

History 104
World Civilizations from 1600
Victor Valley College
Spring 2008
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Course Description:

Course will cover the period of 1600 to the 1980's and will focus on the making of the modern world. Inter-locking themes will include the discovery of the New World and the rise of Capitalism, the resistance to this new economic system by the non-White world, the spread of Imperialism and the division of the world into "core" (industrial).

Textbook:

Civilizations Past and Present: Volume II, from 1300, by Robert R. Edgar, et al.

Availability:

I will be available to talk to students before and after the class meets. If you have a question that you would like feedback on during the week, feel free to email me at the above email address.

Outcomes and Objectives:

Students will be able to:

1. formulate their own models of historical causality and explanation
2. critically read and analyze historical texts
3. write analytical and synthetic essays and develop critical thinking skills in explaining not only the "development of underdevelopment," but also how this does or does not explain the development of the industrialized nations.

Grading:

Final grades will be allotted according to the following percentage scale:

A	90%
B	80%
C	70%
D	60%
F	below 60%

The different types of assignments are given below, with the percentage points assigned to each category. All assignments will be given a number grade, which will then be factored in according to the following ratios, to determine the final grade.

Participation	5%
Tests	50% (25% for each of two tests)
Essays	30% (15% for each of two essays)
Essay writing assignment	5%
Primary source reflections	10%

Tests

The tests will be short-answer and essay questions. We will have two such tests during the semester, each worth 25 percent of the total grade. Each will cover only the material since the previous test, i.e., none will be cumulative. They will take up the entire class period. The short-answer and essay questions will cover material from lectures, the text, and the primary sources readings.

No electronic media are allowed at all during tests—no cell phones, no mp3 players, no cds or headsets at all. If a student is caught looking at printed materials, or on another student's exam, their test will be given an automatic 0, regardless of whether they choose to continue taking that test or not. When taking any test, you will need to put any papers, books, or other materials inside a closed binder, folder, or backpack. I will not give a test to any student who has loose papers lying on their desk, or anywhere else nearby them. Students who fail to comply with this will not be given extra time to complete that particular exam, nor will they be allowed to make up the exam at a later point in time.

You will need a few blank sheets of paper (Blue Books acceptable but not necessary) and **pens** to write with. **Tests written in pencil will be photocopied, and then returned to the student to be transcribed in pen.**

Essays

There will be two essays assigned during the semester. Both essays need to be 4 pages long (at the rate of 250 words per page). See the accompanying guide to writing a term paper. This 4 pages includes a half-page introduction and another half-page conclusion. Essays need to reference at least 3 books or articles, in MLA format. The essays have to deal with some topic within the content and time frame of this class: world history (which means pretty much anything, anywhere), from 1600 to the 1990s. If you are in any way unsure as to whether your topic fits these constraints, ask the instructor.

Essays written before this semester started, or submitted to other classes, are not acceptable.

For term papers that deal with contemporary topics, make sure that you are doing a history essay, and not a paper on a contemporary problem. For example, essays on steroids in sports, or insomnia, would be more appropriate for a PE or Psychology class. However, if you would like to do the *history* of steroids in sports (i.e., how it got so bad), or the *history* of research on depression, that would be just fine.

Reflections

These will consist of four short primary source readings, and a one-page reflection *in your own words* on what was the most important thing mentioned in the reading, or your reaction to it. This is rather unstructured, and the idea here is simply to expose you to historical documents and get you to think about them.

Essay Writing Assignment

The essay writing assignment is two forms; one that will guide you in writing a one-page essay, the other, to get a signature from a tutor in the Writing Lab, that you have taken your essay to them for review. As part of this assignment, you will need to select one academic source, and either take it, or the bibliographic data, to the writing lab (part of the assignment includes correctly citing that source according to MLA format). Then, you will need to fill out the Essay Writing Assignment form that I will give you. Both these forms are to be turned in, on the due date. N.B.: this essay writing assignment can be used when you turn in your first essay (because it will save you some time and effort, I would recommend that you use it as the basis of your essay, although you certainly don't have to).

