

## SYLLABUS

History 215: Europe, 1714-1815  
Rhodes College, Spring Semester 2007  
Professor Lynn Zastoupil  
Office: 206 Buckman  
Office Hours: M W F 10:45-11:45 (and by appointment)  
Telephone: 3654

### 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.

Each student will also write a short (2500-3000 word) research essay, due near the end of the semester. All students must clear their paper topics with the professor before beginning work on their research essays. **ESSAYS MUST BE SUBMITTED ON TIME: ESSAYS SUBMITTED AFTER THE DEADLINE HAS PASSED WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY REDUCED BY ONE LETTER GRADE. There are no exceptions to this rule.** Students must also properly cite all sources used for the essay assignment, including websites such as Wikipedia. **The professor reserves the right to assign a failing grade for the assignment, or for the entire course, for any misuse of sources.**

There will be two examinations, both of which will be largely essay in nature. Final grades will be determined as possible: class participation – 25%; mid-term examination – 20%; research essay – 25%; final examination – 30%.

### 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*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.

## COURSE OUTLINE

### Week I Introduction

- Jan. 10 Introduction
  - Jan. 12 Europe in 1714
- Reading: No Assignment

### Week II Early Eighteenth-Century Society and Politics

- Jan. 15 **M.L.K., Jr. Holiday**
- Jan. 17 Social Order
- Jan. 19 **Discussion** (Golden, pp. 104-19, 132-43)

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

- Jan. 22 Land, Power and Absolutism
- Jan. 24 Constitutional Monarchy
- Jan. 26 **Discussion** (Golden, pp.148-59, 202-15)

### Week IV War, Diplomacy and State-Building

- Jan. 29 Wars of Spanish & Austrian Successions
- Jan. 31 Rise of Prussia & Russia
- Feb. 2 **Discussion** (Gordon Craig, *The Politics of the Prussian Army*, pp. 1-19  
[available in my public folder on the Academic Volume])

### Week V Religion and Popular Culture

- Feb. 5 Religion
- Feb. 7 Popular Culture
- Feb. 9 **Discussion** (Golden, pp. 160-72; B. Robert Kreiser, "The Devils of Toulon" [available in my public folder])

### Week VI Colonialism

- Feb. 12 Expansion of Europe
- Feb. 14 Slaves and Sugar
- Feb. 16 **Discussion** (Peter Fryer, *Staying Power*, Chpts. 1-4 [available in my public folder])

### Week VII Seven Years War and the Enlightenment

- Feb. 19 Seven Years War
  - Feb. 21 Age of Enlightenment
  - Feb. 25 Frederick the Great
- Reading: No Assignment

### Week VIII Voltaire's Europe

- Feb. 26 **Discussion** (Voltaire, all)
- Feb. 28 **Mid-term Examination**
- March 2 Austrian Empire

### Week IX Eastern European Political Order

- March 5 Poland
- March 7 Russia under Peter I ((**Reading:** de Madariaga, pp. 6-23)
- March 9 Individual work on research projects

**SPRING BREAK MARCH 12-16**

Week X Britain and the Origins of Industrial Society

- March 19 English Political Order
- March 21 Origins and Nature of Early Industrialism
- March 23 **Discussion** (Golden, pp. 221-50)

Week XI Russia

- March 26 Catherine II (**Reading:** de Madariaga, pp. 1-6, 24-37, 66-79)
- March 28 Catherine II (**Reading:** de Madariaga, pp. 91-117)
- March 30 Catherine II (**Reading:** de Madariaga, pp. 50-65, 145-61)

Week XII Early Stages of the French Revolution

- April 2 Crisis of the French State (**Reading:** Popkin, Chpt. 1)
- April 4 1787-1790 (**Reading:** Popkin, Chpts. 2-3)
- April 6 **Easter recess**

Week XIII Later Stages of the French Revolution

- April 9 1790-1792 (**Reading:** Popkin, Chpt. 4)
- April 11 1792-94 (**Reading:** Popkin, Chpt. 5)
- April 13 Directory (**Reading:** Popkin, Chpt. 6)

**RESEARCH ESSAYS DUE APRIL 11 AT 5:00 P.M.**

Week XIV Napoleon

- April 16 Napoleonic Consulate (**Reading:** Popkin, Chpt. 7)
- April 18 Napoleonic Empire (**Reading:** Popkin, Chpt. 8)
- April 20 Europe and Napoleon

Week XV Aftermath of Empire

- April 23 Congress of Vienna
- April 25 Review
- April 27 **No Class: URCAS**