SYLLABUS

History 215: Europe, 1714-1815
Rhodes College, Fall Semester 2012
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

Voltaire, Candide
Isabel de Madariaga, Catherine the Great
COURSE OUTLINE

Week I  Introduction
August 22  Introduction
August 24  Europe in 1714
Reading:  No Assignment

Week II  Early Eighteenth-Century Society and Politics
August 27  Social Order
August 29  Discussion (R. Golden, Social Dimension of Western Civilization, pp. 104-19, 132-43 [on Moodle])
August 31  Land, Power and Absolutism

Week III  Early Eighteenth-Century Society and Politics (continued)
Sept. 3  Labor Day recess
Sept. 5  Constitutional Monarchy
Sept. 7  Discussion (Golden, pp.148-59, 202-15 [on Moodle])

Week IV  War, Diplomacy and State-Building
Sept. 10  Wars of Spanish & Austrian Successions
Sept. 12  Rise of Prussia & Russia
Sept. 14  Discussion (Gordon Craig, The Politics of the Prussian Army, pp. 1-19 [on Moodle])

Week V  Religion and Popular Culture
Sept. 17  Religion
Sept. 19  Popular Culture
Sept. 21  Discussion (Golden, pp. 160-72 [on Moodle] ; B. Robert Kreiser, “The Devils of Toulon” [on Moodle])

Week VI  Colonialism
Sept. 24  Expansion of Europe
Sept. 26  Slaves and Sugar
Sept. 28  Discussion (Peter Fryer, Staying Power, Chpts. 1-4 [on Moodle])

Week VII  Seven Years War and the Enlightenment
October 1  Seven Years War
October 3  Age of Enlightenment
October 5  Frederick the Great
Reading:  No Assignment

Week VIII  Voltaire’s Europe
October 8  Discussion (Voltaire, all)
October 10  Austrian Empire
October 12  First examination essay due at class time

Week IX  Eastern European Political Order
October 15  Fall recess
October 17  Poland
October 19  Russia under Peter I ((Reading: de Madariaga, pp. 6-23)
Week X  Britain and the Origins of Industrial Society
October 22  English Political Order
October 24  Origins and Nature of Early Industrialism
October 26  Discussion (Golden, pp. 221-50 [on Moodle])

Week XI  Russia
October 29  Catherine II (Reading: de Madariaga, pp. 1-6, 24-37, 66-79)
October 31  Catherine II (Reading: de Madariaga, pp. 91-117)
Nov. 2  Catherine II (Reading: de Madariaga, pp. 50-65, 145-61)

Week XII  Early Stages of the French Revolution
Nov. 5  Crisis of the French State (Reading: Popkin, Chpt. 1)
Nov. 7  1787-1790 (Reading: Popkin, Chpts. 2-3)
Nov. 9  1790-1792 (Reading: Popkin, Chpt. 4)

Week XIII  French Republic and Napoleon
Nov. 12  1792-94 (Reading: Popkin, Chpt. 5)
Nov. 14  Directory (Reading: Popkin, Chpt. 6)
Nov. 16  Napoleonic Consulate (Reading: Popkin, Chpt. 7)

Optional Research Essays Due November 16 at 5:00 P.M.

Week XIV  Napoleon’s Empire
Nov. 19  Napoleonic Empire (Reading: Popkin, Chpt. 8)
Nov. 21, 23  Thanksgiving recess

Week XV  Europe and Napoleon
Nov. 26  Great Britain
Nov. 28  Russia
Nov. 30  France

Week XVI  Congress of Vienna
Dec. 3  Congress of Vienna
Dec. 5  Review

Second Examination Essay Due at Scheduled Final Exam Time