

University of St. Thomas

Rome Core Program - Fall Semester 2016

COURSE: HIST 112 – THE MODERN WORLD SINCE 1550
SEMESTER: FALL 2016
INSTRUCTOR: PROF. GABRIELE SIMONCINI
CLASS LOCATION: R1 (CORSO RINASCIMENTO, 24)
CLASS MEETING TIME: MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS 9.00AM - 10.40AM
OFFICE: PIAZZA S. ANDREA DELLA VALLE, 6 – ROMA
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Modern World since 1550 surveys the foundation and expansion of the world from the sixteenth-century to the end of the twentieth century. The course examines the breakthroughs in communication and cultural exchanges between Europe and Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. Emphasis is placed on the emergence of an interdependent global civilization. This course fulfills the Historical Studies requirement in the Core Curriculum. The organizing theme for this course is “Contact and Change.” Our task is to explore how modern society emerged from increasingly global relations, even as this process was modified in different locations and time periods. After a brief overview of the early origins of “globalization” we will review the major political, economic, and cultural changes over the past four centuries that have shaped our modern world. While covering a large temporal and geographic range, the course will focus in particular on two questions: what do we consider modern, and who benefits from modern change? Major historical and scholarly interpretations of events, thinkers, and periods covered will be considered.

COURSE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- to teach basic methods of historical inquiry and analysis of sources;
- to increase knowledge of the history of the modern world and its origins;
- to raise awareness of diversity within human history and the importance of intercultural learning;
- to address issues related to the professional ethics of historians and the ethical use of historical materials.

This course attempts to provide the student with a general understanding of the evolution of modern world through the time, and an understanding of contemporary scenarios. Priority is given to conceptualization of different perspectives and their historical development. Critical thinking and comparative analysis will be applied to achieve a clear understanding of the foundations of modern global context.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will develop the ability to critically analyze the evolution and the diversity of the modern world context. They will be able to relate theories and thinkers with political structures, events, and phenomena within the western and global historical context to the present. Students will develop ability to conduct basic research, and organize and present their findings in logical and independent way.

TEACHING METHODS

The class format includes lectures, discussion, teamwork, presentations, and audiovisual materials. The students will be asked to produce a research project, making extensive personal use of information and communication technology. Guest speakers and field trips are planned.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

- John McKay, et. al., *A History of World Societies, Vol 2: Since 1450*, 10th ed., Bedford/St. Martins, 2015.
- Jules Benjamin, *A Student's Guide to History*, 12th ed., Bedford/St. Martins, 2013.
- *Assigned Readings*, (Supplementary reading materials distributed in class, related to activity).

Required reserved readings:

- John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*. Hackett Publishing, 1980.
- Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*. Penguin, 2004.
- Mark Twain, *To the Person Sitting in Darkness*. CPSIA, 2016.
- Chaudhuri & Strobel, *Western Women & Imperialism*. Indiana University Press, 1992.
- Ting-Xing Ye, *My Name is Number 4*. St Martin's Press, 1997.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

- Two in-class Exams (midterm exam and final exam).
- A Final Paper (with a Portfolio).
- Presentations and Reports in class.
- Regular attendance and participation in class.

Exams: The midterm and final exam have the same format. The exams consist of two parts of equal value. The first part is an essay, the student will choose one of three proposed themes, and will write a well-organized essay. The second part of the exam consists of ten terms to be concisely defined.

Final Project: The final paper (2,000-2,500 words) will be on any topic of the student's choice related to the class program. The topic should be precisely defined and worthy of investigation. An electronic version of the project must be given to the instructor in class, in person, during any of week 11th and 12th classes. The deadline is Wednesday, November 30. Files sent by email are not accepted. No materials will be accepted past the deadline. To produce the final project, students will receive written instructions in class. During the semester, students will show the instructor their final project work in progress and receive checks. **Portfolio:** In order to produce their final papers, students will keep a portfolio of research materials during the semester. The portfolio will be shared with, and evaluated by the instructor. The production of the final paper is a work in progress during the semester. The portfolio and the paper project are progressive steps toward completion of the final paper. A portfolio containing samples of reference materials must be attached to the final project.

In-class Presentation:

Students are required to give short individual or team presentations on a specific topic of their choice, approved by the instructor and related to the class program. The presentation will be well organized, concise, and include (when opportune) audiovisual and electronic materials. A draft presentation must be submitted to the instructor before presenting in class. An electronic version of the presentation must be given to the instructor in class, in person, during any of the last four classes. Files send by email are not accepted. The deadline is the last class. No materials will be accepted past the deadline.

In-class Reports:

Students are required to write in class reports in connections with classes' activity including field trips, guest

speakers, and primary sources materials.

Assessment Methods:

Class participation: 10%

Midterm exam: 20%.

Presentations and reports: 15%.

Final exam: 25%.

