

# HIST 104: Introduction to the Modern World

Summer 2021



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Virtual Office Hours: By Appointment. Please email me to set up a time.

## **Course Description:**

This course is a survey of European modern history from the birth of the Renaissance to the present day. We will explore political, cultural, religious, and economic transformations that turned Europe on its head. Our goal will be to delve into the complexities of the modern era, examining the events and people that shaped the world as it is today. By using both primary and secondary sources, students will be able to grasp the twists and turns that the modern era brought, as well as acquire analytical skills essential for reading historical documents. Topics that this course will cover include: The Renaissance and Reformation, The Enlightenment, The Age of Revolution, Empire Building, The First and Second World Wars, The Cold War, and The Twenty-First Century.

## **Required Text:**

Anthony Grafton and David Bell. *The West: A New History, Volume Two*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2018. (ISBN: 978-0393640861)

## **Requirements:**

*Questionnaire:* During the first week of class, there will be a simple, easy questionnaire that will help me get to know you and determine what your experiences with the field of history have been in the past. This will be a single page, and requires no outside sources to complete.

*Essays:* There will be two essays throughout the summer, one due on July 2 and the other due on July 16. These will be three to four pages and double-spaced. You will receive a list of three possible prompts beforehand and may write on only one. Citation is *essential* to receiving full credit (more instructions on citation will be given alongside the prompts). Please use the lectures, the textbook, and the primary sources in your answers. You are encouraged, but not required, to submit drafts ahead of time to receive feedback.

*Discussion Board/Participation:* Because this class is online, participation will be determined based on a weekly discussion board on Fridays. Early in the week, a primary source will be posted on the Brightspace discussion board. You will read the source every week and provide a paragraph-length answer to a posted question in the discussion. Some questions may incorporate material from the lectures or textbook that week. You must also respond to two separate discussion posts in order to receive full credit.

*Final Exam:* There is only one final exam in this course, at the end of the summer. This exam will be open book and will consist of two parts: Identification and Essay. I will provide a study guide before the exam with potential questions. For the Identification section, there will be a list of eight important people, events, dates, or documents. You will choose five of these and write a paragraph-length answer explaining who, what, when, where, why, and most importantly, the historical significance of your chosen ID. For the Essay section, there will be a single cumulative essay that brings the entire course together. Be specific in your answers. Questions will come from both the lectures and the textbook readings.

## **Grading:**

Final grades for this course will be based on the papers, the final exam, an initial questionnaire, and participation in the discussion boards. The final grade will be calculated as follows:

Essay 1:	20%
Essay 2:	25%
Final Exam:	30%
Questionnaire:	5%
Participation in the Discussion Boards:	20%

## **General Rules:**

In order to succeed in this course, it is imperative that you stay on top of both the lectures *and* the readings. This is an online course, which means that you will not need to watch the lectures at a certain time. However, if you fall behind, it will be extremely difficult to catch up.

If there are health or family issues that emerge throughout the course, please contact me via email to sort this out. I am willing to grant extensions on assignments for legitimate excuses.

Please understand that plagiarism or cheating of any kind will result in a failing grade for the entire course and that the Dean of Students Office will be contacted. The penalty for plagiarism at Purdue University is suspension.

## **Schedule:**

*Monday, June 14*

Introduction to the Course: What is the Modern World? The Birth of Modernity

*Wednesday, June 16*

The Reformation and the Counter-Reformation

Read pages 371-389

*Friday, June 18*

The European Wars of Religion

Primary Source Discussion on Brightspace

**QUESTIONNAIRE DUE BY 11 PM**

*Monday, June 21*

The Atlantic World

Read pages 411-419, 489-495

*Wednesday, June 23*

The Rise of Absolutism

Read pages 459-470

*Friday, June 25*

The Enlightenment

Primary Source Discussion on Brightspace

*Monday, June 28*

The Age of Revolution: America

Read pages 531-536

*Wednesday, June 30*

The Age of Revolution: France

Read pages 540-553

*Friday, July 2*

A Forever Changed Europe

Primary Source Discussion on Brightspace

**ESSAY 1 DUE BY 11 PM**

*Monday, July 5*

New Industry, New Politics

Read pages 603-619

*Wednesday, July 7*

The Upheavals of the Mid-Nineteenth Century

Read pages 639-646, 649-657

*Friday, July 9*

Empire Building and World Conquest

Primary Source Discussion on Brightspace

*Monday, July 12*

The War to End all Wars?

Read pages 706-727

*Wednesday, July 14*

The War at Home: The Russian Revolution

Read pages 727-738

*Friday, July 16*

Disillusionment and Disaster: The Interwar Years

Primary Source Discussion on Brightspace

**ESSAY 2 DUE BY 11 PM**

*Monday, July 19*

Fascism and Communism Reach their Peak

Read pages 759-766

*Wednesday, July 21*

World War II

Read pages 776-794

*Friday, July 23*

The Start of the Cold War: How to Rebuild from the Ruins of Europe

Primary Source Discussion on Brightspace

*Monday, July 26*

Decolonization and Crisis: The Mid-Twentieth Century

Read pages 818-821, 832-833

*Wednesday, July 28*

The Fall of the Iron Curtain

Read pages 858-870

*Friday, July 30*

Into the Twenty-First Century

Primary Source Discussion on Brightspace

*Wednesday, August 4*

**FINAL EXAM**