

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for HIST 2

WESTERN CIVILIZATION SINCE 1600

Effective: Fall 2019

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

HIST 2 — WESTERN CIVILIZATION SINCE 1600 — 3.00 units

This course traces the history of Western civilization from the 1600s to the present. Topics include the Scientific Revolution, the Enlightenment, and the Industrial Revolution; the American and French Revolutions; World Wars I and II; the Cold War and its end; and the challenges of the modern era.

3.00 Units Lecture

Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

Discipline:

- History

	MIN
Lecture Hours:	54.00
Total Hours:	54.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Identify and correctly use basic historical terminology;
- Identify, analyze, and interpret primary and secondary sources, and compose arguments which use them as support;
- Analyze the concept and various definitions of the West.
- Demonstrate the ability to analyze Western Civilization from different perspectives such as race, class, gender, and ethnicity.
- Analyze and explain multiple causes and outcomes of historical events and developments related to western civilization;
- Identify and distinguish the major eras in the history of western civilization;
- Identify and distinguish the physical and political geography of western civilization;
- Analyze and explain the interaction of economic, social, cultural and political developments in response to changing historical circumstances;
- Identify different political ideologies and analyze their impact on the modern world;
- Identify and explain the historical significance of major discoveries and the developments in technology, science, art, architecture, music, and literature;
- Analyze and explain how history has shaped and continues to shape the contemporary world.

V. CONTENT:

- Introduction to Western Civilization
 - Introduction to Western Civilization and its vast scope chronologically and geographically. Discuss the meaning and importance of history and the study of the past. Demonstrate the use of sources, both primary and secondary, and their importance to the course.
- Birth of the Modern West. Overview of medieval Europe and advent of Renaissance and Reformation; major ideas: humanism, secularism, individualism, etc.; major thinkers: Erasmus, Machiaveli, Da Vinci, Luther, Calvin, et. al.
- Absolutism versus Constitutionalism
 - Compare and contrast two major attempts at nation building in seventeenth century. Look at varieties of absolutist governments throughout Europe. Discuss impact of mercantilism on European politics and economics.
- The Scientific Revolution
 - Learn about the new world view and gain an advanced understanding of the natural world through observing nature, conducting experiments and mathematical reasoning. Study the development of the scientific method and its impact.
- The Enlightenment
 - Learn about the Enlightenment thinkers who challenged Christian theology, championed reason, articulated the idea of the natural rights of the individual, and the responsibility of governments to honor those rights.
- The American and French Revolutions
 - These revolutions were greatly influenced by Enlightenment ideas. Americans borrowed extensively for both the Declaration and the Constitution. The French secularized and modernized the structure of their government.
- Multiple Reactions to Revolution
 - Napoleon both subverted the political ideals and preserved the social changes. The early nineteenth century saw multiple reactions to the enormous impact of the French Revolution and Napoleon's abuse of power. The Romantics attacked the ideas of the Enlightenment for fostering the destruction of the French Revolution. Governments proved unstable as waves of