Final project (with project proposal and portfolio): 30%.

Improvement over the semester will be rewarded.

Grade Scale:

All assignments and final grades are based on the following point scale:

A	93.5 – 100	B	83.5 – 86	C	73.5 – 76	D	63.5 - 66
A -	89.5 – 93	B -	79.5 – 83	C -	69.5 – 73	D -	59.5 - 63
B +	86.5 – 89	C +	76.5 – 79	D +	66.5 – 69	F	59 and below

Attendance requirements:

A maximum of four absences are allowed throughout the semester. Any additional absence will result in a penalization of one grade level (e.g.: from B+ to B for five absences, B+ to B- for six absences, B+ to C+ for seven absences, etc.). Two latenesses count for one absence. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class by calling students' names. Students not answering will be marked absent. Students arrived late will ask the instructor to be marked late at the end of the class, after which attendance records will not be modified.

Library/lab sessions:

The class will meet sometimes in the library/lab to receive instruction on electronic tools and sources. Individual assistance will be provided to the students for their research. To be announced.

Use of Computers in class:

The use of personal computers and technological devices in class is not permitted except for taking notes, or contributing to class activity during designated times. Students not respecting the rule will be penalized by getting no points in the Class Participation requirement (worth 10% of the final grade). Recording and filming in class is not allowed.

Guest speakers:

Guest speakers expert in the fields related to the program may be invited during the semester. To be announced.

Field trips:

Field trips may be scheduled during the semester in connection with local institutions, and with ongoing cultural events of interest in Rome. To be announced.

Recommended films:

Some class viewing may be scheduled during the semester. To be announced.

Wajda A., *Danton*. Megahey L., *The Advocate*. Riefenstahl B.H.A., *Triumph of the Will*. Mikhalkov N., *Burnt by the Sun*.

Academic Integrity:

Plagiarism will not be tolerated in any form. Make sure you are familiar with the university's Academic Integrity Policy, accessible at: <http://www.stthomas.edu/policies/undergraduate/disciplinaryrights/academic>

COURSE TEACHING SCHEDULE

Week 1

Introduction. Methodology. Terminology. Introduction to the Modern World. The Era of Global Contact. The Modern World from Rome's Italian Perspective.

Monday, September 12

Reading Assignments:

- *FAQs About Plagiarism.*
- *Assigned readings.*

Wednesday, September 14

Reading Assignments:

- McKay, Chapter 16, pp. 457-488.
- Benjamin, Chapter 1.
- Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Women.* Chapter I.

Activity, report, discussion.

Week 2

European Power and Expansion. The Islamic World Powers. Absolutist States. The Russian Empire.

Monday, September 19

Reading Assignments:

- McKay, Chapter 17, pp. 489-518.
- Locke, *Second Treatise.* Chapter I.
- *Assigned readings.*

Wednesday, September 21

Reading Assignments:

- McKay, Chapter 18, pp. 519-554.
- Benjamin, Chapter 2.
- Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Women.* Chapter II.

Activity, report, discussion.

Week 3

New Worldviews and Ways of Life. The Enlightenment. Africa and the World. The African Slave trade. The Italian Peninsula and the Italian State.

Monday, September 26

Reading Assignments:

- McKay, Chapter 19, 555-586.
- Locke, *Second Treatise*, Chapters II-IV.
- *Assigned readings.*

Wednesday, September 28

Reading Assignments:

- McKay, Chapter 20, pp. 587-616.
- Benjamin, Chapter 3.
- Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Women.* Chapter III.

Activity, report, discussion.

Week 4

Continuity and Change in East Asia. Revolutions in the Atlantic World. American revolution. French Revolution.

Monday, October 3

Reading Assignments:

- McKay, Chapter 21, pp. 617-648.
- Locke, *Second Treatise*, Chapter V, VI.
- *Assigned readings.*

Wednesday, October 5

Reading Assignments:

- McKay, Chapter 22, pp. 649-684.
- Benjamin, Chapter 4.
- Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*. Chapter IV.

Activity, report, discussion.

Week 5

The Revolution in Energy and Industry. Industrialization. Ideology of Change in Europe. Nationalism. Socialism. Modern Ideologies in Italy.

Monday, October 10

Reading Assignments:

- McKay, Chapter 23, pp. 685-714.
- Locke, *Second Treatise*, Chapters VII-VIII.
- *Assigned readings.*

Wednesday, October 12

Reading Assignments:

- McKay, Chapter 24, pp. 715-752.
- Benjamin, Chapter 5.
- Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*. Chapter V.

Activity, report, discussion.

Week 6

Africa. The Ottoman Empire. New Imperialism. Expanding World Economy. The Great Global Migration. Italy as an Imperial Power.

Monday, October 17

Reading Assignments:

- McKay, Chapter 25, pp. 753-784.
- Locke, *Second Treatise*, Chapters IX-XIII.
- Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*. Chapter VI.

