University of Wisconsin
Department of History
Semester I, 1986-87

HISTORY 119 THE MAKING OF MODERN EUROPE, 1500-1815 Ms. Desan
5124 Humanities

READING:
TEXTBOOK: Chambers, Grew, Herlihy, et al. The Western Experience,
Vol II, The Early Modern Period

Machiavelli, The Prince
Montesquieu, The Persian Letters

There is also a xeroxed READER of documents available at Kinko’s at 620 University Avenue. The reader and the books are all required.

This course will introduce you to the major social, intellectual, political, and religious developments in Europe from the Renaissance to the fall of Napoleon. We will focus on the lives of everyday people as well as on the most important events and cultural trends in European history.

There will be three lectures and one discussion section per week. You will be expected to attend both lecture and section and to participate in discussion section. You should complete weekly readings prior to the weekly section. There will be one two-hour final exam and two one-hour exams. If you wish to take this course for four credits, you will also be required to write a term paper on a topic chosen by you in consultation with the teaching assistant or with me. Final grades will be based on the final exam, the hour-exams, and section participation (and the paper in the case of four-credit students.)

I will also show the film The Return of Martin Guerre during the course of the semester.

Week 1 (September 2-5): INTRODUCTION
Course Introduction
From Medieval to Modern Europe
Reading: TEXT Chapter 11.

Week 2 (September 8-12): THE RENAISSANCE
Renaissance Humanism
Renaissance Art
The Prince and Renaissance Politics
Reading: TEXT Chapter 12; Machiavelli, The Prince; READER 1-4
(Petrarch, Pico, Erasmus)
Week 3 (September 15-19): THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION
Popular Religion and Christian Humanism
Luther
Protestant Reformation
Reading: TEXT Chapter 14; READER 5-15 (Luther)

Week 4 (September 22-26): REFORMATION AND RESPONSE
The English Reformation
Wars of Religion
Catholic Reformation
Reading: READER 16-34 (Calvin, English and Radical Reformations, Catholic Response)

Week 5 (September 29-October 3): EVERYDAY LIFE & THE GROWTH OF THE STATE
Living and Dying in Early Modern Europe
The Growth of the State
Overseas Expansion
Reading: TEXT Chapter 13; READER 35-46 (Montaigne)

Week 6 (October 6-10): EXPANSION OF EUROPE
Impact of the Expansion on Europe
Review
HOUR EXAM: Friday, October 10

Week 7 (October 13-17): REVOLTS, WARS, AND POLITICS IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY
Witchcraft and Magic
English Revolution
Wars, Peasants, and Power (The Seventeenth-Century Crisis)
Reading: TEXT Chapter 15, READER 47-65 (Documents on the Images of Women & on the English Revolution)

Week 8 (October 20-24): REVOLUTION IN SCIENCE AND POLITICAL THEORY
The Golden Age of Art in the Seventeenth Century
Scientific Revolution
Political Thought
Reading: TEXT Chapter 16, READER 66-79 (Scientific Revolution, Hobbes, Locke)

Week 9 (October 27-31): THE AGE OF ABSOLUTISM
Absolutism in Theory and Practice
Louis XIV: Court and Society
The Anti-Absolutists: England and the Netherlands
Reading: TEXT Chapter 17, READER 80-85 (Bossuet)

Week 10 (November 3-7): THE RISE OF PRUSSIA, RUSSIA, & AUSTRIA
Poverty, Revolt, & Crime
Russia: Peter the Great
The Rise of Prussia and Austria
Reading: TEXT Chapter 18, READER 86-90 (Eastern European Courts)
Week 11 (November 10-14): THE ENLIGHTENMENT
Origins of the Enlightenment
The Science of Social Criticism
Popular Culture in the Eighteenth Century
Reading: TEXT Chapter 19; READER 91 (from the Encyclopedia);
Montesquieu, The Persian Letters (letters to be announced).

Week 12 (November 17-21): THE EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY STRUGGLE FOR POWER
Economic and Diplomatic Rivalries of the Eighteenth Century
Review
HOUR EXAM: Friday, November 21

Week 13 (November 24-26): EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY POLITICS & ART
Society and Politics in Eighteenth-Century Europe
Art and Architecture in the Eighteenth Century
Reading: TEXT Chapter 20; READER 92-96 (Eve of Revolution)

Week 14 (December 1-5): THE FRENCH REVOLUTION
The Causes of the French Revolution
The Early Stages of the French Revolution
The Radical Revolution
Reading: TEXT Chapter 21; READER 97-108 (French Revolution)

Week 15 (December 8-12): NAPOLEONIC EUROPE
The Culture of the French Revolution
Napoleon's Rise to Power
Industrial Revolution