JEFFERSON COLLEGE

Course Syllabus

HST 202
RENAISSANCE TO EARLY MODERN EUROPE

3 Credit Hours

Revised Date: January 2005
by
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Arts and Science Education
Dr. Mindy Selsor, Dean
HST202 Renaissance to Early Modern Europe

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION
Prerequisite: none
3 semester hours credit

Renaissance to Early Modern Europe is a general survey that examines the political, social economic and cultural aspects of the second third of the Western civilization sequence. Beginning with the Renaissance and continuing to the cusp of the twentieth century, the course analyzes the creation and the evolution of the Western tradition. Renaissance to Early Modern Europe will partially fulfill the humanities requirement for the A.A. and A.S. degrees. (F,S,Su)

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES -- At the completion of this course a students will:

A. have a general concept of the chronological developments of Western civilization;
B. understand the basic movements, forces and trends that have shaped Western civilization;
C. understand the impact of the Protestant and Catholic Reformation;
D. understand the ideas and impact of the scientific revolution and the Enlightenment;
E. understand the birth, growth and evolution of capitalism and the concomitant rise of modern political ideologies;
F. understand the rise of middle class culture;
G. have the ability to understand the discipline of history and the perspectives, knowledge and tools of the field;
H. develop basic critical thinking skills and historical knowledge by assessing various historical interpretations, facts and perspectives.

III. COURSE OUTLINE

A. Unit I -- Early Modern Europe
   1. The Renaissance
      a. The Italian Renaissance
b. The European Renaissance

c. The Renaissance legacy

2. Overseas Colonization and the Reformation
   a. Portuguese expansion
   b. Spanish expansion
   c. Luther's break
   d. The English Reformation
   e. The Swiss Reformation
   f. The legacy of the Protestant Reformation
   g. The Catholic Reformation

3. The Crisis of Early Modern Europe
   a. Religious conflict in the Sixteenth Century
   b. The Thirty Year's War
   c. Reformation era literature and philosophy

4. The Economic and Social life of Early Modern Europe
   a. Demographics
   b. Economics
      1.) agriculture
      2.) industry
      3.) commercial revolution
      4.) colonization
   c. A society of orders

5. The Age of Absolutism
   a. The Theory of Absolutism
   b. Louis XIV
   c. Absolutism in Eastern and Central Europe
   d. The English Exception
   e. Diplomacy and Warfare in the Age of Absolutism

6. The Enlightenment
   a. The Scientific Revolution
   b. The World of the Philosophies
   c. The Classical Revival in the Arts

B. Unit II -- The Dual Revolution
1. The French Revolution
   a. Causes
   b. Destruction of the Ancien Régime
   c. Radicalization of the Revolution
d. The Thermidorian Reaction
e. Napoleon
f. The Congress of Vienna

2. The Industrial Revolution
   a. Why England?
   b. The Continent Catches Up
   c. Continuing Industrialization

3. Industrial Cities
   a. Rural Life
   b. Urban Life
   c. The Middle Classes
   d. The Working Classes

4. The Rise of Liberalism
   a. Decline of Conservatism
   b. The Case of England
   c. The Case of France

5. The Rise of Nationalism
   a. Origins
   b. Spread of Nationalism
   c. Nation Building
      1.) Germany
      2.) Italy
      3.) The U.S.

C. Unit III – The West at the World’s Center

1. International Expansion
   a. The Second State of the Industrial Revolution
   b. Imperialism
   c. International Rivalry

2. The Middle Class Challenged
   a. The Rise of Socialism
   b. Science and Philosophy
   c. The Arts

3. A Delicate Equilibrium
   a. The Great Powers
   b. The Balance of Power
c. The Road to War

IV. UNIT OBJECTIVES

A. Unit I
   1. Describe the legacy of the Renaissance.
   2. Describe how the difference in the Lutheran, Swiss and English Reformations.
   3. Assess the reforms of the Catholic Reformation.
   4. Describe the impact of the religious wars of the Sixteenth century on Europe.
   5. Describe how European society fit into specific ranks.
   6. Explain how Louis XIV exemplified the absolutist monarch.
   7. Describe the major scientific, economic and political ideas of the Enlightenment and explain their significance.

B. Unit II
   1. Explain the origins of the French Revolution.
   2. Describe the numerous political shifts that took place in the French Revolution and account for this instability.
   3. Discuss the significance of Napoleon for France and Europe.
   4. Define what is meant by an "industrial revolution" and explain why it began in England.
   5. Describe how the industrial revolution affected and changed the lives of the middle classes and the working classes.
   6. How was Liberalism manifested in England after 1815 and why was this experience so different from the French?
   7. Describe the origins of nationalism and compare and contrast the nation building experience of Germany with that of Italy.

C. Unit III
   1. Explain the rise of imperialism and the increasing international rivalry between European powers in the late nineteenth century.
   2. Describe the increasing threats to the middle class way of life.
   3. What did the socialists want and why?

V. REQUIRED MATERIALS


or
Kagan’s *The Western Tradition, vol. 2*

Various assigned articles

**VI. SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES**

A. Documentaries  
B. Slides  
C. Readings placed on reserve in the library or handed out in class.

**VII. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION**

A. Lecture  
B. Class Discussion/Debate  
C. Text analysis  
D. In class writing assignments  
E. Research paper/Book review  
F. Multimedia presentations  
G. Map assignments

**VIII. METHODS OF EVALUATION**

A. Three exams using multiple choice, essay, matching and identifications (ID's) will count for a total of 300 points.  
B. Two research paper/book review worth 100 points.  
C. An in-class grade of 200 points will assess for participation, discussion, quizzes, in-class writing assignments, oral presentations, attendance and deportment.  
D. Options for extra-credit will include article review and film reviews.