This is an introductory course in modern European history and the second half of a series. Chronologically, the course covers the years from roughly 1500 to the present. There are no pre-requisites: you do not need to have taken HI 101 (in fact, the overwhelming majority of you have not taken it), and we do not assume any prior knowledge of European history on your part.

In my lectures I will try to keep pace with our textbook -- basically, a chapter per week -- but will occasionally branch off into other topics. Most textbooks are dull and ours is no exception; it has the advantage, however, of being relatively brief. I urge you to remember a guiding principle: the study of history is not about memorizing names and dates but is concerned with understanding the causes of historical change and the consequences that result from it. Knowing why things happened, and the significance of those things, is our main goal, and is really the only justification for studying history at all. (Here's a concrete example: What is more important -- to memorize the dates of every major event of Adolf Hitler's life, or to be able to explain [to your children someday, perhaps] why the people of Germany turned to Nazism?) Fortunately, examining why things happened and how life changed because of their happening, makes history a much more interesting thing to study.

Still, this can be a frustrating course since we fly through the years so rapidly. Five hundred years in fifteen weeks is a lot of ground to cover for an entire continent. All I can say is that Western Civ. courses are supposed to be frustrating in this way. These courses were invented in this country in the aftermath of World War I, in response to demands for rapid surveys of history that would explain how the Western world ever got into such a mess in the first place. All we can do is to introduce you to the basic ideas, themes, movements, and trends of this period, and hope that you'll be interested enough to continue on by enrolling in some of our more specialized courses. (For a list of those courses, visit the department's website at [www.bu.edu/history].)

I lecture informally and invite you to interrupt me whenever you have a question to ask or a comment to share. (Also, since I lecture without notes, I especially urge you to correct me when I make a mistake!) My goal is to make the general ideas of each chapter as clear as I can; experience has taught me that the course goes more successfully if I give you the basic ideas and then let you teach yourselves some of the details, than if I simply throw tons of data at you and then expect you to see the pattern in it all. So I do hope you'll feel welcome to turn our lectures into an occasional dialogue.

There is only one book required, and it is available at the BU bookstore:


You will also have regular readings assigned from the following online site:

[www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook.html](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook.html)
This is an extremely large and well-tended site of primary source readings for history. It covers an impressive range of topics, everything from Ancient Mesopotamia to modern gender theory. We will be using the readings under the "Modern History Sourcebook" tab.

Your grade will be determined by the following formula:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In-class quiz #1</th>
<th>33%</th>
<th>Friday, 17 Feb. Essay due Tuesday, 21 Feb.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-class quiz #2</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>Friday, 30 March. Essay due Monday, 2 April.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-class quiz #3</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>Wednesday, 2 May. Essay due Monday, 7 May.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Office hours: 12:00-1:00 on Wednesdays and Fridays. 4:00-6:00 on Mondays.
226 Bay State Road, Room 206

Email: cbackman@bu.edu  
This is the best way to reach me. Please be aware, however, that I never check email on weekends.

Some administrative dates to remember:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 Jan</td>
<td>Last day to add classes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Feb</td>
<td>Last day to drop classes without a “W” grade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Mar</td>
<td>Last day to drop classes with a “W” grade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Apr</td>
<td>Last day to withdraw from the University for Spring 2012</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

My schedule this semester:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
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<td>Grad students</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
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<td>Grad students</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>HI 102</td>
<td>Committee</td>
<td>HI 102</td>
<td>Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Committee</td>
<td>Office hour</td>
<td>Committee</td>
<td>Office hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00</td>
<td>HI 204</td>
<td>Committee</td>
<td>HI 204</td>
<td>Committee</td>
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</table>

Important: Because of my schedule in GCB, my Wednesday and Friday office hours will be held in the Espresso Royale Café. Monday office hours will be in my office.
The Nasty Legalistic Stuff

CAS requires us to inform you that the Student Academic Conduct Code is in force. You can find it at:

http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/undergrad-resources/code/

Regular attendance in class is expected as a matter of professionalism and basic courtesy. I recognize that circumstances sometimes arise that make it impossible for you to attend class. Consequently, you are allowed to miss three (3) class-meetings; any more than that, however, will result in a penalty of one half-grade for each day (beyond the third) missed, for your overall course-grade.

