

GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION

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OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course students will have acquired a general knowledge of the evolution of Western civilization. Special attention will be paid to evaluating the role of Christian religion and culture in shaping some elements of European and western lands, nations and communities.

Teaching: Lectures, case studies, small group discussions, project.

Office Hours: by appointment. Please contact me through both of the following e.mail addresses: gcasagrande@unier.it; giallac@tiscali.it.

REQUIRED READING

Required reading material for the exam will be given by instructor in the form of handouts. The following publications are suggested as optional readings:

M. Le Glay, Jean-LouisVoisin and Yann Le Bohec (eds), A History of Rome (third edition; Oxford: Blackwell, 2005)ISBN 1-4051-1083-X

R. Bartlett, The Making of Europe, Princeton University Press 1994

W. Chester Jordan, Europe in the High Middle Ages (Penguin History of Europe), 2004

Hodgson, P. E. (Peter Edward) Galileo the Scientist Logos: A Journal of Catholic Thought and Culture - Volume 6, Number 3, Summer 2003, pp. 13-40

Behrens, C.B.A., The Ancien Regime

Doyle W., The Oxford History of the French Revolution.

Bruun G., Europe and the French Imperium, 1799-1814.

Henderson W.O., The industrialization of Europe

Mosse G.L., The Culture of Western Europe: the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries.

Hale O.J., The Great Illusion, 1900-1914.

Tuchman, B.W., The Proud Tower: A Portrait of the World Before the War, 1890-1914.

Gilbert M., The First World War: A complete history

Keegan J., The second world war.

Gaddis, The Cold War

Vaughan, Twentieth-Century Europe: Paths to Unity.

ASSESSMENT

Each student's final grade in the course will be calculated as follows:

- 50% Final Exam.
- 30% Midterm Exam.
- 10% Homework presentations.
- 10% Attendance and Class Participation

Both the Midterm and the Final Exams will be written. 3 questions will be proposed in each exam and they will require answers in the form of essays. Although no question will directly address topics discussed in the suggested, optional readings, questions can cover topics from the handouts or from the lectures. Lectures may include details, definitions, data etc. which may not be in the handouts but may be included in the exam. Attendance and good note-taking are therefore recommended

Homework

Homework are given as presentation assignments on the topics discussed in the handouts. Each student will be requested to focus on a specific subject, make her/his own short-research on that subject and prepare a 5-10 minutes presentation on that subject. Presentations will be held and discussed at the beginning of next class. Presentations can be prepared based on the handouts, on the optional readings or on data found in the Internet. Full indication of all sources used is mandatory. Presentation materials should be turned in to instructor after presentation, for further evaluation.

Extra-Credit Projects

Students can also obtain extra credit by presenting an extra-credit project. Projects are supposed to cover one of the class topics and they should be approved by instructor before being developed. Projects will consist in two parts. 1 - Written Part. It should include at least 20.000 characters (without spaces). Tables, pictures and maps are welcome if the students wishes to include them. 2 - Presentation Part. It should include at least 10 slides to summarize the contents of the Written Part. Both Parts must be turned in no later than the third-last class (later submissions will not be accepted) in electronic pdf (Written Part) and ppt (Presentation Part) form.

Please, be advise that copying-and-pasting from the Internet without proper citation of your sources is against good academic practice and ILS policies.

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Class	Topic	Details	Assignments
1 Sept. 27	Student arrival and orientation	Students arrive September 20 th	Orientation
2 Oct. 5	Spaces and Places between two "Grammars of Geography"	Two different approaches to studying geography and history: how to get into them and why they are both useful to us.	Handout packet 1 - Homework 1
3 Oct 11	<u>Greece and Rome. Graecia Capta and Ferus Victor</u>	Some remarks on Greek and Roman cultures in antiquity; similarities, differences, complementarities.	Homework 1 presentation
4 Oct. 18	<u>From the rise of Christianity to the worldviews of Christianitas</u>	How the development of Christian religion shaped some aspects of Western civilization.	Handout packet 2 Homework 2
5 Oct. 28	<u>Light and Darkness. Reformation and Catholic Reformation</u>	Religion, society, lifestyles and worldviews at the dawn of modernity.	Homework 2 presentation
6 Oct. 31	<u>Need and Hope for a New World</u>	The discovery of the New World and the views about the new land.	Handout packet 3 Homework 3
7 Nov. 8	<u>Geography and History of Europe during the Enlightenment</u>	The cultural approach of the Enlightenment and its cultural consequences.	Homework 3 presentation
8 Nov.15	MIDTERM	MIDTERM	MIDTERM
9 Nov.22	<u>Achievements, Dreams and Illusions in the "Century of Inventions".</u>	Europe and the world in the 19th century. The technological revolution and its "bounce-effect".	
10 Nov.24	<u>The "Eruption of Evil" and the trend to Globalization.</u>	The 20th century and the transition from national-based views to the perspective of a worldwide interrelation.	Handout packet 4 Homework 4
11 Nov. 29	<u>The World during the Cold War</u>	The geopolitical opposition between USA and USSR as a pivotal event in the History of humankind.	Homework 4 presentation
12 Dec.1	<u>What comes next. A new need for meaning.</u>	Opportunities and challenges for Western Civilization through the 21st century.	Handout packet 5
13 Dec.6	Final Exam		
Dec.8	Extra-credit project presentations.		