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## THE MAKING OF MODERN EUROPE, 1500-1815

This course introduces students to the cultural, intellectual, social, political, and economic changes in Europe between 1492 and 1815. We shall explore changes in the understanding of the human person—both body and mind—and of the universe; the repercussions of a global economy for different groups in Europe, the Americas, Africa, and Asia; the articulation of new forms of political power and economic organization; and the emergence of the modern sense of self.

### REQUIREMENTS:

For this course, students are asked to practice skills important to the craft of history:

#### Listening:

- ◆ *no distractions*, for you or for those around you: no cellular devices, no surfing the web, no email, no other activities than listening to others, and no earphones. Anyone texting, emailing, surfing, or using their laptops for anything other than notes will not be permitted to use the laptop for the rest of the semester.
- ◆ In lecture. Those wishing to learn how to take better notes, please see me. If the lectures are going too fast, raise your hand.
- ◆ In sections: to others, to attend to their points of view, to be able, upon being asked, to give a fair representation of the thinking of others
- ◆ You will be reading original sources, voices from the past. Listen to them. Attend to each text's point of view, its concerns, and its silences.
- ◆ All readings (📖) must be completed by the discussion section of the week they are assigned.

#### Looking:

- ◆ Lecture slides will be available the morning of lecture. You may print them and bring them to class as the foundation of your notes. The slides contain visual evidence, and the lectures will model the kind of analysis of visual evidence you will be asked to do for one assignment, due December 1.
- ◆ Most weeks the syllabus also provides hyperlinks (in [blue](#)) to visual materials. These supplement the lectures; they will also enhance your understanding of the course. You may choose any one of these for your visual analysis, which will be due December 1.
- ◆ Movies (🎬): these are fair game for the midterm and the final. If you cannot make a movie night, please arrange with me to see the movie at your convenience.

These skills will enable you to write more effectively, bring sharper critical analysis to bear on evidence for the course's assignments:

- ♦ on the syllabus are marked specific readings for which you must provide a one-paragraph essay [E] (no more than 100 words) evaluating that reading as historical evidence:
  - ✓ Who is the author and what do we learn about her/him?
  - ✓ Why did she/he write this?
  - ✓ What does this text teach us about the past?
- ☞ your essays are due in lecture the week of the reading.
  
- ♦ map assignments, which you will receive in lecture
  
- ♦ a 250-word evaluation of one form of visual evidence: see hyperlinks (👁)
  
- ♦ two exams:
  - midterm: Thursday, October 30, in class
  - final: December 15, 7:45 a.m..
- ☞ Both exams will be based upon lectures, readings, and discussion. Each will ask you to write a thesis, organized chronologically (moving from earlier dates to later), and to draw upon the sources you have been reading and viewing to build your analysis. Both will also ask you to identify persons, places, or things of particular significance.
  
- ♦ in class quizzes

### **BOOKS:**

Textbook: Jerry Bentley et al, *Traditions and Encounters* (McGraw-Hill): designed for this class

Some weeks, your reading is available online. The following are available as paperbacks or, should you prefer, Kindle books:

Teresa of Avila, *The Life of Saint Teresa of Avila by Herself* (Penguin)  
[BX4700 T4 A2 1991]

René Descartes, *Discourse on Method and Related Writings* (Penguin)  
[B1848 E5 C73 1993]

Montesquieu, *Persian Letters* (Penguin) [[PQ2011 L5 E35 1993]

Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative and Other Writings* (Penguin)

Denis Diderot, *Rameau's Nephew and D'Alembert's Dream* (Penguin)  
[PQ1979 A66 E5 1988]

These books are also available in other, online formats. Please check with your TA or me to see if that edition corresponds to the assignment.

Please see me, if purchasing books causes financial hardship.

Online readings: for discussion section, please print a copy to bring with you or bring your laptop.

**PLAGIARISM** is about how we think about ourselves in relationship to other scholars. It comprises one crime—claiming the ideas of others as our own or intellectual theft—and the failure to treat our own perspectives as valuable to the larger community of scholars. For the University of Wisconsin's policy, see: <http://students.wisc.edu/saja/misconduct/UWS14.html>

## LECTURES AND READINGS:

September 2 Practicing History  
September 4 Orientations

September 9 Villages and Forests

September 10

📺 “The Return of Martin Guerre” 7 p.m.

