



## Syllabus

### HIS 101 Modern Western Civilization: The Enlightenment to the Cold War

#### General Information

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**Department** Social Science

**Course Prefix** HIS

**Course Number** 101

**Course Title** Modern Western Civilization: The Enlightenment to the Cold War

#### Course Information

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**Catalog Description** This course investigates the social, political, intellectual, economic and cultural development of modern Western civilization, from the 18th century Enlightenment, through the French Revolution, Napoleon, the Industrial Revolution, and the turbulent 20th century. We will examine the distinctive features, values and structures of the West during the last three centuries, and explore its frequent interactions with the wider world during the 19th century Age of Imperialism and the Cold War, as well as its role in seismic global events, like WWI, WW2, and the Holocaust.

**Credit Hours** 3

**Lecture Contact Hours** 3

**Lab Contact Hours** 0

**Other Contact Hours** 0

**Grading Scheme** Letter

#### Prerequisites

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None

#### Co-requisites

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None

## First Year Experience/Capstone Designation

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This course **DOES NOT** satisfy the outcomes applicable for status as a FYE or Capstone.

## SUNY General Education

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This course is designated as satisfying a requirement in the following SUNY Gen Ed category

World History and Global Awareness

## FLCC Values

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### Institutional Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course

Inquiry and Interconnectedness

## Course Learning Outcomes

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### Course Learning Outcomes

1. Students will identify the major events, themes and issues of Western history from the 18th century to the present.
2. Students will describe the interactions and interrelationships between the cultures of the West and those of other regions of the world in the modern era.
3. Students will describe the distinctive features and unique structures and systems of Western civilization during the 18th - 20th centuries, and their impact on well-being and sustainability during the modern era.

## Outline of Topics Covered

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### Legacy of the Middle Ages

### The Scientific Revolution

- Empiricism: From the "Age of Faith" to the "Age of Reason"
- New Technology: Microscope, Telescope & Printing Press
- The "New Science": Astronomy, Physics, Medicine & Chemistry

### The 18<sup>th</sup> Century Enlightenment

- Envisaging a More Tolerant, Rational, Equitable, Just and Humane Society

- New Approaches to Religion: Deism, Voltaire and Religious Toleration
- Locke, Psychology and Educational Reform
- Beccaria and Judicial/Penal Reform
- Abolition of Slavery
- Rousseau and Social Equality
- Wollstonecraft and Women's Rights
- Locke, Montesquieu and Constitutional/Representative Government
- Adam Smith, Economic Science and Capitalism
- Warfare in the Age of Reason
- Enlightenment in Action: The American Revolution, Declaration of Independence, Constitution and Bill of Rights
- Diderot and the "Information Revolution"
- Neoclassicism in Art and Music

### **French Revolution, 1789-9**

- *Ancien Regime*: Absolutism, the Third Estate & the Origins of the Revolution
- Moderate Phase: Reforms of the National Assembly, 1789-91
- Radical Phase: Robespierre and the Terror, 1792-4
- Legacy of the French Revolution: Radical Utopianism, Romanticism and Progressive Reform

### **Napoleon: Tyrant & Reformer, 1799-1815**

- Napoleon: Subverter of the Revolution
  - The Napoleonic Art of Warfare
  - Imperial Activities in Europe, the Middle East, North America and the Caribbean
  - Napoleon's Empire: Exploitation and Repression
  - Napoleon's Downfall and Exile
- Napoleon: Preserver of the Revolution
  - Meritocracy, Centralization and Administrative Reform
  - Religious Reform: *Concordat*, 1805

- Legal Reform: Napoleonic Code
- Educational Reform: University of France
- Economic Reforms and Public Health Initiatives

### **Industrial Revolution: Blessing & Curse for Humanity, 1750-1900**

- Blessing for Humanity
  - From Traditional to Modern Society
  - Mechanization, Mass Production & the Consumer Revolution
  - Technological Innovations
  - Age of Iron and Steam
  - Transportation and Communications Revolution
  - Medical Advances
  - Rise of the Middle Class
  
