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Course Outline for HIST 2

WESTERN CIVILIZATION SINCE 1600

Effective: Fall

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

HIST 2 — WESTERN CIVILIZATION SINCE 1600 — 3.00 units

History of the Modern Western World: Romanticism and the Industrial Revolution to the present

3.00 Units Lecture

Grading Methods:

Letter Grade

Discipline:

	<u>MIN</u>
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:

1. analyze, interpret, and explain the history of the modern Western world from the Reformation to the present;
2. demonstrate critical thinking by evaluating and defining issues in the interaction of economic, social, cultural and political order in response to changing historical circumstances;
3. research and critically analyze a topic selected from a provided list of topics for this course, and present the results in written form.

V. CONTENT:

- A. Introduction to Western Civilization
 1. Introduce students to the idea of 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.
- B. Absolutism versus Constitutionalism
 1. 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.
- C. The Scientific Revolution
 1. 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.
- D. The Enlightenment
 1. 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.
- E. The American and French Revolutions
 1. 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.
- F. Multiple Reactions to Revolution
 1. 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.
- G. 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.
- H. 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.
- I. 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.

J. 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. Europe emerged from the four-year standoff permanently changed, with major political realignments as well as a jaded, fatalistic mood.

K. 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.

L. 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.

M. 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.

N. Europe 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 of assignments, lectures and supplemental materials: 1. Be prepared to discuss in class, based on the last lecture and short writing assignments. 2. Discussion during and after completion of reading and writing assignments on ideas presented. C. Research writing assignments: 1. Research and write a term paper pertaining to one of the areas discussed in this course. Cite your references in proper Social Science format, and footnote your sources.

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

1. Papers
2. Class Participation

B. **Frequency**

1. Frequency of evaluation
 - a. Daily attendance monitored.
 - b. Quizzes and exams closely follow concepts presented in class.
 - c. One paper required.
 - d. One final examination

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. McKay et al, *A History of Western Society, Since 1300*, . 6th ed., Houghton Mifflin, 1999.
2. Perry et al, *Sources of the Western Tradition, Volume II*. 4th ed., Houghton Mifflin, 1999.
3. Voltaire *Candide*, Bantam Classic, 1984.
4. Remarque *All Quiet on the Western Front*, Ballantine Books, 1982.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

- A. Outline notes, study guides prepared by instructors and sold in the campus bookstore.