HST 1200: The West and the World Since 1500

TTh 10:00-11:20

HST 1200 surveys the political, social, economic, and cultural history of Europe since the sixteenth century. The course also treats some parts of Asian, American, and African history as these regions were affected by European expansion. The emphasis throughout is placed on considering broad thematic questions through examining primary and secondary sources. Topics include agricultural, commercial and industrial development; demographic change and social stratification; mass migrations, trade and globalization; religion; political ideologies; monarchies, republics and empires; revolutions, wars and international orders; elite and popular cultures.

The Wright State Core: This course meets a requirement for a history course in Element Three of the Wright State Core. By the end of this class you should be able to

a. Critically describe some of the political, social or economic systems; historical, cultural or spiritual traditions; and/or technological innovations around the world
b. Demonstrate an awareness of the diversity of people or traditions in our world in ways that promote effective engagement, both locally and globally
c. Use political, social, economic, historical, cultural, spiritual or technological knowledge to evaluate contemporary issues

For purposes of transfer and articulation among schools within the University System of Ohio, this course is also designed to help you

- Apply critical thinking to analyze primary and secondary sources (i.e. historical analysis of text).
- Explain the cause, effect and relevance of specific historical events and/or periods within the broader historical context.
- Understand and articulate diverse historical interpretations.
- Articulate historical arguments in a variety of forms of communication.

Required Texts (for purchase at the WSU bookstore and online at amazon.com)

Jackson J. Spielvogel, *Western Civilization*

Course Requirements

1. Reading assignments are to be completed BEFORE the class meeting for which they are assigned. All students, particularly freshmen, are strongly encouraged to attend workshops on time management, note-taking, and test preparation sponsored by the Student Academic Success Center ([http://www.wright.edu/uc/sasc.html](http://www.wright.edu/uc/sasc.html)) and the Tutoring Center ([http://www.wright.edu/uc/tutor/](http://www.wright.edu/uc/tutor/)).

2. This course has a mixed lecture and discussion format. In-class discussions, based on the assigned readings and the materials presented in lectures, are an important part of the course. The
best way to prepare for the discussions is to take notes on the assigned readings and to answer the focus questions in advance of class meetings. The focus questions will be posted on WebCT. Students are required to submit TYPE-WRITTEN ANSWERS IN COMPLETE SENTENCES IN THEIR OWN WORDS to the questions (not the identifications) for six of the twelve weeks they are assigned. Of these six, three must be submitted by the middle of the semester. Focus questions are due in class on the Thursday of the week for which they are assigned. To get the most out of the course, students should answer focus question every week. Where appropriate, answers should include discussion of the relevant primary sources in the textbook. This work counts toward the participation grade. For the identifications, which will form the core of the midterm and final examinations, students are encouraged to create study aides such as flash cards that address the so-called “W” questions: what, who, when, where, and why (that is, why is this event, person, idea, etc. historically significant).

3. There will be a map quiz early in the semester. Students will be expected to know the major political divisions, cities, and physical features (oceans, seas, rivers, mountains) of Europe in the sixteenth century. The quiz will be based on the map in Spielvogel’s *Western Civilization*, p. 364.

4. To help students comprehend the assigned readings, weekly quizzes consisting of ten multiple choice questions will be administered at the beginning of most Thursday classes. There will be eleven such quizzes and their average will count toward the final grade.

5. There will be a midterm and a final examination. The final examination will cover the entire course with emphasis placed on the themes and topics of the second half of the semester. The exams will consist of multiple-choice questions and identifications (including passages from primary sources).

6. Students will write one 750-word book review of Mark Lilla’s *The Stillborn God: Religion, Politics, and the Modern West*. The instructor will provide detailed guidelines for writing the review. Students are strongly encouraged to discuss a draft of the paper with the WSU University Writing Center (http://www.wright.edu/academics/writingctr) prior to final submission.

7. Students are expected to abide by WSU’s academic integrity policy. According to the Office of Student Judicial Services, “It is the policy of Wright State University to uphold and support standards of personal honesty and integrity for all students consistent with the goals of a community of scholars and students seeking knowledge and truth. Furthermore, it is the policy of the University to enforce these standards through fair and objective procedures governing instances of alleged dishonesty, cheating, and other academic misconduct” (http://www.wright.edu/students/judicial/integrity.html). The same office defines plagiarism as follows: “Presenting words or ideas taken from another source in a manner that will cause a reader to believe that those words or ideas are your own” (ibid.). For a broader discussion this policy, see http://www.wright.edu/academics/writingctr/resources/plagiarism.html.

8. Weekly assignments and information concerning quizzes, exams, and papers will be posted on WebCT.

**Grading:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Map Quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Participation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
20% Weekly Quizzes (average of best four of twelve)
20% Midterm
10% Book Review (750 words)
30% Final Exam

Schedule of Classes and Readings

Week 1: Introduction
Jan 6 The Importance of the West
Jan 8 Geography, Society, Culture

*Reading:* Spielvogel, *Western Civilization*, ch. 11
*Discussion:* Maps (364, 305); Boccaccio’s *Decameron* (306); *Unam Sanctam* (322)

Week 2: The Age of the Renaissance

Renaissance Humanism and Princes

*Reading:* Spielvogel, *Western Civilization*, ch. 12
*Discussion:* Machiavelli and Erasmus on the Renaissance Prince (350); Pico della Mirandola, *Oration on the Dignity of Man* (353); Laura Cereta, *Defense of the Liberal Instruction of Women* (354)

Reformation and Religious Warfare

*Reading:* Spielvogel, *Western Civilization*, ch. 13; ch. 15, pp. 443-451
*Discussion:* Luther, “95 Theses” (379); Luther, “Against the Robbing…” (382); Reports of Genevan Consistory (393); Loyola, “Rules for Thinking” (397); “Simplicius Simplicissimus” (449)

