

HISTORY 102: WESTERN CIVILIZATION 1715 -- PRESENT (FALL 2008)

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We do not study history to learn a series of meaningless facts and dates. Neither do we study history to avoid repeating past mistakes. History never repeats itself in simple, easily understood ways. Rather, we study history to understand ourselves. We cannot truly know ourselves unless we understand the past. Without a grasp of the past we are locked into an incomprehensible, ever-changing present.

Course Description:

What does Bob Dylan have to do with Mao Zedong? Or Thomas Jefferson? What does Communist China have to do with the French Revolution? What would Robespierre have to say to Osama bin Laden? Did the Boston Tea Party lead to Kent State? We'll look at revolutions in politics, culture, and thought, and end with thoughts about what revolutions might be in the offing. We'll read the essays and other primary documents, watch the movies, hear the speeches, and witness the events that have rattled the walls of civilization for the last 250 years.

Textbooks, etc.:

Judith Coffin, *Western Civilizations Volume 2*

Most other readings are either URL links from the syllabus or .pdfs available through WebCT. You MUST print these readings out and bring them to class. I recommend that you get a binder to keep them organized.

Bob Dylan, *The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan* (CD)

Films:

Why We Fight

Battleship Potemkin

Joe

Gone With the Wind

Hair

Wal-Mart and the High Cost of Low Prices

Classroom Structure

Overwhelmingly discussion with some lecture. Most of the lectures (and all of the discussions) assume that you have done the readings and viewed the films before class. Occasional unannounced quizzes will allow you to demonstrate that you are keeping up. As you will see, these courses are organized by theme, not by chronology. I will try to keep the resulting confusion to a minimum.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is committed any time somebody presents work as entirely her own, when in fact it derives entirely or partially from another source (either literature or peers). All material taken from another source (even when the wording is paraphrased) must be acknowledged by use of a textnote, footnote or endnote. Direct statements taken from elsewhere must be attributed and marked by quotation marks. Should you have any questions about plagiarism, discuss them with us, consult the [Guide to Freshman English](#) and ask us. We REPORT CASES OF SUSPECTED PLAGIARISM OR CHEATING TO THE HONOR BOARD. Anybody found guilty of plagiarism or cheating will automatically fail the class.

Requirements:

Paper: 30 points.

In a five-page essay, compare any three of the readings on the question of what makes for a good society. To what extent do they agree or disagree on their terms

Useful questions might include the following:

Does the term 'revolution' mean the same thing to them?

Do they agree on the value of democracy as a form of government?

Who should have a voice in decision making?

How do they see the world similarly or differently?

In what ways are their understandings and conclusions affected by the very different historical epochs in which they lived?

There are two possible due dates for this paper. If you hand it in on Nov. 6, you will have the opportunity to revise the paper for a higher grade. If you do not want this option, you can turn the paper in on Nov. 20. I will not read 'rough drafts'.

Midterm Examination: 30 points.

Comprehensive Final Examination: 40 points.

Discussions: You will participate in discussions. Participation can raise or lower the grade up to 1/2 grade.

Attendance: Class attendance is mandatory. There are no excused or unexcused absences. Every absence after your fourth will cost 3 points from your final grade. More than 5 absences may result in your automatic withdrawal from this class with a grade of WD.

Learning Communities students must attend the Synthesis seminar each week. You can miss one. The second and subsequent seminars you miss will count as a full absence in my class.

My grading scale is as follows:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
95	92	88	85	82	78	75	72	65	50

Attendance:

Much of the success of this course depends on your presence, because we will be doing a lot of work in the classroom. You are allowed three absences during the semester, but you are responsible for material you've missed. Do not come to my office and ask, "What did I miss?" Ask your fellow students.

I make no distinction between excused and unexcused absences. You do not need to inform me why you missed a class. It doesn't matter to me if your first absence was to go to the beach. It doesn't matter to me if your fourth absence was for illness—you're still over your allowed absences.

Learning communities students must attend the Synthesis seminar each week. You can miss one. The second and subsequent seminars you miss will count as a full absence in my class.

If you are not in class when I call role, you are late. I will count every third tardy as an absence.

The schedule and procedures described on this syllabus are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

Week 1	Topics, Readings, Viewings	History 102 Coffin Reading	Some discussion questions
Aug. 26	Using the Eighteenth Century: Classic Ideas On Progress in the Modern World; What is a Revolution?		
Rationalism			
Aug. 28	In Defense of Nation-building, & Expanding Democracy Read: 1. George Bush, “We Will Persevere” (May 25, 2004) 2. Library of Congress History of Iraq (read from WWI to the end of chapter one) View: <i>Why We Fight</i>	Chapter 17 and 29	Discussion group: On what grounds does Bush justify our presence in Iraq? Is he right or wrong? Why?

