

# History 106

## European Civilization, 1648 to the Present

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### Course Goals

This course has two major goals. The first is to provide students with a basic outline of Western (European) civilization and its history—the major ideas, processes, and concepts that have played a key role in creating the world in which we live and which influences other (non-Western) people in myriad ways. The second goal is to develop a set of important skills that are needed wherever students' futures may take them: above all, critical thinking and clear expression, in both written and spoken form. In this regard, the course will focus on one specific skill: the composition of effective paragraphs. As a result of completing this course with the appropriate intellectual investment, students will be able

- To recount the main lines, processes, and stages of development in European civilization from 1648 to the present (and in more basic terms over the last 2500 years);
- To identify central historical figures and texts in that civilization;
- To exhibit a basic knowledge of Europe's geography over the last four centuries;
- To compose effective, well-written paragraphs (which represent the essential building block of all good writing);
- To connect analytically concepts, people, and events prominent in the development of European civilization;
- And to explain to themselves and others why the study of European civilization is essential even for those who do not reside in Europe.

### Requirements

The course requires above all that you keep up on the readings, attend class promptly and regularly, and participate in discussions. *I regard absences as a personal affront and will react accordingly.*

- **PARTICIPATION (10%)**: In this course you are required to participate actively. This means that you attend the class sessions, listen attentively to both the instructor and your student colleagues, and that you raise your voice, in the form of either question or observation, at least occasionally.
- **PARAGRAPHS (25%)**: Paragraphs are the main writing assignment for this course and the most basic skill that we seek to develop. In the schedule below, you will see due dates for SIX paragraphs. Each student will submit FIVE paragraphs and may choose which of the six dates on which to submit his/her paragraphs. In the case of TWO of the paragraphs, each student may submit a *revised* version of the paragraph for re-evaluation, with the higher grade on the exercise counting 2/3 and the lower grade 1/3. The revised paragraph must be resubmitted within one week of its return from the instructor to the group. Students may not rewrite a paragraph submitted on the last, or sixth due date. All paragraphs are due at class time in hard copy but will be accepted as on time if submitted in person by noon that same day. After that, the paragraph loses one point for every 30 minutes that it is late.
- **GEOGRAPHY QUIZZES (15%)**: There will be four quizzes on basic geography, about which you can find details on the web site. I tell you exactly what you need to know for each quiz, and I provide all the resources that you need to prepare. Of your results on the four geography quizzes, I will drop your lowest one, so only three grades will count. If you miss the quiz for whatever reason, you receive a zero on it. The only exception in this regard is if you are representing UNLV in an extracurricular activity, in which case you must make arrangements with me *before the session in which the quiz is to be offered to the group.*
- **CONTENT QUIZZES (15%)**: There will be four content quizzes of a largely factual nature. Of your results on the four geography quizzes, I will drop your lowest grade, so only three grades

will count. If you miss a quiz for whatever reason, you receive a zero on it. The only exception in this regard is if you are representing UNLV in an extracurricular activity, in which case you must make arrangements with me *before the session in which the quiz is to be offered to the group*.

- **EXAMS (35%):** Aside from a larger final exam at the end of the term, there will be a mid-term examination as well. Please note that if you are absent on the day of either exam you will **not** be given the opportunity to re-take it, but will instead receive a zero. In the case of absolute necessity (and the instructor decides whether that standard has been reached), an alternative time for an exam can be identified, but *if and only if* the student confers with the instructor *prior* to the exam time. The mid-term counts 15% and the final 20%. Both exams are guaranteed to be fun, although the instructor's notion of “fun” may differ substantially from yours.
- **RECORDKEEPING:** I do my best to keep full and accurate records of all grades, but occasionally I make an error. Please keep all work returned to you until the end of the term, as this will serve as proof, if necessary, that you have completed each assignment.

### Plagiarism

The question of *plagiarism* is frequently a source of confusion, but the basic definition is the use of other peoples' ideas and words without proper attribution or acknowledgement. We all use others' ideas to develop our own thinking, but in such cases we need to acknowledge the source from which those ideas came and to be sure that we have represented them accurately and fairly. The most egregious cases of plagiarism involve presenting entire papers written by others as one's own work. The instructor of this course takes the issue of plagiarism *very seriously* and will address violations of academic honesty with severity. If you are not sure about plagiarism, then ask me *before* you turn in your work.