- revolutions swept across Europe. Conservatives like Metternich used the Congress of Vienna to maintain stability.
- H. The Industrial Revolution
 - 1. Great Britain led the way with the replacing of human and animal labor by machines, a product of their abundant labor supply, large deposits of coal and iron ore, and surplus capital. A middle class emerged that fosters its development and spread of new emphasis on consumption.
 - I. Late Nineteenth-Century Social and Cultural Change
 - 1. The successful spread of the Industrial Revolution throughout much of Europe fostered another series of changes in the adjustment to modernity. Europe witnessed and relished the rise of the spectacle, consumption and leisure. Darwin had a dramatic impact on intellectual thought with his ground-breaking work on evolution. Marx had a comparative impact with his analysis of class consciousness and ownership to the means of production.
 - J. Rise of Nationalism and Imperialism
 - 1. Europe had one of the longest stretches without a major war from the Congress of Vienna in 1815 to WWI in 1914. The late nineteenth century witnessed the first fissures in that tenuous balance. The late nineteenth century also witnessed Europeans' conquest and control of much of the rest of the world.
 - K. World War I
 - 1. The assassination of the Archduke Ferdinand precipitated all Europe into "The Great War" as a result of a system of alliances between the major powers. Discontent with Tsarist autocracy led to the Russian Revolution. Europe emerged from the four-year standoff permanently changed, with major political realignments as well as a jaded, fatalistic mood.
 - L. The Interwar Years
 - 1. The vindictive demands of the French and British placed on the Germans as part of the Versailles Peace Treaty provided fertile ground for the emergence of fascism. The economic misery of the Great Depression only hastened the political instability that Hitler capitalized on.
 - M. World War II
 - 1. A policy of appeasement by the Allied nations allowed Hitler to continue a military buildup and financial recovery of Germany's devastated economy. France, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union were unable to stop Hitler's conquest, leading to WWII in 1940.
 - N. Cold War Realities
 - 1. Churchill's "Iron Curtain" divided a post-war Europe into two zones: one a Soviet dominated communist sphere, the other an American influenced capitalist sphere. Western Europe benefited greatly from American financial support in programs like the Marshall Plan. The years after WWII also witnessed the end of European colonialism.
 - O. Western Civilization after the Cold War
 - 1. Communist regimes fell and pro-democracy movements emerged throughout Eastern Europe after Gorbachev repudiated the Brezhnev Doctrine in 1989. The Soviet Union would be one of the first casualties in 1990. The reunification of Germany, while the cause of great anxiety, hastened the development of the European Union into a truly pan-European political and economic entity. The challenges of the disintegration of Yugoslavia points out the still significant challenges Europe faces in a post-Cold War world.

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Lecture** - major themes, events and personalities
- B. Readings from the text or supplementary materials on reserve in the Library
- C. **Audio-visual Activity** - In-class and home use of appropriate materials
- D. Written assignments
- E. **Discussion** - significant issues, especially those of contemporary relevance

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Reading:
 - 1. Weekly assigned chapters to read that follow along with major themes
 - 2. In-class readings of primary sources that illustrate major themes.
- B. Discussion:
 - 1. Small group, full-class, and/or online discussions/forums of required readings, lecture, or audio-visual material or primary documents of assignments, lectures and supplemental materials.
- C. Writing:
 - 1. Three 500-750 word essays on the major themes and developments in Western Civilization as presented in textbook chapters, audio-visual material, or found in primary source material.
- D. Quizzes:
 - 1. In-class or online quizzes of required readings.

VIII. EVALUATION:

Methods/Frequency

- A. Exams/Tests
 - Professor will assign one or more essay exams, midterms, and final throughout the semester.
- B. Quizzes
 - Professor may assign quizzes throughout the semester.
- C. Research Projects
 - Professor will assign one or more research projects throughout the semester.
- D. Portfolios
 - Professor may assign portfolios throughout the semester.
- E. Papers
 - Professor may assign papers throughout the semester.
- F. Oral Presentation
 - Professor may assign oral presentations throughout the semester.
- G. Projects
 - Professor may assign projects throughout the semester.
- H. Field Trips
 - Professor may take students on field trip during semester
- I. Group Projects
 - Professor may assign group projects throughout the semester.
- J. Class Participation
 - Class participation could be used as a method of evaluation for student grades.
- K. Class Work
 - Professor may assign classwork throughout the semester.
- L. Home Work
 - Professor may assign homework throughout the semester.

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

- 1. Perry, Marvin. *Sources of the Western Tradition, Volume I: From Ancient Times to the Enlightenment*. 10 ed., Wadsworth/Cengage, 2018.
- 2. Grafton, A, and David Bell. *The West Vol II*. 1 ed., W.W. Norton & Company, 2018.

3. Brophy, Et. Al, James. *erspectives from the Past: Primary Sources in Western Civilizations Vol 2.* 6 ed., W.W. Norton & Company, 2016.
4. Symes, Carol, and J Cole. *Western Civilizations: Their History & Their Culture Vol 2.* 19 ed., W.W. Norton & Company, 2017.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

- A. Examination books, scantron forms, and notebook sold in the campus bookstore. Access to the World Wide Web from any major browser.