Hist 102: The Evolution of Western Ideas and Institutions Since the 17th century

Spring 2019  Tuesdays/Thursdays 2:20-3:35 PM

Instructor: Albert Prieto, M.Litt, PhD (Classics, History, Archaeology)
aprieto2@luc.edu
Office hours (Faculty Office): Tuesdays/Thursdays 1:50-2:20 and by appointment

Course Description
This course explores and examines the cross-cultural, global exchanges that have shaped Western history from the discovery of the New World in 1492 through the present day. Drawing connections between the social, cultural, political, economic, and intellectual happenings in every era, it demonstrates that the West is not a fixed region, but rather a living, evolving construct spanning continents and seas. The chronological narrative emphasizes the wide variety of peoples and cultures that have contributed to Western civilization and places them together in a common context, enabling students to witness the unfolding of Western history, understand change over time, and recognize fundamental relationships.

One of the general themes that will run throughout this course is the "world view," that is, the collection of mental constructs which gave the world meaning for individuals and entire societies in a given period. Another general theme is technology and culture as defining aspects of what it means to be “Western,” in terms of the major innovations that have shaped life in the Western world over the past five centuries. A third major theme is the discipline of history itself, in terms of how we know what we know about the past. The object of this course is to examine and connect world views, technological and cultural shifts, and approaches to history as they have appeared throughout the 500 years in consideration. In the end, the student will have a firm grasp of what is meant by the “Western tradition” today.

Learning Outcomes
As a result of this course the student should be able to:

- identify the key historical persons, events, ideas, and trends of Western civilization from 1492 through the present day (see examinations and homework below);
- determine the main political, social, economic, cultural, and intellectual aspects of the individual cultures contributing to Western civilization and assess their development (see examinations and homework below);
- develop critical thinking and communications skills (see Assignments 1-3 below).

Required Textbooks and Materials
Additional readings for assignments posted on Sakai as PDFs and WWW links.
Examinations and Assignments

The mid-term examination will test the student’s understanding of the major historical events, figures, and trends covered up to that moment. The final examination will concentrate on the major historical events, figures, and trends covered in the second half of the course. Both exams will be based comprehensively on notes taken during class lectures and discussions, assignments, and the course readings.

A. The **mid-term exam** will consist of
   1. a series of terms (historical persons, places, concepts) to be identified briefly (2-4 sentences) in relation to their significance for the history of Western civilization;
   2. a timeline of events to be arranged in chronological order;
   3. a blank map to be labeled (for example, with the names of major cities and countries); and
   4. one short (3+ page) essay addressing a theme in the history of Western civilization.

B. The **final exam** will consist of
   1. a series of terms (historical persons, places, concepts) to be identified briefly (2-4 sentences) in relation to their significance for the history of Western civilization;
   2. a timeline of events, to be arranged in chronological order; and
   3. a blank map to be labeled (for example, with the names of major cities and countries); and
   4. one longer (5+ page) essay addressing a theme in the history of Western civilization.

C. The **homework** consists of answering the “Review Questions” and “Making Connections” sections at the end of each chapter in the textbook (16 total) and answering two sets of questions derived from other assigned readings. The answers are submitted via Sakai or e-mail by midnight on the day in which the relevant chapter or material is covered in class.

D. **Assignment 1** is a brief written summary (minimum 2 double-spaced typed pages of text) of research into the student’s family history and personal history in order to exemplify some of the problems commonly encountered in composing history.

E. **Assignment 2** is a brief written exercise (minimum 3 double-spaced typed pages of text) that familiarizes the student with leading figures in the history of Italy since 1500.

F. **Assignment 3** is a research project relating the most important facts/details about, and the overall significance of, a specific place or monument in Rome (location, date of creation, creator, materials, notable associated events and personalities, etc.) within the context of the history of Western civilization from 1500 to today.

For Assignment 3 the student will
   1. compose a brief written summary of the research (minimum 3 double-spaced typed pages of text, including bibliography/list of works cited) and
   2. make a brief (6-minute) presentation of the research before the class with images and bulleted lists of the most important points.

The individual topics and presentation dates for Assignment 3 will be assigned in Week 9. The instructor will provide guidance on research sources.
The paper and presentation for Assignment 3 will be evaluated on
1. the quality and depth of the research and
2. the clarity of the delivery, both written and oral.

Assignment and Examination Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Evaluation points / Points contributed to final grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/14</td>
<td>Assignment 1</td>
<td>10 / 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/7</td>
<td>Mid-term examination</td>
<td>100 / 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/28</td>
<td>Assignment 2</td>
<td>10 / 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/16, 4/18</td>
<td>Assignment 3</td>
<td>10 / 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/27</td>
<td>Final examination</td>
<td>100 / 35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessment and Attendance

The final grade will be calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework (&quot;Review Questions&quot; and &quot;Making Connections&quot; x 16 + questions from Douglass and Shirer readings)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 1</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 2</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 3</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The course grade scale is 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, 59 and below = F.

In accordance with the JFRC mission to promote a higher level of academic rigor, all courses adhere to the following absence policy. Prompt attendance, preparation and active participation in course discussions are expected from every student.

- classes meeting once a week: no more than one unexcused absence;
- classes meeting twice a week: no more than two unexcused absences;
- classes meeting three times a week: no more than two unexcused absences.

As this course meets twice a week, a total of two unexcused absence(s) will be permitted.
Unexcused absences beyond these will result in a lowering of your final grade.

**Academic Honesty**
Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable at the JFRC and will be dealt with in accordance with Loyola University Chicago’s guidelines. Please familiarize yourself with Loyola’s standards [here](http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml). You are responsible for complying with the LUC Student Handbook.