### Syllabus as Contract

This syllabus represents a contract between instructor and student, one equally binding on all parties. Students may not find refuge for neglecting its terms and conditions by claiming ignorance of its contents. On extremely rare occasions, the instructor may need to make changes to the syllabus unilaterally. In all other cases, changes to the syllabus shall be the function of deliberation and vote of the group as a whole, with the majority of votes carrying the day. The instructor alone may initiate such deliberation.

### Required Texts

- 1) John Hirst, *The Shortest History of Europe* (Black Inc., 2012; 2009 edition is also OK)
- 2) Reader of texts & sources to be distributed for free in PDF early in the course.

### Supplementary (Optional) Text

David Mason, *A Concise History of Modern Europe*. This book covers the period from the French Revolution on and is available on-line through the UNLV library (i.e., it's free). If you need more background on particular topics, you may consult this book, which offers a very accessible narrative.

## INTRODUCTION: THE REALLY, REALLY BIG PICTURE

Date	Topic & Reading	Due
21 Jan	Why bother with European Civilization—and why 1648?	
23 Jan	Classical & Medieval Foundations (and paragraphs) Read: John Hirst, <i>Shortest History of Europe</i> , chap. 1	
28 Jan	Modern Europe Hirst, <i>Shortest History</i> , chap. 2, “Interlude: What is it about Europe?”	Geo Quiz #1
30 Jan	Governments Hirst, <i>Shortest History</i> , chap. 5 and 6 (recommended: chap. 4)	
4 Feb	Languages & People Hirst, <i>Shortest History</i> , chaps. 7 and 8	Paragraph #1
6 Feb	Modernity Hirst, <i>Shortest History</i> , “Destructive Forces” and chaps. 9 and 10	Content Quiz #1

## TOPIC I: SCIENTIFIC & INTELLECTUAL REVOLUTIONS

11 Feb	A Paragraph Workshop (No reading)	
13 Feb	A New Universe Reader section 1.1 and 1.2 (pp. 1-18)	
18 Feb	Early Modern Science & the World as Machine Reader section 1.3 (pp. 18-27)	Paragraph #2
20 Feb	Enlightenment & Progress Reader section 1.4 (pp. 28-39)	

## TOPIC II: THE MODERN STATE

25 Feb	Sovereignty, Nation-State, Absolutism & Parliament Reader 2.1 and 2.2 (pp. 40-64)	Content Quiz #2
27 Feb	Foundations of Modern Political Theory Reader 2.3 (pp. 64-73)	
3 March	Social Processes Reader 2.4 (pp. 73-81)	Paragraph #3
5 March	French Revolution Reader 2.5 and 2.6 (pp. 81 -109)	
10 March	Open session—for catch-up and review (no reading)	
12 March	<b>MID-TERM EXAM</b>	Mid-term exam

**TOPIC III: ECONOMIC GROWTH & CAPITALIST SOCIETY**

24 March	Market Economy & Modernization Reader 3.1 and 3.2 (pp. 110-37)	Geo Quiz # 2
26 March	Class & Politics: the Middle Class Reader 3.3 (pp. 138-54)	
31 March	Class & Politics: Marxism Reader 3.4 (pp. 155-65)	Paragraph #4
2 April	Mass Democracy and the Erosion of Laissez-Faire Reader 3.5 (pp. 165-83)	

**TOPIC IV: THE LIMITS OF REASON**

7 April	Nationalism, Early & Late Reader 4.1 and 4.2 (pp. 184-202)	Content quiz #3
9 April	The Problem of Evolution Reader 4.3 (pp. 202-18)	
14 April	The Problem of Imperialism Reader 4.4 (pp. 219-31)	Geo Quiz #3
16 April	Towards World War Reader 4.5 (pp. 231-45)	Paragraph #5