*In-class viewing:* Martin Luther (2006), select scenes

Reading Quiz

Week 3: A Changing West: 1500-1800

Europe and the World: New Encounters

*Reading:* Spielvogel, *Western Civilization*, ch. 14,
*Discussion:* Ptolemy’s World Map (413); Map 14.1; Columbus and Cortes (418-19); Las Casas, *the Tears of the Indians* (422); Map 14.2; Slave Trade (424); Qing Imperial Edict to King of England (430)

*In-class viewing:* The Mission (1986), select scenes

The Scientific Revolution

*Reading:* Spielvogel, *Western Civilization*, ch. 16
*Discussion:* Medieval Conception of Universe vs. Copernican System (486, 487); Galileo and Bellarmine letters (492-493); Descartes, *Discourse on Method*; Pascal, *Pensées* (506)

*In-class viewing:* “The Starry Messenger” (select scenes)

Reading Quiz
Week 4  Statebuilding

Absolutism

Reading: Spielvogel, Western Civilization, ch. 15, pp. 451-467
Discussion: Louis XIV, Memoirs (453); Duc de Saint-Simon, Memoirs (456)

Limited Monarchy and Republics

Reading: Spielvogel, Western Civilization, ch. 15, pp. 467-481
Discussion: The Bill of Rights (474); Shakespeare, Richard II (479)
Reading Quiz

Week 5  Enlightened Revolution

The Enlightenment

Reading: Spielvogel, Western Civilization, ch. 17, pp. 509-522
Discussion: Map 17.1 (513); Montesquieu, “Of the Constitution of England” (514); Voltaire on Religious Intolerance (516); Rousseau, The Social Contract (520)

The French Revolution and Its Impact

Reading: Spielvogel, Western Civilization, ch. 19
Discussion: Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen; Edmund Burke, Reflections on the Revolution in France (1790); The Napoleonic Code
Reading Quiz

Week 6  Isms and Schisms

Industrial Revolution and Class Conflicts

Reading: Spielvogel, Western Civilization, ch. 20

The New Isms: Liberalism, Nationalism, Socialism

Reading: Spielvogel, Western Civilization, ch. 21
Discussion: John Stuart Mill, On Liberty; Giuseppe Mazzini, The Duties of Man; Karl Marx and Friederich Engels, The Communist Manifesto
Reading Quiz

Week 7  Private and Public Spheres

Family, Gender, and Public Life

Reading: John Stuart Mill and Harriet Taylor, “On Marriage and Divorce” (ca. 1832)

Midterm Exam

Week 8  Nationmaking

Germany
Reading: Spielvogel, *Western Civilization*, ch. 22
Discussion: Heinrich von Gagern, “Letter to His Father”

**Italy**
Reading: Spielvogel, *Western Civilization*, ch. 22
Discussion: Camillo Cavour, *On Railroads and National Development*

---

**Week 9**

**Modern Times**
Mass Society, Mass Culture

Reading: Spielvogel, *Western Civilization*, ch. 23, pp. 708-22; ch. 24, 731-46
Discussion: Advice to Women: Two Views (716-17); Freud, *Five Lectures on Psychoanalysis* (735)

New Imperialism

Reading: Spielvogel, *Western Civilization*, ch. 24, pp. 752-65

**Reading Quiz**

---

**Week 10**

**The Crucible of War**
World War One: Origins and Impact

Reading: Spielvogel, *Western Civilization*, pp. 769-88
Discussion: Carl Zuckmeyer, *A Part of Myself* (1966); Freud, *Thought for the Times on War and Death* (1915)

Film clips (recommended): *Gallipoli* (last 20 minutes); *Paths to Glory*

Post-War Revolutions and Fascisms

Reading: Spielvogel, *Western Civilization*, pp. 789-816
Discussion: Benito Mussolini, *The Doctrine of Fascism* (1932)

**Reading Quiz**

---

**Week 11**

**Totalitarianism**

The Soviet Union

Reading: Spielvogel, *Western Civilization*, pp. 816-28
Discussion: Stalin’s Speeches

German National Socialism

Reading: Spielvogel, *Western Civilization*, pp. 816-28
Discussion: Hitler’s Speeches (821)
In-class viewing: Leni Riefenstahl, *Triumph of the Will* (1935)

**Reading Quiz**
Week 12  World War Two and Its Legacy

WWII and the Holocaust

Reading: Spielvogel, *Western Civilization*, ch. 27
Discussion: Hitler’s Secret Conversations (856) The Holocaust: The Camp Commandant and the Camp Victims (862)

Cold War: The Division of Europe

Reading: Spielvogel, *Western Civilization*, ch. 28
Discussion: Truman’s Address to Congress, 1947 (878); The Brezhnev Doctrine (915)

Reading Quiz

Week 13  Postwar History and the “End of History”

Decolonization and Protest

Reading: Spielvogel, *Western Civilization*, pp. 883-90
Discussion: Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth* (1961); Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex* (1949)

The Collapse of Communism and the “End of History”?

Reading: Spielvogel, *Western Civilization*, ch. 30
Discussion: Bommi Baumann, *How it All Began*; Timothy Garton Ash, *The Magic Lantern*

Reading Quiz

Book Review Due

Week 14  Some Current Issues and Course Review

Week 15  Final Exam

Course information:

Title:  HST 1200: The West and the World since 1500
Credit:  Three semester hours
Course Description:  Examination of the modern Western world emphasizing the revolutions in economics, politics, religion and other phenomena that have shaped the Western world in our own time.
Prerequisites:  None
Offering Unit:  Department of History, College of Liberal Arts