2014

133-01 European History I

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Introduction and Learning Goals

This course explores the history of Europe from antiquity until approximately 1650. Students will acquire an understanding of the processes and developments underpinning social, political and cultural evolution of Europe, including the growth of Greek and Roman civilizations, the emergence and spread of Christianity, and the consolidation and governance of early modern states. This course uses a comparative perspective to understand differences in political and social organization between different regions of Europe and Europeans’ interactions with the broader world, especially during the “Age of Exploration.”

The goals of this course are twofold: to provide you with knowledge of important events in European history, and to help you learn the basics of the discipline of history, and how to think historically. At the end of the course you will have a strong knowledge of pre-Enlightenment European history, as well as the skills to analyze and evaluate historical sources, including primary source documents, and the ability to express that analysis in both spoken and written form.

Although we will cover a variety of topics during the course of the semester, the course will home in on three major themes 1) individuals’ relationship to the state; 2) individuals’ relationship to God and to each other; and 3) the state’s relationship to God changed over time. These themes will be developed both implicitly and explicitly through readings, lectures and discussions, and you will be responsible for connecting class material to these themes in the written exams.

Readings


3) Additional readings will be posted in Canvas. I reserve the right to alter readings as necessary.

You will need to bring the assigned readings to class on the days on which they are due. There will be regular reading quizzes and all readings are required unless otherwise indicated by me in class or on Canvas.
Assignments

- **Workshops:** Workshops will be comprised of a variety of exercises where we will discuss and analyze primary source documents, with the goal of developing your critical and historical thinking skills. Each workshop will be worth 6 points, which includes a reading and short but formal writing assignment to be completed and submitted online before the beginning of class. I will drop the lowest grade. For more detail, see the separate Workshop Rubric.

- **Quizzes:** Quizzes will cover reading material that is assigned for the day.

- **Exams:** You will have two exams for this class: an in-class midterm and a take-home final which is due at the university scheduled final exam time. The exams will be over the course’s core themes and assess you document analysis skills, and you will be required to use material from lectures, readings and discussions. For the midterm, you will need to use a blue test booklet (bluebook). You will be allowed to bring in one piece of paper (front and back) with notes for the exam. The final is a take-home exam. You will receive the question in the course meeting and you will need to submit your exam on the day and time of your scheduled exam.

- **Attendance:** Attendance is necessary for you to succeed in this course. You are expected to attend every class prepared to take notes and participate in class discussions. Please turn off all electronic devices before entering the classroom. You may not text, email or receive phone calls during class. Using a laptop or another electronic device to take notes in class is also prohibited, unless you have a university recognized reason for needing that device. Excused absences will only be recognized for documented illnesses (bring a doctor’s note), court appearances (evidence of appearance), religious holidays, and official university activities (sports, field trips for other courses, schedules and notes need to be provided). All other absences are excused at my discretion. You will only be permitted one unexcused absence in the semester before your grade will be negatively affected. The most important thing is to communicate with me as much as possible, especially if you know in advance that you need to be absent.

Grading Scale: A = 92 to 100, A- = 90-91, B+ = 88 to 89, B = 82-87, B- = 80-81, C+ = 78-79, C = 72 to 77, C- = 70-71, D+ = 68-69, D = 62 to 67, D- = 60-61, F = 59 and below.

I give a grade of A only for work and class performance that is outstanding in its quality. Grades of A- and B+ mean that you are doing above average work. A B or B- grade means you are doing well but there are improvements which could be made. A grade of C+, C, C- means you fulfill the basic
requirements but that there are some significant problems with your work. A grade of D means that you are in danger of failing the course. An F means you are failing the course.

Work that is turned in late (after the time and date that it is due) will receive be reduced one letter grade for each day it is late.

**Meetings and Appointments:**
I will be available in my office during the hours listed on the syllabus. Please feel free to come by my office if you need to discuss something. You can make an appointment for a specific time or drop in during those times. If you are unable to meet during office hours, please contact me to make an appointment. I will post all course announcements on Canvas.

**External Assistance:** Success in college is not just about learning the material, but learning how to learn. Especially in your first two years, you should be developing skills in studying, critical thinking and communication that will help you in college and life. If you are having problems with this class, please come see me. You can also visit the XU writing center which is located in Room 400 of the Conaton Learning Commons. All services offered by the center are free.

**Students With Disabilities:** Xavier is committed to providing students with documented disabilities equal access to all university programs and facilities. If you have a disability requiring accommodations please contact the Learning Assistance Center. I will only accommodate disabilities certified by this office.

**Academic Honesty:** Do not cheat or plagiarize in this course. All written assignments are based on readings in the course and therefore outside research is not necessary (meaning that there should be no need to cite outside sources). If you are found to have cheated or plagiarized an assignment, you will receive at minimum a ZERO on the assignment. Other penalties may be assessed depending on the severity of the infraction. For more information see the Plagiarism tutorial on the XU Library website (http://www.xavier.edu/library/xu-tutor/Preventing-Plagiarism.cfm) and Xavier’s statement on academic honesty which is reprinted below.