September 11 Towns and Courts

📖 Niccolò Machiavelli (1469-1527), *The Prince*:

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/machiavelli-prince.html> [📄]

👁 [http://historic-cities.huji.ac.il/historic\\_cities.html](http://historic-cities.huji.ac.il/historic_cities.html)

September 16 Merchants and Navigators

September 18 Conquistadores and Peasants



Columbus’s Journal: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/columbus1.asp>



<http://www.libs.uga.edu/darchive/hargrett/maps/newworld.html>

<http://www.walkingtree.com/>

September 23 From Feudal Christianity to Bourgeois Christianity

September 25 Collars and Sleeves: Consumption and Piety



*The Heidelberg Catechism*: <http://www.wts.edu/resources/creeds/heidelberg.html>



[http://www.rijksmuseum.nl/aria/aria\\_assets/SK-C-6?lang=en](http://www.rijksmuseum.nl/aria/aria_assets/SK-C-6?lang=en)

[http://www.rijksmuseum.nl/aria/aria\\_artists/00017083?lang=en](http://www.rijksmuseum.nl/aria/aria_artists/00017083?lang=en)

September 30 The Baroque

October 2 Catholicism

📺 “The Mission” 7 p.m.



Teresa of Avila (1515-1582), *The Life of Saint Teresa of Avila by Herself*, Table of Contents, Chapters 1-4, 8-11, 17-18, 20, 25, 27-29 [📄]



[http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/baro/hd\\_baro.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/baro/hd_baro.htm)

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Basilica\\_di\\_San\\_Pietro](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Basilica_di_San_Pietro)

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/vatican/toc.html>

[http://www.metmuseum.org/TOAH/hd/bern/hd\\_bern.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/TOAH/hd/bern/hd_bern.htm)

October 7 Nature and Revelation  
October 9 Mapping the Heavens and the Earth

📖 Galileo (1564-1642), Letter to the Grand Duchess Christina of Tuscany:  
<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/galileo-tuscany.asp>  
👁 <http://es.rice.edu/ES/humsoc/Galileo/>

October 14 Monarchs  
October 16 From Courts to Capitals

📖 <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1535>  
👁 <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/318/>

October 21 “Mind” & “Body”  
October 23 The Instrument of Reason

📖 René Descartes (1596-1650), *Discourse on Method* [📄]  
👁 [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/dreamanatomy/da\\_dream\\_arts.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/dreamanatomy/da_dream_arts.html)  
<http://vesalius.northwestern.edu/index.html>

October 28 Amsterdam and the Dutch Golden Age  
October 30 **Midterm**

no sections this week

November 4 The Thirty Years’ War  
November 6 London

📖 Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679), *Leviathan*: selections  
<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/hobbes-lev13.asp> [📄]  
👁 [http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/civil\\_war\\_revolution/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/civil_war_revolution/)  
[3http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/civil\\_war\\_revolution/brighter\\_lights\\_01.html](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/civil_war_revolution/brighter_lights_01.html)  
<http://www.tate.org.uk/tateetc/issue9/hogarth.htm>

November 11 Law & Violence  
November 13 Property & Liberty

📖 Olaudah Equiano (c.1745-1797), *The Interesting Narrative*, entire [📄]  
👁 <http://www.euratlas.net/cartogra/Rocque/index.html>  
<http://www.chnm.gmu.edu/revolution/index.html>  
[http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/empire\\_seapower/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/empire_seapower/)

November 18 Orientalism  
November 19  
November 20 Absolutism

📺 “Vatel” 7 p.m.

📖 Charles-Louis de Secondat, Baron de Montesquieu (1689-1755),  
*Persian Letters*, entre [📄]

👁️ <http://www.chateauversailles.fr/en/>

November 25 The Project of Enlightenment

no sections this week

## THANKSGIVING

December 2 Mercantilism  
December 4 Capitalism and the Organization of Labor

Sections meet in Memorial Library Special Collections: volumes of the *Encyclopédie*

December 9 Public Opinion  
December 11 Revolutions

📖 Denis Diderot (1713-1784), *Rameau's Nephew* [📄]

👁️ <http://www.pbs.org/empires/napoleon/>

December 15: 7:45 a.m.-9:45 a.m.: **Final**