Participation

Participation counts for 5 percent of the overall grade. Your participation scores will be added up and averaged for the days we actually meet. To get a participation grade for each class period, students must be in attendance [no more than 10 minutes after class begins]. Your participation grade will be lowered or eliminated if your cell phone or pager goes off when class is in session, **or if your demeanor or behavior is such that I have to ask you to stop what you are doing (such as talking, etc.)**.

Cell phones: Keep in mind that if your pager or cell phone goes off, it disturbs the instructor, and many if not most of the students. If you have an emergency that requires your attention, you should probably attend to the emergency and not show up at class. If you have to have a cell phone go off, please set it to vibrate, and walk out of class before speaking. Talking on your cell phone, or having a cell phone or pager go off, can/will result in losing the participation grade for that class period. Regardless of the reason for taking a call, there is never any good reason for disturbing the rest of the class by talking on it in the classroom—all you need to do is quickly and quietly walk out the door, and then begin your conversation. Please be considerate of others in this regard. Also, please do not bring children or other guests into the classroom.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism and the reading or other use of other people's work on an exam, and other forms of cheating, are not permitted, and can result in receiving a 0 on the assignment in question, without the option to submit the assignment again.

Late Work and Makeup Work Policy

The Due Date is the Due Date is the Due Date. Work can be turned in up to two weeks late (i.e., 14 calendar Days after the due date), and will be given half credit. The **ONLY** way to avoid this penalty is to provide me with some documentation of an emergency (a towing receipt, a bill from your hospital for the x-rays, your death certificate, etc.). The only exceptions to a two-week extension are the final exam and the second essay--neither of those can be turned in late.

Makeup tests will be administered the week *prior* to finals week. Any student wanting to take a makeup test must put their name on a list I will circulate during the week of May 19-21; alternately they can email me a request with “test makeup” in the subject line. I will place the makeup tests in campus-designated testing area, and allow the student to take that test at any point during that week immediately prior to finals week.

Absolutely no assignments will be accepted after the final exam itself is administered!

Class Schedule

All assignments are due the Thursday of the given week

- Feb. 12-14: Chapter 14 “European Cultural and Religious Transformations”; Class introduction and summary: Age of Exploration, Protestant Reformation
- Feb. 19-21 Chapter 17 (pp.512-32) and 20 (pp. 608-22): Absolutist monarchs in Europe; Asia from 1600-1800 **Luther’s Open Letter to German Nobility reflection due**
- Feb. 26-28 Chapter 18 “New Ideas and their Political Consequences”; Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment
- March 4-6: Ch. 19 “Africa in the World Economy”: Africa, 1600-1800 **essay writing assignment due**
- March 11-13: Ch. 21 “The Americas: 1650-1825”: **Adam Smith reflection due**
- March 18-20: Ch. 22 “Industrialization”: Industrial Revolution, **first essay due**
- March 25-27: Ch. 23 “Europe, 1815-1914”
- April 1-3: **midterm exam**
- April 8-10 (Easter vacation)
- April 15-17 Ch. 25 “Imperialism and Modernity in Modern Asia and the Pacific”: Asia in the 19th century **Communist Manifesto reflection due**
- April 22-24 Ch. 27 “World War I and its Economic and Political Consequences”: World War I
- April 29—May 01 Ch. 28 “The Failure of the Liberal Model and the Rise of Authoritarianism”: post-World War I era
- May 6-8 Ch. 29 “Forging New Nations in Asia, 1910-1950”
- May 13-15 Ch. 30 “National Movements and the Drive for Independence”: Africa and the Middle East after World War I
- May 20-22 Ch. 31 “World War II”: **colonialism reflection due**
- May 27-29 Ch. 32 “Europe and the United States after 1945” **second essay due**
- June 3-5 **final exam**