**Late or Missed Assignments**
Late or missed assignments will not be accepted for grading without the authorization of the instructor.

**Accessibility Accommodations**
Students registered with the Student Accessibility Center requiring academic accommodations should contact the Office of the Dean at the John Felice Rome Center in the first week of classes.

**How to do well in this course**
- Take good notes in class. Detailed questions that require more time than can be addressed in class should be posed to the instructor at the beginning or end of class.
- Do the readings BEFORE the class in which they will be discussed.
- Jot down notes, observations, and comments about each chapter and bring them to class.
- Complete the homework, submitting your answers to the instructor via Sakai or e-mail by midnight the same day. Insufficient homework can be corrected and resubmitted for credit.
- Take all assignments seriously and do not do them at the last minute.
- See the instructor with any concerns about content, expectations, or performance.
- Come to class with specific questions and comments in mind.
- Participate. Ask questions and contribute to the discussion in an informed way.

The importance of the readings and class attendance cannot be over-emphasized. The readings provide the broad context and general narrative for Western history; the in-class lectures explore specific themes, events, institutions and individuals.

**Class Policies**
- As the material presented in the course is cumulative in nature, attendance in class is mandatory. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class.
- Students will be given readings for each class meeting. Students are expected to be able to discuss the contents of the readings in class.
- Constructive participation in class discussions is essential. Students are encouraged make observations and ask questions.
- All work in class will be based on lectures, readings, assignments, and discussions. As history is by nature largely subjective and often touches sensitive subjects (race, gender, politics, religion, class, sexuality), there is a lot of room for debate, disagreement, and definition. Be curious and forthright, and always respectful.
- During class smartphones and other personal communication devices should be switched off or set to silent mode.
Lectures may be recorded for study purposes, but only with the instructor’s prior and express permission.

Students are expected to do all of their assigned work independently, including the assignments and the homework.

Disruptive Classroom Behavior

The classroom is a particular environment in which students and faculty come together to promote learning and growth. It is essential to this learning environment that respect for the rights of others seeking to learn, respect for the professionalism of the instructor, and the general goals of academic freedom are maintained. Differences of viewpoint or concerns should be expressed in terms which are supportive of the learning process, creating an environment in which students and faculty may learn to reason with clarity and compassion, to share of themselves without losing their identities, and to develop an understanding of the community in which they live. Student conduct which disrupts the learning process will count significantly against the participation grade component and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class. Disruptive behavior includes, but is not limited to, habitually:

- cross-talking or talking out of turn
- whispering or talking to classmates
- reading non-related materials on paper or digital media
- communicating with external parties in any format (phone, text message, VoIP, e-mail, etc.)
- working on any other coursework during class
- arriving to class late or leaving class early
- exiting and re-entering the classroom for bathroom breaks and other non-emergency uses
- sleeping
- eating

Subject to Change Statement

This syllabus and schedule are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances. It is the student’s responsibility to check for announcements made during his/her absence.

Weekly course schedule

Week 1 (Jan. 21-24)

T 1/22: Introduction

Th 1/24: What is History, and How Do You Make It?

Week 2 (Jan. 28-31)

T 1/29: Global Encounters and the Shock of Reformation
Readings: Chapter 14

Th 1/31: Wars of Religion and the Clash of Worldviews
Readings: Chapter 15
Week 3 (Feb. 4-7)

T 2/5: Absolutism, Constitutionalism, and the Search for Order
Readings: Chapter 16

Th 2/7: The Atlantic System and Its Consequences
Readings: Chapter 17

Week 4 (Feb. 11-14)

T 2/12: A Brief History of Slavery
Readings: Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass (PDF on Sakai) + homework questions

Th 2/14: The Promise of Enlightenment
Readings: Chapter 18

Assignment 1 due

Week 5 (Feb. 18-21)

T 2/19: The Cataclysm of Revolution
Readings: Chapter 19

Th 2/21: Napoleon and the Revolutionary Legacy
Readings: Chapter 20

Week 6 (Feb. 25-28)

T 2/26: Industrialization and Social Ferment
Readings: Chapter 21

Th 2/28: review for mid-term exam (Chapters 14-21)

Week 7 (March 4-7)

T 3/5: Politics and Culture of the Nation-State
Readings: Chapter 22

Th 3/7: Mid-term exam

March 8-17 SPRING BREAK

Week 8 (March 18-21)

T 3/19: Empire, Industry, and Everyday Life
Readings: Chapter 23
Th 3/21: Modernity and the Road to War  
Readings: Chapter 24

**Week 9 (March 25-28)**

T 3/26: World War I and Its Aftermath  
Readings: Chapter 25

Th 3/28: The Great Depression and World War II  
Readings: Chapter 26

**Assignment 2 due**

**Week 10 (April 1-4)**

T 4/2: A Brief History of the Jewish People  
Readings: W. L. Shirer, *Rise and Fall of the Third Reich* pp. 860-894 (PDF on Sakai) + homework questions

Th 4/4: The Cold War and the Remaking of Europe  
Readings: Chapter 27

**Week 11 (April 8-11)**

T 4/9: Postindustrial Society and the End of the Cold War Order  
Readings: Chapter 28

Th 4/11: A New Globalism  
Readings: Chapter 29

**Week 12 (April 15-18)**

T 4/16: The enduring role and importance of Rome in Western civilization 1  
**Assignment 3 due (group 1)**

Th 4/18: The enduring role and importance of Rome in Western civilization 2  
**Assignment 3 due (group 2)**

**Week 13 (April 23-25)**

T 4/23: Where we are today

Th 4/25: Review for final exam (Chapters 22-29)

**FINAL EXAM Saturday 4/27 11:30-1:30**