Wright State University

History 1200: Modern Europe
Fall 2015
Online Version

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Office Hours: T: 1-2pm
TH: 1-2:30 or by appointment

Communication

The primary means of communicating with the instructor is via email. Students may also visit the instructor during office hours, or at another arranged time.

Overview

The study of history is about the present. It seeks answers to key questions about ourselves, especially how we became who we are. The central point of studying history is not so much to avoid the mistakes of the past, as it is to gain awareness of who we are, and how our world has come to be.

In the sciences, students do what professional scientists do: they learn the laws of nature by direct experimentation in the laboratory. Historians cannot do that, but they can examine evidence from the past, the "primary sources." In this course, you will "do" history in a way similar to that of professional historians. You will look at evidence from the past--buildings, artifacts, artworks, and especially writing of all kinds--in order to assemble a picture of events and developments that have shaped lives past and present.

The history of Europe is formative to the experience of modern Americans. Its culture, ideas and institutions have shaped modern America in countless ways. These are a few key questions this course invites you to consider: What are the events and ideas that have made the modern world? How, when and why did ideas like human rights, democracy and nationalism become powerful? What roles have religion and modern science played in framing our world? Is there a fundamental conflict between them? Why did Europe drag itself and the whole world into massively destructive wars, and what were the long-term effects of these disasters? What are the prospects for Europe and the world in our own times?

There is even more to history class than the study of history. Other goals for this course are the development of analytic skill and effective written expression. In general terms, practice in historical thinking introduces one way of thinking. It is another apparatus in the exercise-room of the mind.
Required Books available at the bookstore:

A. Daniel Frankforter, et. al., The West: A Narrative History
Erich M. Remarque, All Quiet on the Western Front

Course Design

This course consists of 6 units, each with a specific due date. Every two units, there is a midterm exam (that is, after Units 2, 4 and 6). Although the student has great flexibility in pacing him or herself, there are limits. Each of these units must be completed in five weeks, and the entire course completed by December 18. The five-week rule is intended to prevent students from attempting to complete the entire course in the final weeks of the semester, which would inhibit proper learning and also overburden the students’ late semester workload.

Along with the online lectures, there are numerous activities, writing assignments, tests and a group discussion. The timing and sequence of these activities are spelled out in the course structure. Please note that the quizzes and exams have certain time specifications, both in terms of when they can be taken, and how long one has to complete each quiz or test.

Quizzes and Assignments

For each module, the student begins by reading the assigned pages from the textbook. There will be a quiz for each of these readings. After completing the quiz, proceed to the lectures, following the clips in sequence. There are interactive exercises integrated into the lecture sequences, involving questions about music, art or other material. Complete these exercises as you go along. At the end of each module there is a multiple choice quiz on the material covered in the module. At the completion of two units (four modules), there is an exam consisting of 60 multiple-choice questions.

There are also written assignments for most modules. There will be 6 question sets and 2 theme papers concerning special readings. These assignments are submitted via the dropbox function embedded in Pilot. The additional readings are generally short primary documents. In the historical profession, “primary sources” are artifacts or writing from the time being studied, rather than a modern person writing about the past. Assessing and understanding primary sources is the essential task of the historian. We will be considering examples artwork, music, folktales, trials, philosophy and literature during this course. The most significant reading we will study is the novel, All Quiet on the Western Front, written by a German author who was reflecting on his experiences as a soldier in the First World War.
**Discussion Session**

As part of Unit 5, module 10, there is a one-hour small group discussion on the novel, *All Quiet on the Western Front*, held either online or in a classroom. Students will receive instructions on how to sign up for a discussion session.

**Grading**

The course totals 1000 points distributed in the following manner:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>points each</th>
<th>total</th>
<th>% of final grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Quizzes (10)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture Exercises (12)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Questions (6)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module Quizzes (10)</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theme Papers (2)</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion (1)</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams (3)</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>36</td>
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</tbody>
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As indicated, the top ten scores (of 12) in the quizzes will count for the final grade. Special Note: Pilot is instructed to drop the lowest two scores on both module and reading quizzes. Because the first two quizzes you take will be the lowest two scores, Pilot will say in red letters that it has dropped these scores. Do not be alarmed! They don’t really disappear. (That’s Pilot logic for you!)

The final grade will be determined according the following scale:

- A = 90-100%
- B = 80-89%
- C = 70-79%
- D = 55-69%

Students will be able to track their progress on the grade tab in Pilot.