

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 Renais-
sance 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

HOOR 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