

HI 102 – The Emergence of Modern Europe: Renaissance to the Present

Spring 2017, MWF, 1:25-2:15, CAS 325

Prof. Simon Rabinovitch
srabinov@bu.edu
<https://guidedhistory.org/>
@sjrabinov

Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:30-3:30; Tuesdays, 1:00-2:00.
226 Bay State Road, Room 209, tel. 353-9915

Course Outline

The goal of this introductory survey course is to give students a strong understanding of the broader trends of modern European history and to prepare them for further study in European history, and history in general. As such, we will focus on a few important themes of European history – such as the growth of the modern state and economy – and also develop some crucial skills for historical research and analysis. The class is also oriented toward understanding various strains of European thought and culture. In each class we will discuss one chapter from the textbook as well as some texts, art, music, or film.

Course Requirements

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Short primary source assignment, 10%. Students will be given a selection of primary sources and accompanying questions and will be required to write a short (2-page) paper about one. Due February 17.

Midterm examination, 25%. To be held in class, March 1.

Take-home examination, 30%. Distributed March 31, due April 5.

Final examination, 35%. The final exam will be a two-hour open-book exam. For the exam, students will answer two essay questions pertaining to the major themes of the course. Students may bring relevant books and notes to the exam.

No credit will be given for any work submitted late without my prior approval or for examinations missed.

Class discussion and preparation. Attendance and informed participation in class discussion is required. Although a grade will not be allocated for participation, in the case of final grades which are borderline, good participation may boost a student's grade. Prolonged absence is grounds for failure.

All assignments should be completed independently and plagiarism from any source is unacceptable. Cases of suspected academic misconduct will be referred to the Dean's Office. If they have not already, students should familiarize themselves with Boston University's Academic Conduct Code:

<http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code/>

Texts

The following textbook is available for purchase at the BU Barnes and Noble:

Clifford R. Backman, *Cultures of the West: A History*, vol 2, 2nd ed. (Oxford, 2016).

All required texts not for purchase, assignments, handouts from class, and any essential course documents will be available on blackboard.

Course Schedule and Assignments

January 20

Introduction: What is Europe, and where is it?

January 23

The Renaissance (Backman, 12)

January 25

The Reformations: Luther, Calvin, Loyola (Backman, 12)

January 27

Reformations and the State (Backman, 12)

January 30

Scientific Revolutions (Backman, 13)

February 1

The Atlantic World (Backman, 13)

February 3

Wars of Religion (Backman, 14)

February 6

Age of Absolutism (Backman, 15)

February 8

English Revolutions (Backman, 15)

February 8

The Dutch Republic (Backman, 15)

February 13

Goodbye Poland (Palmer, Colton, and Kramer, *A History of the Modern World*, chapter 5, on blackboard)

February 17—no class, primary source assignment due

February 20—President's Day, no class

February 21—(substitute Monday)

The Enlightenment I (Backman, 16)

February 22

The Enlightenment II (Backman, 16)

February 24

The French Revolution (Backman, 17)

February 27

Interpreting the French Revolution (Backman, 17)

March 1

From Revolution to Empire through the Art of Jacques-Louis David (Backman, 17)

March 3

Midterm

March 6-10—Spring Recess

March 13

Industrialization and Its Discontents (Backman, 18)

March 15

The Congress of Vienna, Liberal Revolutions of 1830, and the Birth of Modern Political Ideologies (Backman, 19)

March 17

Nationalism, Communism, and the Revolutions of 1848 (Backman, 20)

March 20

National Unification (Backman, 20)

March 22

Women and Gender in the 19th Century (Backman, 21)

March 24

Religion and Secularization (Backman, 22)

March 27

European Imperialism (Backman, 23)

March 29

Jewish Emancipation and Modern Antisemitism (Efron et. al., *The Jews: A History*, pages 294-314 on blackboard)

March 31—take-home midterm distributed

The Great War (Backman, 24)

April 3

Russian Revolutions (Backman, 25)

April 5—take-home midterm due

Realignment and Upheaval: Liberalism v. Fascism, or liberalism's discontents (Backman, 25)

April 7

Rise of the Soviet Union (Backman, 25)

April 10

World War II (Backman, 26)

Guest lecture by Prof. Alexis Peri

April 12

Interpreting the Holocaust (Backman, 26)

April 14

Post-war to Cold War (Backman, 27)

April 17—Patriots Day, no class

April 19

European Decolonization (Backman, 27)

April 21

Religion and Integration in Europe 1965-1989 (Backman, 28)

April 24

Soviet Dissidence and Revolutions in Central and Eastern Europe: the Road to '89 (Backman, 29)

April 26

The End of the Soviet Union (Backman, 29)

May 1

The Balkan Wars, 1991-1995 (Backman, 29)

May 3

The End of History?... 25 years later (Francis Fukuyama, "The End of History?" on blackboard)