

SYLLABUS

History 215: Europe, 1714-1815
Rhodes College, Fall Semester 2011
Professor Lynn Zastoupil
Office: 203 Buckman
Office Hours: M W 1:00-2:30 (and by appointment)
Telephone: X3654

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. Excessive absences will affect the final grade. Those who find it difficult to participate in class discussions may also periodically submit summaries of the assigned readings, which, if thoroughly done, will help raise class participation grades. There will be two take-home essay examinations.

Final grades will be determined as follows: class participation – 30%; mid-term examination – 30%; final examination - 40%.

OPTIONAL RESEARCH ESSAY

Students may opt to write a research essay due near the end of the semester. Those majoring in history or wishing to improve their research and writing skills are encouraged to choose this option. Research topics must be approved by the professor in advance of submission of the essay.

Final grades for those choosing this option will be determined as follows: class participation – 25%; mid-term examination – 20%; research essay – 25%; final examination - 30%.

LATE PENALTY

All assignments must be handed in by the date and time specified. Late papers will be penalized. There are no exceptions to this rule.

TEXTBOOKS TO PURCHASE

Richard Golden, *The Social Dimension of Western Civilization*, vol. 2, 5th ed.
Voltaire, *Candide*
Isabel de Madariaga, *Catherine the Great*
Jeremy D. Popkin, *A Short History of the French Revolution*, 4th ed.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week I Introduction

- August 24 Introduction
- August 26 Europe in 1714
- Reading: No Assignment

Week II Early Eighteenth-Century Society and Politics

- August 29 Social Order
- August 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** (Gordon Craig, *The Politics of the Prussian Army*, pp. 1-19
[on Moodle])

Week V Religion and Popular Culture

- Sept. 19 Religion
- Sept. 21 Popular Culture
- Sept. 23 **Discussion** (Golden, pp. 160-72; B. Robert Kreiser, "The Devils of Toulon" [on Moodle])

Week VI Colonialism

- Sept. 26 Expansion of Europe
- Sept. 28 Slaves and Sugar
- Sept. 30 **Discussion** (Peter Fryer, *Staying Power*, Chpts. 1-4 [on Moodle])

Week VII Seven Years War and the Enlightenment

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

Week VIII Voltaire's Europe

- October 10 **Discussion** (Voltaire, all)
- October 12 Austrian Empire
- October 14 **First examination essay due at class time**

Week IX Eastern European Political Order

- October 17 **Fall recess**
- October 19 Poland
- October 21 Russia under Peter I ((**Reading:** de Madariaga, pp. 6-23)

Week X Britain and the Origins of Industrial Society

- October 24 English Political Order
- October 26 Origins and Nature of Early Industrialism
- October 28 **Discussion** (Golden, pp. 221-50)

Week XI Russia

- Oct. 31 Catherine II (**Reading:** de Madariaga, pp. 1-6, 24-37, 66-79)
- Nov. 2 Catherine II (**Reading:** de Madariaga, pp. 91-117)
- Nov. 4 Catherine II (**Reading:** de Madariaga, pp. 50-65, 145-61)

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 French Republic and Napoleon

- Nov. 14 1792-94 (**Reading:** Popkin, Chpt. 5)
- Nov. 16 Directory (**Reading:** Popkin, Chpt. 6)
- Nov. 18 Napoleonic Consulate (**Reading:** Popkin, Chpt. 7)

OPTIONAL RESEARCH ESSAYS DUE NOVEMBER 18 AT 5:00 P.M.

Week XIV Napoleon's Empire

- Nov. 21 Napoleonic Empire (**Reading:** Popkin, Chpt. 8)
- Nov. 23, 25 **Thanksgiving recess**

Week XV Europe and Napoleon

- Nov. 28 Great Britain
- Nov. 30 Russia
- Dec. 2 France

Week XVI Congress of Vienna

- Dec. 5 Congress of Vienna
- Dec. 7 Review

SECOND EXAMINATION ESSAY DUE AT SCHEDULED FINAL EXAM TIME