



**JOHN FELICE
ROME CENTER**

HIST 102: Culture, Power and Identity: Western Ideas & Institutions since 17th Century

John Felice Rome Center

Fall 2026

Tuesdays & Thursdays | 9:00-10:15am

Dr. Alessandro Micocci

Email: amicocci@luc.edu

Office Hours: Tue./Thurs. 10:30-11:30am

Course Description

This course aims to provide students with a general understanding of the interplay of sociocultural phenomena and historical events, as well as the influence of ideologies and intellectual and political theories that have shaped the contemporary conception of the West, from the 17th century through the end of World War II. The course will equip students with the means to understand and analyze not only the historical events themselves but also how and why they occurred. Attention will also be given to the impact on the rest of the world of the ideologies and cultural movements that emerged in Europe, thereby fostering a more global approach to inquiry and study that is less focused solely on the European continent. This course also aims to provide ample opportunities for critical discussion and for students' personal reflections and analyses, through classroom debates, the reading and discussion of texts and audiovisual materials, and classroom presentations on topics chosen by the students related to the course material.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of the course students should be able to:

- Identify the key historical persons, events, ideas, and international trends of Western civilization from the 17th to the 20th century.
- Develop critical thinking, original individual intuitions, skills to analyze primary sources. Additionally, develop one's ability to connect events, ideas, theories, and social and cultural movements with one another in a web of mutual influence.
- Determine the extent of the impact—both among the political, social, and cultural elites and among the rest of the population, and in particular on people's mindsets—of specific political, cultural, and scientific concepts or historical events.
- Assess the contributions, individual and collective, of the above two points to the development of Western civilization, both within and across historical periods;

Required Text / Materials



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L. Hunt, T. R. Martin, B. H. Rosenwein, and B. G. Smith, *The Making of the West: Peoples and Cultures*, Volume II Since 1500, 7th Edition.

Assigned readings posted on Sakai

Attendance Policy

In accordance with the Rome Center mission to promote a higher level of academic rigor, and in compliance with full-time student visa status, all courses adhere to the following attendance policy.

Prompt attendance, preparation and active participation in course discussions are expected from every student and synonymous with academic success. Attendance is mandatory at every class meeting for each course. Lateness or leaving class early will impact the course grade at the professor's discretion. All absences, including medical absences, will be treated the same, unless they are documented long-term conditions or emergencies. Such situations will be evaluated case-by-case by the Academic Affairs office.

Twice-a-week classes:

- **After 2 absences, a 2% final grade reduction will be applied for each missed class.**
- **Missing 6 classes or more will result in an automatic failure (F).**

Assessment Components

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| • Participation and class discussion | 15 % |
| • Midterm Exam | 30 % |
| • Project | 25 % |
| • Final Exam | 30 % |

Assessment Descriptions

- **Class Participation:** students are required to attend the weekly classes in classroom. Students should complete the reading of primary sources assigned by the instructor and posted on Sakai before coming to class, and come with comments, questions, and ideas for discussion in mind. Any independent research—based on the assigned reading—is welcome as part of the class discussion. Class participation also prepares students for independent study of the topics, as these will be outlined and summarized during in-person classes. The primary sources listed for each lesson must be read and analyzed before the lesson in which they are scheduled to be discussed. Students should therefore come to class prepared with any questions, reflections, and analyses they wish to share during the class discussion.
- **Midterm Examination:** will consist of:



