

HSA 112-02

Origins of the Modern World, 1500 to the Present
Fall 2003

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Office Hours: Mondays, 2:00-3:00; Wednesdays, 2:00-4:00; by appointment

Required Texts:

Perry M. Rogers, *Aspects of Western Civilization, II*
Bernal Diaz de Castillo, *Cortez and the Conquest of Mexico*
Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko*
Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*
Jane Addams, *Twenty Years at Hull House*
Elie Wiesel, *Night*
Thomas Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*

Course Description

“Ten Events That Shook the Western World”

This first-year survey course takes a broad look at the movements that have shaped the world in the twenty first century. These developments include the shifting location of religion in society, the emergence and evolution of a scientific way of thinking, the interaction between the expansive European powers and peoples around the world, the rise of industrial capitalism and its accompanying social changes, changing views and expectations of gender, the development of liberal democracy and its conflicts with totalitarianism.

Using primary sources, we will explore these broad issues by examining ten critical events during this period of time. The historical approach of this course, then, focuses on the interplay between particular events and its general context. Consequently, we will use specific events to explore broader cultural forces and vice versa, i.e. consider the historical context to analyze particular moments in history. The events that will organize this course are: the encounter between Cortez and Montezuma, St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre, the condemnation of Galileo, the expansion of the slave trade, the storming of the Bastille, rejection of the Great Charter by the English Parliament, the founding of the first settlement house, the assassination of the archduke of Austria, the *Kristalnacht*, and the presentation of Einstein's theory of relativity. Classes will be devoted to discussions of primary sources and the meaning of historical events; supplemental lectures will contextualize events.

Course Grades

This course focuses on historical analysis through discussion and writing. Therefore, there are no exams in this course, but a series of four critical papers to be completed over the course of the term and a final paper, in lieu of a final exam. We will have occasional in-class quizzes to keep everyone honest. The breakdown of participation in class discussions and of writing assignments follows below. An A=1000 to 940 points, B+=939 to 880 points, B=879 to 820 points, C+=819 to 770 points, C=769 to 700 points, D=699 to 600 points, F=599 to 0 points.

Class Attendance and Participation	100 points
Paper #1	100 points
Paper #2	150 points
Paper #3	150 points
Paper #4	150 points
Quizzes	100 points
Final Paper	250 points
Total Possible	1000 points

Course Policies

Class Attendance: There is a marked correspondence between doing well in history courses and attending the class faithfully. Since this course is rooted in an “active learning” approach, absences undermine the purposes of the course. In addition, a student who frequently misses class will have a hard time understanding the issues pertinent to the course. I take attendance, which, combined with class participation, will be worth 10% of your total grade. If you have a serious illness or personal emergency that compels you to miss a significant amount of the classes, you should notify me as soon as possible and possibly consider dropping the course.

Since I will usually go over assignments and make announcements at the start of each class, it is also important for students to be present at the beginning of the class period. While I will do my best to convey this information upon the student's request, it is the student's responsibility to make sure he or she is abreast of all matters pertaining to these announcements.

Academic Honesty: "Students are expected to be honest in their academic work. The University reserves the right to penalize any student whose academic conduct is, in its judgment, detrimental to the University. Such conduct shall include cases of plagiarism, collusion, cheating, giving or receiving or offering or soliciting information on examinations, or the use of previously prepared material in examinations or quizzes. Violations should be reported to your course instructor, who will investigate and adjudicate them according the Policy on Academic Honesty of the College of Arts and Sciences. If the charges are found to be true, the student may be liable for academic or

disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion from the University." *Promoting Academic Honesty* (College of Arts and Sciences Handbook, Saint Louis University)

Late Papers: Students are not allowed to hand in assignments late or take make-up quizzes unless the student has made previous arrangements with me. Extensions will only be given in documented cases of personal or medical necessity and I reserve the right to determine what constitutes such cases. Otherwise, late assignment will not be accepted and the student will receive the grade of 0.

Class Participation: It is critical that students participate in discussion periods. We all learn from one another, so speak up, speak out, and speak often. I also encourage you to raise pertinent questions on a regular basis. Class participation grade is based on both attendance and contributing to class discussions by raising issues, asking questions, and responding to fellow students.

Service Learning: In the third week of October, we will cook and serve dinner at Karen House, the Catholic worker house in the city of St. Louis. This will give us an opportunity to interact with the women, children, and staff who live there, as a means of exploring the settlement house movement initiated by Jane Addams. Shortly thereafter, Christy Finsel, Service Learning Coordinator at SLU will facilitate a reflection discussion of our experience and students will compare the Karen House environment to Hull House in a written analytical assignment.

Paper Assignment Due Dates

Monday, August 25, First Day of Class

First Paper Due: September 15

Second Paper Due: October 13

Third Paper Due: November 3

Fourth Paper Due: November 21

Final Paper Due: December 12

Tentative Class Schedule

Week one: Monday, August 25: Course Introduction; Introduction to the Early Modern Period.

August 27-29: Event 1: St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre (August 1572). Theme: War for Religion. Reading Assignment: Photocopied Documents.

September 1: Labor Day, no class.

Week two: September 3-5: Event 2: Cortez confronts Montezuma (November 1519). Theme: The Continents Collide. Reading Assignment: Bernal Diaz de Castillo.

Week three: September 8-12: Cortez versus Montezuma (cont'd); Event 3: Galileo abjures the heliocentric theory (June 1633). Theme: Religion and Science. Reading Assignment: Rogers, pp. 31-51. Photocopied Documents.

Week four: September 15-19: Galileo (cont'd); Event 4: Sugar and Slaves, the rise of the triangular trade (October 1562). Theme: Economy and Slavery. Reading Assignment: Aphra Behn, Photocopied Documents.

Week five: September 22-26: Sugar and slaves (cont'd).

Week six: September 29-October 3: Event 5: Parisians storm the Bastille (July 1789): Theme: Revolution and political representation. Reading, Rogers, pp. 109-43.

Week seven: October 6-10: Event 6: The People's Charter goes to Parliament (June 1839); Theme; Industrialization and the people: Reading Assignment: Karl Marx; Rogers, 207-229.

Week eight: October 13-17: People's Charter (cont'd); Event 7: Origins of the Settlement House. Theme: Activism, gender, Christianity, and social change. Reading Assignment, Jane Addams, Rogers, 122-4, 294-304, Photocopied Documents.

October 20: Fall break, no class.

Week nine: October 22-24: Settlement House (cont'd); Service Learning Site visits.

Week ten: October 27-31: Event 8: Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand (June 1914); Theme: Imperialism and Nationalism. Reading assignment: Rogers, 255-65, 270-279, 325-42.

Week eleven: November 3-7: Assassination (cont'd).

Week twelve: November 10-14: Event 9: $E=mc^2$ (1905, 1915); Theme: Toward a new vision of the universe. Reading, Thomas Kuhn, Photocopied Documents.

Week thirteen: November 17-21: $E=mc^2$ (cont'd); Event 10: Kristallnacht (November 1939); Theme: Totalitarianism and Holocaust. Reading Assignment, Rogers, 389-400; Elie Wiesel.

Week fourteen: November 24: Kristallnacht (cont'd).

November 26-28: Thanksgiving holiday, no class.

Week fifteen: December 1-5: Aftermath of World War II; Review Course Themes

Last Day of Class: December 8: Review Course Themes.

Final Paper Due: December 12