- Curse for Humanity
  - Factory Life and the Rise of the Industrial Working Class
  - Urbanization and its Problems
  - Industrial Revolution in Warfare
  - Global and Environmental Impacts
  - Cultural/Artistic Responses to Industrialization: JMW Turner, Realism and Impressionism

### **Progress and Breakdown in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century**

- Ideological Ferment: Liberalism (Malthus and Mill), Radicalism (Paine and Bentham), Socialism (Saint-Simon, Fourier and Owen), Positivism (Comte), Marxism, Feminism and Anarchism
- Politic and Social Change: Evolution (British "Age of Reform") and Revolution (1830 and 1848)
  
- Scientific and Intellectual Change:
  - Darwinism and Evolution
  - Pasteur, Koch, Lister and the Bacteriological/Surgical Revolution
  - Age of Irrationality: Modernism, Expressionism, Futurism

- Jung, Nietzsche, Wittgenstein, Kierkegaard, Freud and Modern Psychiatry

- Nationalism:
  - Nation-Building (Unification of Germany and Italy)
  - National Disintegration (Habsburg and Ottoman Empires)

### **Age of Imperialism: Motivations, Means and Impact, 1870-1914**

- Motives: Economic, Political, Strategic, National and Ideological
- Means: Technological Superiority, Repression, Collaboration and Disease
- “The Sun Never Sets:” The British Empire in India, Africa and the Far East
- The “Scramble for Africa”
- Legacy of Imperialism: Decolonization, Global Conflict, and “New Imperialism”

### **World War I: History’s First Modern, Industrial, Total and Global Conflict, 1914-19**

- Origins and Causes
- Deadlock on the Western Front: Trench Warfare
- Total War: Verdun and the Somme
- Technological Developments/War in Three Dimensions
- The War Goes Global: Africa, Middle East and the Pacific
- Total War on the Home Front: Mobilizing Societies and the Rise of the Modern Interventionist State
- 1918: Year of Victory and the Armistice
- The Flawed Paris Peace Treaties of 1919
- Germany and the Versailles *Diktat*
- Treaty of Sevres & the Making of the Modern Middle East
- Cultural Responses to Armageddon: Surrealism and Dada

### **Russian Revolution, 1917-22**

- Marxism, Lenin and the “Dictatorship of the Proletariat”
- The Bolsheviks Seize Power, 1917

- Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
- Russian Civil War
- Emergence of the Soviet Union/U.S.S.R
- The Comintern, Red Army and NKVD
- Soviet Realism

### **The Troubled 1930s: Great Depression, Revisionism, Stalinism and Fascism**

- Peace, Prosperity & Conciliation: The Roaring Twenties, 1920-9
- Women's Suffrage
- The Great Depression, the Crisis of Democracy and the End of International Cooperation
- Mussolini, Italian Fascism and *Mare Nostrum* in the Mediterranean
- Hitler and the Rise of Nazism
- The Third Reich: Consolidation and *Gleichschaltung*
- Stalinism: "Socialism in One Country," Collectivization, Forced Industrialization, "Great Terror" and the Purges of 1936-8.
- Spanish Civil War, 1936-9

### **World War II, 1939-45**

- Italian and Soviet Revisionism, 1935-40
- Hitler Dismantles the Versailles System, 1933-39: Anschluss and Munich
- The Appeasement Controversy
- Blitzkrieg in the West, 1939-40
- Eastern Front, 1941-43
- The "Second Front" in North Africa and the Mediterranean, 1942-3
- Total War and the Home Front
- Hitler's Europe: Collaboration & Resistance
- The Tide Turns, 1944-45
- War in the Air and Sea
- The Holocaust: *Kristallnacht* to Auschwitz
- War in the Pacific, 1937-45

- Hiroshima, Nagasaki and the Birth of the Atomic Age
- Existentialism: Sartre, Heidegger, de Beauvoir

### **Cold War, 1945- 91**

- Communist Takeover of Eastern Europe
- NATO & Warsaw Pact
- Containment, 1947-53
- Escalation & Crisis, 1953-71
- European Integration
- Détente, 1972-79
- "Second Cold War": 1979-85
- Collapse of the Soviet Union