**Xavier University’s Statement on Academic Honesty:**

The pursuit of truth demands high standards of personal honesty. Academic and professional life requires a trust based upon integrity of the written and spoken word. Accordingly, violations of certain standards of ethical behavior will not be tolerated at Xavier University. These include theft, cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized assistance in assignments and tests, unauthorized copying of computer software, the falsification of results and material submitted in reports of admission and registration documents, and the falsification of any academic record including letters of recommendation.

All work submitted for academic evaluation must be the student's own. Certainly, the activities of other scholars will influence all students. However, the direct and unattributed use of another's efforts is prohibited as is the use of any work untruthfully submitted as one's own.

Penalties for violations of this policy may include one or more of the following: a zero for that assignment or test, an "F" in the course, and expulsion from the University. The dean of the college in which the student is enrolled is to be informed in writing of all such incidents, though the teacher has full authority to assign the grade for the assignment, test, or course. If disputes of interpretation arise, the student, faculty member, and chair should attempt to resolve the difficulty. If this is unsatisfactory, the dean will rule in the matter. As a final appeal, the academic vice president will call a committee of tenured faculty for the purpose of making a final determination.
Course Schedule

WEEK ONE: Introduction and Western Asian Civilizations

25 August: Introduction/Syllabus

27 August: WORKSHOP #1 What is Western Civilization?

29 August:
READING: Kishlansky, Chapter 1
Epic of Gilgamesh
Code of Hammurabi

WEEK TWO: The Hebrews and Greeks

1 September: Labor Day, NO CLASS

3 September:
READING:
The Bible (excerpts)

5 September:
READING: Kishlansky, Chapters 2 & 3
Homer
Hesiod
Xenophon
Thucydides
Herodotus

WEEK THREE: The Greeks and Romans

8 September:
READING:
Plato, The Republic (excerpts)
Aristotle, Politics (excerpts)

10 September

12 September

WEEK FOUR: The Roman Empire

15 September
READING: Kishlansky, Chapters 4 & 5
Polybius
Virgil
Juvenal
Cicero
Tacitus

17 September

19 September

**WEEK FIVE: Early Christianity**

22 September

24 September: WORKSHOP #2 Early Christianity
READING: Kishlansky, Chapter 6
*Gospel of Matthew*
St. Augustine
Celcus
Eusebius
*Benedictine Rule*

26 September

**WEEK SIX Byzantium and Islam**

29 September:
READING: Kishlansky, Chapter 7
*Qur’an*
Procopius
Justinian Code

1 October

3 October

**WEEK SEVEN**

6 October: REVIEW

8 October: MIDTERM

10 October: Fall Break, NO CLASS

**WEEK EIGHT Early Middle Ages**

13 October:
READING: Kishlansky, Chapter 8
*The Life of Charlemagne*
*Burgundian Code*
*Donation of Constantin*
15 October

17 October

**WEEK NINE: Feudal State and Society**

20 October:
**READING:** Kishlansky, Chapter 9
*Magna Carta*

22 October

24 October

**Week Ten: Crisis and Renaissance**

27 October:
**READING:** Kishlansky, Chapter 11
Boccaccio, *The Decameron* (excerpts)

29 October

31 October: **WORKSHOP #3 Renaissance Political Transformation**
**READING:** Machiavelli, *The Prince*

**WEEK ELEVEN: Early Modern Empires**

3 November:
**READING:** Kislansky, Chapter 12
Doukas
Battuta

5 November

7 November

**WEEK TWELVE: Reformation**

10 November:
**READING:** Kishlansky, Chapter 13
Jan Hus
*Freedom of a Christian*
*Of Marriage and Celibacy*
*Institutes of the Christian Religion*
Other assorted readings

12 November
14 November: **CLASS CANCELLED**

**WEEK THIRTEEN** Reformation and Counter-Reformation

17 November

19 November

21 November

**WEEK FOURTEEN** Counter-Reformation

24 November: **WORKSHOP #4** Toleration

**READING:**
- *The General Confederation of Warsaw*, Tazbir
- “The Conversion of Non-Christians in Early Modern Russia”
- “The Age of Religious Wars. 1559-1715”,
- *Edict of Nantes*,
- *St. Bartholomew’s Day Massacre* (excerpts)

26 November: **Thanksgiving Break, NO CLASS**

28 November: **Thanksgiving Break, NO CLASS**

**WEEK FIFTEEN** Early Modern State Building

1 December:

**READING:** Kishlansky, Chapter 14

Henrican Articles

Swann

Other Assorted Readings

3 December

5 December

**WEEK SIXTEEN:** Everyday Life

8 December:

**READING:** Kishlansky, Chapter 15

10 December: **WORKSHOP #5** Early Modern Witchcraze

**READING:**
- Kivelson
- Zguta
- Levack
- Klaniczay
- Ostling
Behringer
Kieckhefer
Other Assorted Readings

12 December: REVIEW

Final Exam:

Section 1: Wednesday, December 17 8:00-9:50am

*I reserve the right to change the syllabus.