I am happy to help if you are having any trouble with the course; but please be fair: let me know as soon as the difficulty starts. Don’t wait until you discover that you haven’t received the grade you wanted.

Speaking of grades, here is the College’s official guideline to faculty:

Avoid grade inflation. Grades should reflect the distribution of effort and success in the class. In undergraduate courses, a useful (unofficial) guideline is that an "A" should mean that the student mastered the material and produced excellent work, "B" that the student understood the material but did not master it or whose work was good but not superior, "C" that there were significant gaps in understanding/accomplishment or that the work was lackluster ("satisfactory" is the term used in the Undergraduate Bulletin), "D" ("low pass") that there was limited understanding/accomplishment or effort, and "F" that there was little understanding/accomplishment or effort. If your distribution of grades is skewed toward the high end, it might imply that either an "A" does not require a high level of achievement in the course or you are demanding too little of your students. "High end" is a median grade of "B" or higher for a 100 to 200 level undergraduate course. A median grade of "B" is common for upper-level undergraduate courses. (In graduate courses "C++++" is a failing grade, hence the average grade is higher than in undergraduate courses.)

If a student for good reason could not complete the last stages of your course (e.g., missed the final exam because of illness), you and the student can enter into a contract in which you specify the work that needs to be completed and the date by which it must be handed in to you. That date must be no later than one calendar year from the end of the semester in which the course was offered. An incomplete grade form, available through your departmental administrator, must be submitted with your grade sheet for the course for each "I" grade that you issue.

Classroom expectations are also based on professionalism and basic courtesy. If you are late to class, or if you need to leave the classroom for any personal reason, please do so with as little disruption to your neighbors as possible. No need to ask permission. I am happy to permit the use of laptop computers so long as you use them for class purposes; other students find it distracting if you are watching videos or updating your Facebook page. If I receive any complaints, I will contact you privately and ask you either to change your behavior or to cease bringing the computer to class.
Lecture Schedule and Reading Assignments

18 Jan Introduction.
20 Jan No class. Prof. has another commitment.
23 Jan Renaissance and Exploration.
25 Jan The Protestant Reformation.
27 Jan Arguing over the Truth.
30 Jan The Wars of Religion.
  1 Feb Montaigne and Hobbes.
  3 Feb Varieties of Absolutism.
  6 Feb Constitutionalism in England.
  8 Feb The Scientific Revolution.
 10 Feb The Enlightenment.
 13 Feb French Revolution.
 15 Feb The Age of Napoleon.
 17 Feb In-class Quiz #1. Essay due Tuesday, 21 Feb.
 20 Feb HOLIDAY. MONDAY/TUESDAY SWITCH.
 21 Feb The Industrial Revolution.
 22 Feb Consequences of Industrialization.
 24 Feb Challenges to Religious Life.
 27 Feb Conservatism and Liberalism.
 29 Feb The Romantic Temperament.
  2 Mar Marx and Darwin.
  5 Mar Nation-states.
  7 Mar The Second Industrial Revolution.
12 Mar SPRING BREAK.
14 Mar SPRING BREAK.
16 Mar SPRING BREAK.
19 Mar The Age of Incredible Rottenness.
21 Mar Everybody Hates the Middle Class.
23 Mar The Modernist Breakdown.
26 Mar World War I.
30 Mar In-class Quiz #2. Essay due Monday, 2 Apr.
  2 Apr Peace Settlement and Weimar Germany.
  4 Apr The Great Depression.
  6 Apr The Appeal of Fascism.
  9 Apr Why Appeasement? No new reading
 11 Apr World War II. assigned this week.
13 Apr No lecture today. Prof. has previous engagement. Get caught up instead.
16 Apr  HOLIDAY. MONDAY/WEDNESDAY SWITCH.
18 Apr  The Cold War Begins.                ch. 27
20 Apr  Decolonization and Alienation.

23 Apr  The Post-Colonial Present.
25 Apr  Challenges from the Islamic World.  ch. 28
27 Apr  Technology and Globalism.

30 Apr  The World Today.
2 May   In-class Quiz #3. Essay due Monday, 7 May.