Week 2			
Sept. 2	Read: The Brezhnev Doctrine	Chapter 27	D: On what grounds does Brezhnev justify Russia's presence in Czechoslovakia? How is his argument like Bush's? How is it different?
Sept. 4	Read: Martin Luther King, Jr., Letter from Birmingham Jail		Assignment: Look at the ¶ beginning, "Now, what is the difference." Outline the deductive argument.
Week 3			
Sept. 9	Read: 1. Tom Paine, Common Sense , "On the Origins" 2. Tom Paine, Rights of Man , ch. 3 3. Thomas Jefferson, draft of the Declaration		D: In the middle of Ch. 1 of <i>Common Sense</i> , Paine gives his version of the origins of government. Write your own version.
Sept. 11	Religion and Politics in the Contemporary World: Osama bin Laden rejects the Enlightenment Read: 1. excerpt from Bin Laden's 1996 fatwa (.pdf) 2. Bin Laden on 9/11 3. Brookings, Al-Qaeda at 20		D: How does Bin Laden justify his fatwa against the United States? How is this different from Bush's and Brezhnev's reasoning?
Romanticism/Nationalism			
Week 4			
Sept. 16	American Nativism: Us versus Them Read: 1. Ron Paul, "Patriotism" 2. Tom Tancredo, "Letter to Arnold Schwarzenegger" 3. Tom Tancredo, "We Are Importing Our Poverty"	Chapter 21	
Sept. 18	Romantic Nationalism in the Defense of Civilization Read (and listen): 1. Winston Churchill, "Their Finest	Chapter 26	D: What are the "duties" to which Churchill refers?

	<p>Hour</p> <p>2. Winston Churchill, “The Few”</p>		
Week 5			
Sept. 23	<p>Irish Nationalism and the Third Reich – Romantic Nationalism and the Exclusion of the Other</p> <p>Read:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Mein Kampf</i>, Volume 1, Ch. 11 (.pdf) 2. Proclamation of the Irish Republic, 24 April 1916 3. W. B. Yeats, "Easter 1916" 4. "Four Green Fields" <p>View:</p> <p><i>Gone With the Wind</i></p>	Chapter 25	D: How is the Irish Proclamation different from the American Declaration of Independence?
Sept. 25	<p>Race in American nationalism:</p> <p>Read:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Declaration of the Immediate Causes 2. <i>Charleston Mercury</i> Editorial: January 13, 1865 		D: Is the Constitutional argument in the Declaration true and valid? Are you persuaded?
Week 6			
Sept. 30	<p>Origins of Romantic Nationalism:</p> <p>Read:</p> <p>Joseph Mazzini, <i>The Duties of Man</i> (.pdf)</p>		D: Can you apply Mazzini’s reasoning about the Italians to the modern United States? Why or why not?
Oct. 2	Midterm exam		
Labor and the Left			
Week 7			
Oct. 7	<p>Life in the Service Economy</p> <p>Read:</p> <p>George Will, Democrats v. Wal-Mart</p> <p>View:</p> <p><i>Wal-Mart and the High Cost of Low Prices</i></p>		
Oct. 9	<p>Mao; The Cultural Revolution</p> <p>View and Listen to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communists Poised for Victory Also click on the “Did You Know?” button 2. Mao’s Cultural Revolution 		

	Listen to: The Beatles, “Revolution”		
Week 8			
Oct. 14	Fall Break		
Oct. 16	Bolshevik and Cuban Revolutions Read: 1. Fidel Castro, Playboy Interview 2. John Reed, from <i>Ten Days That Shook the World</i> View: <i>Battleship Potemkin</i>	Chapter 24	
Week 9			
Oct. 21	Karl Marx’s Nineteenth Century Vision Read: August Bebel, <i>Society of the Future</i> , Chapters 7&8	Chapter 19	
Oct. 23	Changing the World Forever: The French Revolution Read: 1. TBA	Chapter 18	
Week 10			
Oct. 28	American Labor “Revolution”? Read: <i>And the River Ran Red</i> (.pdf)		
The Women’s Movement			
Oct. 30	Second Wave Feminism Read: 1. Juliet Mitchell, “Women: The Longest Revolution” (.pdf) 2. Susan Faludi, Backlash Review of Backlash		
Week 11			
Nov. 4	Read: 1. Betty Friedan Interview 2. <i>The Feminist Mystique</i> , Chapter 1 (.pdf), Anne Koedt, <i>The Myth of the Vaginal Orgasm</i> (.pdf)		
Nov. 6	The First Wave Read: 1. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, “Declaration of Sentiments” 2. Susan B. Anthony, “Is it a Crime	Chapter 23	

	to Vote?” 3. Virginia Woolf, <i>A Room of One’s Own</i> . Chapter Three		
Week 12			
Nov. 11	Founders of Feminist Thought Read: 1. Olympia de Gouges, Declaration of the Rights of Women 2. <i>Mary Wollestonecraft</i> , <i>The Rights of Women</i> , Chap. VII. Modesty.—		
The 1960s			
Nov. 13	America in the 1960s Listen: Bob Dylan, <i>The Freewheelin’ Bob Dylan</i> View: <i>Hair</i>	Chapter 28	
Week 13			
Nov. 18	Reaction in the United States Read: 1. “We Were Wrong to Play Racial Politics” 2. Bob Herbert, “An Empty Apology” 3. Ben Tillman, "Their Own Hotheadedness" View: 1. There’s a Bear in the Woods 2. It’s Morning in America 3. Willie Horton Advertisement		
Nov. 20	View: <i>Joe</i>		
Facing the Future: Resurgent Islam, Russia, China, and the EU			
Week 14			
Nov. 25	Islamic Politics: Is It Monolithic? Read: Tamara Cofman Wittes, Categories of Islamism		
Nov. 27	Thanksgiving		
Week 15			
Dec. 2	Dealing with China – Dealing with		

	<p>Russia (These readings will probably change)</p> <p>Read:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. John McCain on Russia2. Barack Obama on Foreign Policy3. Barack Obama on China4. NY Times analysis of the Russian Situation		
Dec. 4	<p>Wrap-up Discussion – What are the revolutionary issues that have faced the West in the previous three centuries, and what are the challenges for the future?</p> <p>Read:</p> <p>Jim Murphy, The Evolving Transatlantic Agenda</p>		