**TOPIC V: THE 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY & BEYOND**

21 April	Fascism and Its Roots Reader 5.1 (pp. 246-59)	
23 April	Soviet Communism Reader 5.2 (pp. 259-69)	Content Quiz #4
28 April	World War II and Cold War Reader 5.3 (pp. 270-81)	
30 April	Collapse of Communism in Europe Reader 5.4 (pp. 281-90)	Geo Quiz #4
5 May	Western Civilization and the World Reader 5.5 (pp. 290-301)	
7 May	Day for Review	Paragraph # 6
13 May	<b>FINAL EXAM, 10.10-12.10 AM</b>	Final Exam

## University Policies For Your Uncontainable Excitement:

**Academic Misconduct**—Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV’s function as an educational institution. An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the *Student Academic Misconduct Policy* (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>.

**Classroom Conduct**—Students have a responsibility to conduct themselves in class and in the libraries in ways that do not interfere with the rights of other students to learn or of instructors to teach. Use of electronic devices such as pagers, cellular phones, or recording devices, or potentially disruptive devices or activities, are permitted only with the prior explicit consent of the instructor. The instructor may rescind permission at any time during the class. If a student does not comply with established requirements or obstructs the functioning of the class, the instructor may initiate an administrative drop.

**Copyright**—The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves with and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. **You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

### Missed Classwork

Any student missing class, quizzes, examinations, or any other class or laboratory work because of observance of religious holidays will be given an opportunity during that semester to make up the missed work. The make-up opportunity will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor within the first 14 calendar days of the course for Fall and Spring courses (except for modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for Summer and modular courses, of their intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit the Policy for Missed Work, under Registration Policies, on the [Academic Policies](#) webpage. In accordance with the policy approved by the Faculty Senate regarding missed class time and assignments, students who represent UNLV in any official extracurricular activity will also have the opportunity to make up assignments, provided that the student provides official written notification to the instructor no less than one week prior to the missed class(es). The spirit and intent of the policy for missed classwork is to offer fair and equitable assessment opportunities to all students, including those representing the University in extracurricular activities. Instructors should consider, for example, that in courses which offer a “Drop one” option for the lowest assignment, quiz, or exam, assigning the student a grade of zero for an excused absence for extracurricular activity is both contrary to the intent of the Faculty Senate’s policy, and an infringement on the student’s right to complete all work for the course. This policy will not apply in the event that completing the assignment or administering the examination at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the University that could reasonably have been avoided. There should be a good faith effort by both the instructor and the student to agree to a reasonable resolution. When disagreements regarding this policy arise, decisions can be appealed to the Department Chair/Unit Director, College/School Dean, and/or the Faculty Senate Academic Standards Committee. For purposes of definition, extracurricular activities may include, but are not limited to: fine arts activities, competitive intercollegiate athletics, science and engineering competitions, liberal arts competitions, academic recruitment activities, and any other event or activity sanctioned by a College/School Dean, and/or by the Executive Vice President and Provost.

**Disability Resource Center (DRC)**—The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, <http://drc.unlv.edu/>, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

**Transparency in Learning and Teaching**—The University encourages students to use a transparency template to discuss with their instructors how assignments and course activities benefit student success: [https://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/page\\_files/27/TILT-Framework-Students.pdf](https://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/page_files/27/TILT-Framework-Students.pdf)

**Incomplete Grades**—The grade of I—Incomplete—can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student’s control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. Graduate students receiving “I” grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

### **Library Resources**

Students may consult with a librarian on research needs. For this class, the subject librarian is [https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians\\_by\\_subject](https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians_by_subject). UNLV Libraries provides resources to support students’ access to information. Discovery, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions at <https://www.library.unlv.edu/>.

**Tutoring and Coaching**—The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring, academic success coaching and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, visit <http://www.unlv.edu/asc> or call [702-895-3177](tel:702-895-3177). The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of the SSC (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TEB second floor.

**UNLV Writing Center**—One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 702-895-3908. The student’s Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>.

**Rebelmail**— Rebelmail is UNLV’s official email system for students, and by University policy, instructors and staff should only send emails to students’ Rebelmail accounts. Rebelmail is one of the primary ways students receive official University communications, information about deadlines, major Campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the University. Emailing within Canvas is also acceptable.

**Final Examinations**—The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: <http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.