Wednesday, October 19

MIDTERM EXAM

Week 7

Asia and the Pacific in the Era of Imperialism. The Americas in the Age of Liberalism. New nations. Immigration. Building the Italian Nation.

SITE VISIT: The Vittoriano National Complex. The Development of the Italian State, Monarchy, Republic, and Democracy.

Monday, October 24

Reading Assignments:

- Read McKay, Chapter 26, pp. 785-816.
- Locke, *Second Treatise*, Chapters XIV-XVI.
- *Assigned readings.*

Wednesday, October 26

Reading Assignments:

- McKay, Chapter 27, pp. 817-848.
- Benjamin, Chapter 5.
- Twain, *To the Person Sitting in Darkness*.
- Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*. Chapters VII.

Activity, report, discussion.

Week 8

World War and Revolution. The Russian Revolution. Peace and Political Stability. The Age of Anxiety.

Wednesday, November 2

Reading Assignments:

- McKay, Chapter 28, pp. 849-884.
- Benjamin, Chapter 6.
- Locke, *Second Treatise*, Chapters XVII-XIX.
- Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*. Chapter VIII.

Week 9

Nationalism in Asia. Nationalism Trends. Nationalism Movements in the Middle East. Toward Self-Rule in India.

Monday, November 7

Reading Assignments:

- McKay, Chapter 29, pp. 885-900.
- Benjamin, Chapter 7.
- Chaudhuri, *Shawls, Jewelry, Curry, and Rice in Victorian Britain*. (In: Chaudhuri & Strobel pp. 231-246).
- *Assigned readings.*

Wednesday, November 9

Reading Assignments:

- McKay, Chapter 29, 901-916.
- Benjamin, Chapter 8.
- Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*. Chapter IX.

Activity, report, discussion.

RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC CONFIRMED

Friday, November 11

The Italian Justice System and Legal Culture. Illegality, Corruption, Crime and Mafia. The Prison System.

Site Visit to Rebibbia Rome State Prison
(Mandatory, counts as two classes)

Week 10

The Great Depression. World War II. Authoritarian States. Soviet Union. Nazism in Germany. Fascism in Italy: the Movement and the Regime.

SITE VISIT: The Rome Jewish Ghetto. The Creation and Historical Development, the Fascist-Nazi era, the Ghetto today.

Monday, November 14

Reading Assignments:

- McKay, Chapter 30, pp. 917-934.
- Ting-Xing Ye, *My Name is Number 4*.
- *Assigned readings*.

Wednesday, November 16

Reading Assignments:

- McKay, Chapter 30, pp. 935-954.
- Benjamin, Chapter 9.
- Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*. Chapter X.

Activity, report, discussion.

Week 11

Decolonization. Revolution. Cold War. The World Remade. The Limits of Postwar Prosperity. World in 1968. Italian Economic Miracle. Terrorism and Mafia in Italy.

GUEST SPEAKER: Carabinieri Police Representative. Anti-Terrorism and Anti-Mafia in Italy, and in the World.

Monday, November 21

Reading Assignments:

- McKay, Chapter 31, pp. 955-971.
- Benjamin, Chapter 10.
- *Assigned readings*.

Wednesday, November 23

Reading Assignments:

- McKay, Chapter 31, pp. 972-990.
- Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*. Chapter XI.

Activity, report, discussion.

Week 12

Liberalization. War and Revolution in the Middle East. Latin America Dictatorship. The End of the Cold War. Democracy Italian Style.

SITE VISIT: Italian Parliament in Session. The Structure, Activity, the Political Arena, and the Political Culture of Italy.

Monday, November 28

Reading Assignments:

- McKay, Chapter 32, pp. 991-1011.
- *Assigned readings.*

Wednesday, November 30

Reading Assignments:

- McKay, Chapter 32, pp. 1012-1028.
- Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*. Chapter XII.

Activity, report, discussion.

RESEARCH PAPER DUE

Week 13

The Contemporary World in Historical Perspective. Social Movements. Global Circulation and Exchange. The City of Rome in Global Context.

Monday, December 5

Reading Assignments:

- McKay, Chapter 33, pp. 1029-1043.
- *Assigned readings.*

Wednesday, December 7

Reading Assignments:

- McKay, Chapter 33, pp. 1044-1056.
- Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*. Chapter XIII.

Activity, report, discussion.

Monday, December 12

FINAL EXAM

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS:

Field trips:

- Italian Parliament in session
- Rebibbia Rome State Prison
- Vittoriano National Complex
- Jewish Ghetto

Guest speakers:

- Carabinieri Police Representative

NOTE: The syllabus schedule may undergo reasonable changes in relation to guest speakers, field trips, make-ups, discussions, events, and other contingencies. The list of field trips and guest speakers is tentative, due to subjective and objective conditions of the city of Rome.