HIST 102: EVOLUTION OF WESTERN IDEAS AND INSTITUTIONS SINCE 1648

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Thur. 9:00AM- 12:00PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will provide an analytical overview of the major intellectual, political, and socio-economic developments of the past four centuries that have fundamentally shaped the contemporary world. In the process, students will not only learn what changes took place, but, more importantly, engage with arguments about why they occurred and how they have shaped the world we live in today.
This course also serves as an introduction to history as a discipline. Students will encounter historical methods of enquiry that can help them to understand the past and analyze more deeply the realities of the world in which they live. HIST 102 satisfies the historical knowledge area of the core curriculum, and through a variety of written and oral analyses of complex material, it also hones critical thinking skills. In addition this course meets the core course value criterion by promoting an understanding of the evolution of western concepts of social justice since the seventeenth century.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
By the end of this semester, students will be able to:
• Identify major historical figures, events and ideas that have transformed modern society
• Distinguish between primary and secondary sources and identify how they influence given historical narratives.
• Recognize how including or excluding specific groups of people, perspectives and events can result in differing historical narratives.
• Evaluate conflicting historical interpretations of Western Civilization.
• Assess the ways that the historical development of ideas and institutions may inform current political, social, and cultural issues.
• Engage in debates that make use of history as evidence.
• Think critically about historical change and about how historical knowledge is created.
REQUIRED TEXTS/SOURCES:

No books to buy!
This course will use Open Educational Resources and materials from Loyola-subscribed databases, all of which will be provided to you via Sakai as links or files.
These will consist of
  1. Selected chapters from the text: Western Civilization: A Concise History, Vol 2 and 3 by Christopher Brooks (Creative comments license)
  2. A variety of primary source readings, images, films, music etc.

All assigned reading/listening/viewing must be completed before Thursday’s class each week.

Methodology
In this class we will make use of the “flipped classroom” approach most weeks. This means that I will provide all readings and some short preparatory and background lectures on Sakai. These must be completed before coming to class. You will also take a brief review quiz by midnight on Wednesday each week to check your initial understanding of the material. This method allows us to use class time for discussion, group activities, and exploration of items that interest you in greater detail. It means you will be active and working during our meetings. It will also give us more time for site visits that take advantage of our location here in Rome

LECTURE THEMES OVERVIEW:

You will find a breakdown of sub-topics, lectures and reading/listening/viewing assignments arranged in weekly units on Sakai.

Week 1 (Jan 18): Introduction: What (and where and when and why) is “THE WEST”?
Week 2 (Jan 25): Moving towards “modern,” humanism, reformation and scientific revolution
Week 3 (Feb 1): Enlightenment and Revolution
Week 4 (Feb 8): The Industrial Revolution
Week 5 (Feb 15): Ideology and revolt – Making the modern nation

MIDTERM EXAM DUE BY MIDNIGHT ON FRIDAY, FEB 16

Week 6 (Feb 22): The emergence of mass society

Week 7 (Feb 29): Imperialism and its legacies

Spring Break Mar 1-10
Week 8 (Mar 14): WWI and its aftermath

Week 9 (Mar 21): Bolshevik Revolution

Week 10 (Mar 28): Rise of Fascism

Week 11 (Apr 4): Dictatorship and WWII

Week 12 (Apr 11): From “Hot” to Cold War

Week 13 (Apr 18): The West and the world since 1989 - COURSE CONCLUSIONS / REVIEW

FINAL EXAMINATION: TBD

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- Class Participation - 10%
  - You are required to attend our weekly class whether on campus or on-site in Rome. You should complete all materials and quizzes before coming to class, and come with comments, questions, and ideas for discussion in mind.

- Weekly quizzes – 20%
  - By midnight on Wednesday of each week you will complete a short quiz covering the basic information in that week’s readings and lectures. These quizzes are meant as incentives to engage with the material and as a way of rewarding you for completing the reading/viewing/listening parts of the course. The quizzes will be in the “quizzes” folder on our course page.

- Midterm Examination - 25%
  - The midterm will be a “take-home”-type written exam consisting of several questions to be answered in paragraph form and a longer, guided essay requiring analysis of at least 2 primary sources. **It will be due at the end of week 5.** I will provide the prompts for the exam the week before it is due and you will submit them to the “assignments” folder on Sakai.

- Final Examination - 25%
  - The final exam will be on material covered since the midterm (i.e. it will not be comprehensive).

- Forum posts – 20%
  - By noon on Thursday each week you must compose and post to the discussion board a question or comment based on the materials for the week. Your comments will serve as the basis for our class discussion. The forum posts should be approximately 150-200 words and should do one or more of the following:
    - Identify a major theme or, if you can, multiple themes of the material.
    - When commenting on a primary source, speculate about what the source can tell us about the context/beliefs of the period.
    - Express your own thoughts, opinions or reactions.
    - Indicate questions for further discussion in class.
ATTENDANCE POLICY

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

This course meets once a week, thus a total of 1 absence will be permitted. Absences beyond these will result in 1% lowering of the final course grade, for every absence after the “approved limit”. The collective health of the JFRC is everyone’s responsibility. DO NOT ATTEND CLASS IF YOU ARE ILL.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest, and responsible manner. Academic integrity is a guiding principle for all academic activity at Loyola University Chicago, and all members of the University community are expected to act in accordance with this principle.

Failing to meet the following academic integrity standards is a serious violation of personal honesty and the academic ideals that bind the University into a learning community. These standards apply to both individual and group assignments. Individuals working in a group may be held responsible if one of the group members has violated one or more of these standards.

1. Students may not plagiarize; the use of AI is considered plagiarism too and treated as such.
2. Students may not submit the same work for credit for more than one assignment (known as self-plagiarism).
3. Students may not fabricate data.
4. Students may not collude.
5. Students may not cheat.
6. Student may not facilitate academic misconduct.

Follow this link for more details about these standards, sanctions, and academic misconduct procedures: (https://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml)

LATE OR MISSED ASSIGNMENTS

Late or missed assignments will not be accepted for grading without the authorization of the instructor. That said, please let me know if you are struggling to keep up or meet with unanticipated obstacles. The study abroad experience can be disorienting and challenging as you adjust. I will work with you to help you keep up with your academic obligations as you explore your temporary home.

ACCESSIBILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

Students registered with the Student Accessibility Center requiring academic accommodations should contact the Office of the Academic Dean at the John Felice Rome Center, the first week of classes.
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
59 or lower: F