

History 1010: Modern Western World

Spring 2014

Dunbar 3206

Western Michigan University

Dr. Eli Rubin, PhD

SYLLABUS

Introduction:

Welcome to History 1010, Modern Western World, taught by Dr. Eli Rubin! This course is a hybrid online course, which means that the lectures and some of the assessments are online, accessed through the e-learning pages, but that we will meet once a week on Mondays.

What will we do when we meet if there is no lecture? The answer is this: we will play games, do activities, and run simulations. Each week, there will be a specific activity designed to highlight your learning about one of the themes of the week's lectures. Sometimes, this will be a role-playing game; sometimes, it will involve working collaboratively to solve a problem, or engage in a contest of some kind. Other times, it may involve individual or group based creative activities. In this class, you will solve a murder mystery in 1500s Florence; recreate avant-garde art from the 1920s; and experience the full absurdity of running a socialist economy in 1980s Eastern Europe, along with many other scenarios.

How the Course Works:

This format is not traditional; it is designed to facilitate your learning experience by engaging your mind in more active and participatory ways, and thus to move beyond passive learning. Because the lectures are online, they allow you the flexibility to view/listen to them at your own pace and when it is convenient to you.

Online Lectures:

Each lecture lasts approximately 75-85 minutes long. Each week, you will be expected to view/listen to the online lectures, and complete an assessment about each one. The assessments are in total 20% of your grade. **You must complete the assessments before coming to class.** You will have until noon on Monday to complete the assessment. There are no late or make up assessments. If you miss three or more assessments, you automatically fail the class.

In class activities:

In addition to online lectures, you will be expected to review materials to prepare you for the in-class activity for that upcoming week. These will be distributed either in class or made available online. I will explain the activity at the beginning of class, but it is essential that you are prepared so that you can participate.

The activities will vary in kind, however they are all designed to go into depth about one particular theme. The activities will form the basis of the **Midterm and Final Exams**. I will explain more about how this will work in class. One note: although our in-class session is scheduled for the 4-4:50 time slot, because the course of the activities is sometimes a bit unpredictable, there may be occasions where we have to run over the 4:50 mark. I will try my very best to make sure class is wrapped up by 5 or 5:05 pm at the latest. If you have another class to make it to, afterwards, please come and see me to discuss the matter.

Attendance is mandatory, and will be taken at the beginning of each class. It is essential that you are on time to class, because it is very difficult to come in late to the middle of an activity. If you are between 1-15 minutes late you will receive half credit for attendance. If you are more than 15 minutes late you will not be allowed entrance to the classroom.

Grading:

There are six areas of assessment: 1) the weekly lecture assessments; 2) a midterm exam, based on the in class activities, which will be mostly short-answer form and will be submitted on-line; 3) a final exam, which will be in the same format as the midterm but which will be cumulative; 4) a short mid-semester writing assignment based on a primary source; 5) a slightly longer final writing assignment; and 6) attendance.

The grade breakdown of each assignment is as follows:

1. On-line lecture assessments: 15%
2. Midterm exam: 10%
3. Final exam: 25%
4. Writing assignment 1: 10%
5. Final writing assignment: 25%
6. Attendance: 15%

Office Hours and Contact Policy:

My office hours this semester are Mondays, 10-12, or by appointment. Beyond that I can be reached by email. I prefer that you email instead of leaving a voicemail on my office phone, if possible. It is my policy that I will do my very best to reply to all e-mails within 24-48 hours. If you have not received a reply after 48 hours, please contact me again; it is possible that I have overlooked your email or that it has been put in the wrong folder.

Schedule of Lectures and Classes:

Week Two: (Jan 13)

Course intro

Week Three: (Jan 20)

Lecture 1: The Black Death

Lecture 2: Columbus and the Columbian Exchange

No Class: Martin Luther King Day Monday Jan 20

Week Four: (Jan 27)

Lecture 1: Slavery

Lecture 2: Renaissance Part I: Power and Politics

In class activity: Renaissance Murder Mystery

Week Five: (Feb 3)

Lecture 1: Renaissance Part II: Art

Lecture 2: Scientific Revolution

In class activity: Renaissance Art

Receive First Writing Assignment

Week Six: (Feb 10)

Lecture 1: Reformation

Lecture 2: Religious Wars

In class activity: Reformation family tree

Week Seven: (Feb 17)

Lecture 1: The Enlightenment
Lecture 2: The French Revolution

In class activity: Enlightenment Jail
First Writing Assignment Due

Receive Midterm Exam

Week Eight: (Feb 24)

Lecture 1: Napoleon
Lecture 2: The Industrial Revolution

In class activity: Running your Factory the Capitalist Way—Manchester, 1830

Submit Midterm Exam

SPRING BREAK

Week Nine: (March 10)

Lecture 1: 1848
Lecture 2: Radical Ideologies: (Marxism, Socialism, Anarchism, Syndicalism, Radical Nationalism)

In class activity: Bohemian Nationalism

Receive Final Writing Assignment

Week Ten: (March 17)

Lecture 1: Colonialism and Imperialism
Lecture 2: World War One

In class activity: Paris Peace Conference

Week Eleven: (March 24)

Lecture 1: Weimar Germany

Lecture 2: The Russian Revolution

In class activity: Fun with Modern Art

Week Twelve: (March 31)

Lecture 1: The Rise of Hitler

Lecture 2: Inside the Third Reich

In class activity: Weimar Political Speed Dating

Week Thirteen: (April 7)

Lecture 1: World War Two, pt. 1

Lecture 2: World War Two, pt. 2

In class activity: The Allied Bombing of Germany: War or War Crime?

Week Fourteen: (April 14)

Lecture 1: Postwar/Cold War

Lecture 2: The Fall of the Wall

In class activity: Running Your Factory the Socialist Way: Bratislava, 1980

Final Writing Assignment Due

Final Exam: April 21st 5-7 pm in classroom.