

SYLLABUS

History 215: Europe, 1714-1815
Rhodes College, Fall Semester 2005
Professor Lynn Zastoupil

Office: 206 Buckman

Office Hours: M W F 11:45-12:45 (and by appointment)

Telephone: 3654; 276-0940 (home)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will introduce students to some of the major political, social, economic and intellectual developments of eighteenth-century Europe. It seeks to give students both a broad sense of the nature of European society, as well as a solid idea of the specific forces for change that transformed Europe during this period, using a combination of lectures and assigned readings. Topics to be discussed include: the social hierarchy, political systems and religious life of eighteenth-century Europe; colonialism and its impact on domestic life; the Enlightenment; the origins and nature of early industrialism; the French Revolution and Napoleon; and the aftermath of revolution.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This is a lecture-discussion course in which significant readings will be assigned nearly every week for class discussion. Students are expected to attend class regularly and discuss assigned readings in an informed and intelligent manner. Class participation will be graded. Those who find it difficult to participate in class discussions may also periodically submit summaries of the assigned readings, which, if done thoroughly, will help raise class participation grades. There are two writing assignments. The first, due early in the semester, is a short (1000 word) research paper using internet resources. The second essay is longer (2500-3000 words) and requires research using traditionally printed sources. The second essay is due near the end of the semester. Both paper topics must be approved in advance by the professor. **ALL ESSAYS MUST BE SUBMITTED ON TIME: LATE ESSAYS WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY REDUCED BY ONE LETTER GRADE. There are no exceptions to this rule.** There will be two examinations, both of which will be largely essay in nature. Final grades will be determined as possible: class participation – 20%; first essay – 10%; mid-term examination – 20%; research essay – 25%; final examination – 25%.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Richard Golden, The Social Dimension of Western Civilization, vol. 2, 5th ed.

Voltaire, Candide

Gordon Craig, The Politics of the Prussian Army

Isabel de Madariaga, Catherine the Great

Sidney W. Mintz, Sweetness and Power

Jeremy D. Popkin, A Short History of the French Revolution

COURSE OUTLINE

Week I Introduction

- Aug. 24 Introduction
- Aug. 26 Europe in 1714
- Reading: No Assignment

Week II Early Eighteenth-Century Society and Politics

- Aug. 29 Social Order
- Aug. 31 **Discussion** (Golden, pp. 104-19, 132-43)
- Sept. 2 Land, Power and Absolutism

Week III Early Eighteenth-Century Society and Politics (continued)

- Sept. 5 Labor Day recess
- Sept. 7 Constitutional Monarchy
- Sept. 9 **Discussion** (Golden, pp. 148-59, 202-15)

Week IV War, Diplomacy and State-Building

- Sept. 12 Wars of Spanish & Austrian Successions
- Sept. 14 Rise of Prussia & Russia
- Sept. 16 **Discussion** (Craig, pp. 1-19)

Week V Religion and Popular Culture

- Sept. 19 Religion
- Sept. 21 Popular Culture
- Sept. 23 **Discussion** (Golden, pp. 160-72; handout)

FIRST ESSAY DUE AT CLASS TIME SEPTEMBER 19

Week VI Colonialism

- Sept. 26 Expansion of Europe
- Sept. 28 Slaves and Sugar
- Sept. 30 **Discussion** (Mintz, Chpts. 1-3)

Week VII Seven Years War and the Enlightenment

- Oct. 3 Seven Years War
- Oct. 5 Age of Enlightenment
- Oct. 7 Frederick the Great
- Reading: No Assignment

Week VIII Voltaire's Europe

- Oct. 10 **Discussion** (Voltaire, all)
- Oct. 12 **Mid-term Examination**
- Oct. 14 Individual work on research proposals

Week IX Eastern European Political Order

- Oct. 17 Fall Recess
- Oct. 19 Austrian Empire
- Oct. 21 Decline of Poland
- Reading: No Assignment

Week X Russia

- Oct. 24 Peter I (**Reading:** de Madariaga, pp. 6-23)
- Oct. 26 Catherine II (**Reading:** de Madariaga, pp. 1-6, 24-37, 50-79)
- Oct. 28 Catherine II (**Reading:** de Madariaga, pp. 91-117, 145-161)

Week XI Britain and the Origins of Industrial Society

- Oct. 31 English Political Order
- Nov. 2 Origins and Nature of Early Industrialism
- Nov. 4 **Discussion** (Golden, pp. 221-50)

Week XII Early Stages of the French Revolution

- Nov. 7 Crisis of the French State (**Reading:** Popkin, Chpt. 1)
- Nov. 9 1787-1790 (**Reading:** Popkin, Chpts. 2-3)
- Nov. 11 1790-1792 (**Reading:** Popkin, Chpt. 4)

Week XIII Later Stages of the French Revolution

- Nov. 14 Convention and Republic (**Reading:** Popkin, Chpt. 5; Golden, pp. 88-99)
- Nov. 16 Directory (**Reading:** Popkin, Chpt. 6)
- Nov. 18 Napoleonic Consulate (**Reading:** Popkin, Chpt. 7)

Week XIV Research Essays

- Nov. 21 **No Class: Research Essays Due at 5:00 p.m.**
- Nov. 24 & 26 Thanksgiving Recess

Week XV Napoleon's Empire

- Nov. 28 Napoleonic Empire (**Reading:** Popkin, Chpt. 8)
- Nov. 30 Europe and Napoleon (**Reading:** Craig, pp. 20-65)
- Dec. 2 Congress of Vienna

Week XVI Aftermath of Revolution

- Dec. 5 **Discussion** (Popkin, Chpt. 9; Craig, pp. 65-81)
- Dec. 7 Review