absences will have a detrimental effect on your attendance and participation grade. Because quizzes and exams are based heavily on lecture material, missed classes will also impact your ability to perform well; **you will not be able to catch up simply by reading the textbook.** If you have an illness, family emergency, or other event that prevents you from coming to class, you must keep the professor informed with as much advanced warning as possible. It is up to you to find ways to make up the missed material, though students are encouraged to come to office hours to discuss missed content with the professor.

Absences from quizzes and examinations are especially serious, and will require documentation, such as a note from your doctor. An email the night before without any corroborating proof will not be enough. Unexcused absences from quizzes and exams will result in a grade of zero.

Students with disabilities should contact the office of Services for Students with Disabilities in the Sullivan Center to work out any special learning requirements: <http://www.luc.edu/sswd/>.

All cellphones, smartphones, tablets, MP3 players and any other electronic devices should be turned off during class. The use of laptop computers in this class is a privilege, which may be revoked at any time. Laptops may be used for taking notes only. Facebook, email, and surfing the internet are expressly forbidden; apart from diverting your own attention, such activity distracts your fellow classmates. **Anyone caught abusing their laptop privileges will be asked to leave the class, and will no longer be permitted to bring a computer to class.**

READINGS

The following books are available for purchase at the bookstore:

Voltaire, *Candide and Related Texts* ed. David Wootton (Hackett Publishing Co., 2000).

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto: A Modern Edition* ed. Eric Hobsbawm (Verso, 2012)

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* (Penguin Great Books of the 20th Century, 1988).

Primo Levi, *If This Is a Man* [aka *Survival in Auschwitz*] (Touchstone, 1995).

We will dedicate class time to discuss each of these classic texts. In addition, a **Course Reader (CR)** will be available on Sakai in PDF format. These short readings will complement lectures

by providing additional historical insight. Quizzes and exams will cover material from **all** assigned readings.

We will NOT rely on a textbook for this class. It is important to come to each lecture to receive the necessary context to understand the assigned readings. If you feel you need further context on a particular era or topic, you may consult:

Thomas Noble *et al* (ed.), *Western Civilization: Beyond Boundaries, vol. 2 since 1560* (Cengage, any edition is fine).

GRADING

Reading and writing are the primary skills of history and the experience you gain analyzing primary texts and developing insightful, well-written arguments will serve you well, no matter what your future career. During the semester, you will have the opportunity to complete **four short writing assignments** based on the assigned primary source readings. **Writing Assignment prompts will be distributed in class.** Your writing **will be graded on both style and content.** At their core, historians are storytellers, and the way we tell stories is almost as important as the stories we tell. **Fluent and stylish writing** is absolutely vital to your future professional success. To this end, you are encouraged to take advantage of the **writing center** (<http://www.luc.edu/writing/>) in room 221 of the Information Commons for further assistance.

Writing assignments should be 350-400 words (about 1 page double-spaced). Look at the **short length of these assignments as a challenge!** Good writing is clear and concise. It is not easy! It is imperative that you **proofread your responses multiple times, continually refining your argument and style.** **Late papers will be deducted a half grade per day.** An A- paper handed in two days late will therefore drop to a B. **Do not let this happen to you!**

In addition, there will be **four short quizzes and one final exam.** The quizzes will test your basic understanding of lectures and readings. Quizzes will mostly consist of short-answer format questions. The final exam will consist of both short and long answer questions.

Finally, **attendance and participation** are an important component of your final grade. **You should attend every class, listen actively, take notes, and ask questions.** Thoughtful comments and responses during class discussions dedicated to readings are especially important. Missed classes will result in deductions from your attendance grade.

Grading will be as follows:

4 Quizzes (7.5% each)	30%
4 Writing assignments (10% each)	40%
Final exam	20%
Attendance and Participation	10%
Total	100%

There may be **other short quizzes and in-class assignments** that will contribute to your attendance and participation grade. There may also be opportunities for small extra credit assignments during the semester.

CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK 1

Welcome! January 13
Religion and Reformation January 15

Reading: Luther and Calvin (CR)
(Textbook chapter 15)

WEEK 2

Absolutism and its Alternatives January 20
Slavery and the Atlantic Triangle January 22

Reading: Hobbes, Bossuet, Locke, *Petition of Right* and *English Bill of Rights*, Slave Trade Documents (CR)
(Textbook chapter 16)

WEEK 3

Science and Enlightenment **QUIZ 1** January 27
Providence and Reason (**Discussion: *Candide***) January 29

WRITING ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE JANUARY 29 IN CLASS

Required reading: Voltaire, Condorcet (CR), Voltaire, *Candide*
(Textbook chapters 17, 18)

WEEK 4

The French Revolution February 3
The Rise of Napoleon and the Legacies of the Revolution February 5

Reading: Sièyes, Rousseau, Wollstonecraft, *Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen* (CR)
(Textbook chapter 19)

WEEK 5

The Industrial Revolution
Social Dislocation and Ideological Response

February 10

February 12

Reading: Start reading Marx
(Textbook chapter 20)

WEEK 6

Socialism and Revolution **Discussion: Marx**
A Century of Reform **QUIZ 2**

February 17

February 19

WRITING ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE FEBRUARY 19 IN CLASS

(Textbook chapter 21)

Reading: Marx, *Communist Manifesto*; Marx, *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844*, selections **(CR)** Review of Thomas Piketty, *Capital in the 21st Century*
<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2014/may/08/thomas-piketty-new-gilded-age/>

WEEK 7

Nations and Nation Building
Commerce, Trade and Imperial Expansion

February 24

February 26

Reading: Hobsbawm, Naoroji, Bentinck, Orwell, Lugard **(CR)**
(Textbook chapter 22, 24)

WEEK 8

Spring Break No Class
Spring Break No Class

March 3

March 5

WEEK 9

The New Imperialism and the Scramble for Africa
The Congo **Discussion: *Heart of Darkness***

March 10

March 12

WRITING ASSIGNMENT 3 DUE MARCH 12 IN CLASS

Reading: Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

WEEK 10

Culture and Society at the *Fin-de-Siècle* **QUIZ 3**
The Great War: Its Origins and Dimensions

March 17
March 19

Reading: Pankhurst, Fawcett, WWI Poetry (**CR**)
(Textbook chapter 23)

WEEK 11

The Great War: Its Impact and Legacy
The Russian Revolution

March 24
March 26

Reading: Lenin (**CR**)
(Textbook chapter 25)

WEEK 12

The Crisis of Interwar Europe
WWII: The Second 30 Years War

March 31
April 2

Reading: start reading Levi.
(Textbook chapter 26, 27)

WEEK 13

The Holocaust
The Production of Death (**Discussion:** Levi, *If this is a Man*)

April 7
April 9

WRITING ASSIGNMENT 4 DUE APRIL 9 IN CLASS

Reading: Levi, *If this is a Man* [aka *Survival in Auschwitz*]
(Textbook chapter 28)

WEEK 14

The Cold War

April 14

The Postcolonial World **QUIZ 4**

April 16

Reading: Atomic Bomb survivor testimonies (**CR**)

(Textbook chapter 29)

WEEK 15

Recent Themes

April 21

Review Session and/or catch-up

April 23

Reading: *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (**CR**)

(Textbook chapter 30)

FINAL EXAM SATURDAY MAY 2, 4.15pm

**** The instructor reserves the right to modify any aspect of this syllabus at any time ****