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- a series of terms (historical characters, ideas, events) to be identified briefly and to be connected to ideologies, historical events or phenomenon analyzed in class;
 - 3 or 4 multiple choice questions;
 - An open-ended question, chosen from two proposed topics related to the material covered in previous lessons, which the student must answer with a short essay in which they expand on their response in a broader and more general manner.
- Project/Assignment: Students must choose a topic of their choice—one related to the themes covered in class—to which they intend to dedicate a museum. The students must develop this project either as a PowerPoint presentation (.ppx format or .pdf) —if they intend to include visual elements and show how the museum will be set up—or as a written essay (.doc/x). The purpose of this assignment is to provide a background for the student’s creativity and the knowledge they have acquired during class discussions and lectures, as well as through their personal preparation for class. Students may choose between: a museum dedicated to a single historical figure, an event, or a political or cultural ideology/movement. Students may also choose a topic not covered in class but which they find interesting, provided it is related to the historical issues discussed in the course. The project may be completed individually or in groups of two people. If necessary, further details will be provided by the instructor in the classes leading up to the project deadline.
 - The project will be presented in class, with 10-12 minutes at disposal per project. It will be evaluated on:
 1. Quality and depth of research;
 2. The clarity of delivery and exposition, both oral and written.
 - Final Examination: will consist of:
 - a series of terms (historical characters, ideas, events) to be identified briefly and to be connected to ideologies, historical events or phenomenon analyzed in class;
 - 3 or 4 multiple choice questions;
 - An open-ended question, chosen from two proposed topics related to the material covered in previous lessons, which the student must answer with a short essay in which they expand on their response in a broader and more general manner.

Grading

94-100: A
90-93: A-
87-89: B+
84-86: B
80-83: B-
77-79: C+
74-76: C
70-73: C-
67-69: D+
60-66: D



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59 or lower: F

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct are unacceptable at the Rome Center and will be dealt with in accordance with Loyola University Chicago's guidelines. Please familiarize yourself with Loyola's

standards here: <https://catalog.luc.edu/academic-standards-regulations/undergraduate/>. You are responsible to comply with the LUC University Catalog.

Late or Missed Assignments & Exam Policy

Late or missed assignments will not be accepted for grading without the authorization of the instructor. ***As per the JFRC academic policies, students who miss any scheduled exam or quiz, including a final exam at the assigned hours will not be permitted to sit for a make-up examination without approval of the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. Permission is given rarely and only for grave reason; travel is not considered a grave reason. Make-up exams will only be given for documented absences.***

Accessibility Accommodations

Students registered with the Student Accessibility Center (SAC) requiring academic accommodations should contact the Academic Affairs office at the John Felice Rome Center during the first week of classes.

Statement on Title IX

The Rome Center follows Loyola's [Comprehensive Policy and Procedures for Addressing Discrimination, Sexual Misconduct, Retaliation](#) and will comply with those as indicated and instructed.

Course Schedule

Friday Class Days:

Friday, October 23 (Thursday schedule)

Weekly Course Schedule

Week One

Tuesday 9/1: Course presentation; purpose and methodology of the course.

Thursday 9/3: Absolutism and liberalism in Europe

Readings: Chapter 16 (pages from 562 to 566; 572-81; 583-84; 586; 589-91)

Week Two

Tuesday 9/8: The Atlantic System and the rise of Great Britain

Readings: Chapter 17 (pp. 602-606; 608-613; 616-24).

Primary sources: Alexis de Tocqueville, "Future conditions of the three races in the United States", PDF available on Sakai.



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Thursday 9/10: The birth of Enlightenment and travel literature

Readings: Chapter 17 (626-27; 628-631).

Primary sources: Montesquieu, *Persian Letters*, "Letter 37", 1721. Available in the manual, page 632.

Week Three

Tuesday 9/15: Enlightenment and Romanticism

Readings: Chapter 18 (pp. 644-53; 655-57)

Primary sources: 1) J. D'Alembert, *Preliminary Discourse to the Encyclopedia of Diderot*, available on Sakai
2) Denis Diderot, "Encyclopedia.", available on Sakai

Thursday 9/17: The resistance to enlightenment reforms and American independence

Readings: Chapter 18 (pp. 660-65; 668-69).

Primary sources: Alexis De Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, "Future conditions of three races in the United States", available on Sakai.

Week Four

Tuesday 9/22: French Revolution

Readings: Chapter 19 (pp. 678-689)

Primary sources: *Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen*, available on Sakai.

Thursday 9/24: The Terror and the expansion of the revolution

Readings: Chapter 19 (pp. 689-702 except paragraph "Poland Extinguished"; 703-4).

Primary sources: CONTRASTING VIEWS, *Perspectives on the French Revolution*, available in the manual, page 700.

Week Five

Tuesday, 9/29: The rise of Napoleon and the opposition to his imperial ambitions

Readings: Chapter 20 (pp. 712-16 except the paragraph "The New Paternalism: The Civil Code"; 718-27).

Primary sources: Napoleon Bonaparte, *Proclamation to the Army of Italy* (1796), available on Sakai.

Thursday 10/1: The new conservative ideologies and the revolts of 1820s in Europe and Latino America

Readings: Chapter 20 (pp. 728-31; 737-40).

Primary sources: CONTRASTING VIEWS, *Napoleon for and against*, available in the manual, page 728 (except Victor Hugo).

Week Six

Tuesday 10/6: Review for the midterm exam

Thursday 10/8: **Mid-term exam**

Week Seven

Tuesday 10/20: The industrial revolution and its social, political, and cultural impacts.



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Readings: Chapter 21 (pp. 748-50; 763-775)

Primary sources: Adam Smith, *Pine factory example*, available on Sakai.

Thursday 10/22: Nationalist struggles in Europe, from Italy to Germany.

Readings: Chapter 22 (pp. 788-90 except "The Crimean War"; 792-97 except "Bismarck and Germany")

Primary sources: Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*, available in the manual, page 775.

Friday 10/23: nation-building in the West and in the colonial world.

Readings: Chapter 22 (pp. 798-804, 811 (from paragraph "Spreading National Power and Order" onwards-815)).

Primary sources: CONTRASTING VIEWS, *The Nation-state in the mid-nineteenth century*, available in the manual, page 804.

Week Eight

Tuesday 10/27: Imperialism in Africa and Asia and the Western imperial culture and economy

Readings: Chapter 23 (pp. 826-34 excluded the paragraph "Imperializing Asia")

Thursday 10/29: the rise of mass politics and mass societies

Readings: Chapter 23 (pp. 841-50; 853-59 except the paragraph "Power Politics in Central and Eastern Europe")

Week Nine

Tuesday 11/3: Modernity between 19th and 20th century: from scientific progress to the cult of tradition and irrationalism.

Readings: Chapter 24 (pp. 871-2 excluded the paragraph "Reforming Marriage"; 875 from paragraph "Science of the Modern Self"-878 excluded paragraph "The Revolution in Science")

Thursday 11/5: The challenges to the old order and the preparation for a great war: from colonial conflicts to new European alliances.

Readings: Chapter 24 (pp. from 883 except paragraph "The Revolt in Music and Dance"- to 85 except "Rights for Women", 887-94, 899-904).

Week Ten

Tuesday 11/10: First World War and the Russian revolution

Readings: Chapter 25 (pp. 910-26)

Thursday 11/12: The Great war's aftermath: the rise of Fascism and the consolidation of Soviet Union.

Readings: Chapter 25 (pp. 935 from paragraph "Restoring Society"- 938, 940-46).

Week Eleven

Tuesday 11/17: Class presentations of the museum project



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Thursday 11/19: Class Presentations of the museum projects

Week Twelve

Tuesday 11/24: The economic crisis of 1929 in USA and Europe and the rise of Stalin in Soviet Union and Hitler in Nazi Germany.

Readings: Chapter 26 (952-69)

Thursday 11/26: Thanksgiving holiday, **NO CLASS**

Week Thirteen

Tuesday 12/1: World War II and the clash between Allies and Nazi-fascists

Readings: Chapter 26 (pp. 971 from paragraph "The Road to Global war"-81, 982 from paragraph "From Resistance to Allied Victory" – 989).

Thursday 12/3: Review for the final exam

Exam Week

Thursday 12/10: Final exam 9-10:15