

**Introduction to European Civilization**

Professor Tom Ewing

MWF 12:00 (2702, McBryde 210) and 2:00 (2703, McBryde 209)

Office hours: Wednesday 3:00-4:00, Friday 10:00-11:00, and by appointment

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This course is an introduction to European history from the early eighteenth century through the late twentieth century. Topics covered in this course include society under the old regime, the age of enlightenment, the French revolution, the Napoleonic era, the industrial revolution, debates between liberalism and socialism, the rise of nationalism, great power rivalries, the coming of the great war, the Russian revolution, the instability of the interwar period, the rise of Hitler and Stalin, the second world war, and the post-war division and reunification of Europe. This course does not presuppose any background in European history.

This course is designed to encourage students to pursue three objectives:

- 1) To become familiar with the most important events, people, and processes of European history in the last three centuries.
- 2) To understand the causal relationship between these events, people, and processes of European history and the problems and patterns of the contemporary world.
- 3) To develop the analytical skills necessary to understand processes of change in terms of both the experiences of individuals and the development of broader communities.

**Required books:**

Donald Kagan, Western Heritage: Brief Edition, Vol. II Since 1648 (Second edition)

Joseph Conrad, Heart of Darkness

Elizabeth Gaskell, Mary Barton

George Orwell, 1984

Voltaire, Candide

Virginia Woolf, A Room of One's Own

**Assignments:**

Exam	February 2	20%
Exam	February 23	20%
Exam	March 22	20%
Exam	April 12	20%
Final exam	May 6 (12:00) May 10 (2:00)	20%

In place of one exam grade, students may substitute an optional final essay due May 3. The essay assignment based on course readings will be made available in April.

This course is designed to encourage active learning, in which students' engagement with the material, with the instructor, and with each other is essential to the process of learning. Most of the course will be taught in a lecture format, but with ample time for questions and occasional periods of discussion. In order to understand the lectures, ask questions, and participate in the discussions, students should do the reading ahead of time, following the schedule of assignments.

Questions on exams will be taken from readings, lectures (including examples, illustrations, and topics not necessarily included in the assigned readings), discussions, and films. Attendance in all classes is very important. Excessive absences will result in missed assignments and misunderstood lesson materials.

Students are encouraged to ask questions during class, either to clarify lectures and readings or to explore connections between class materials and contemporary events. Students are also welcome to ask questions and pursue further discussion with the instructor during office hours or by email.

The instructor's website ([www.majbill.vt.edu/history/ewing/index.htm](http://www.majbill.vt.edu/history/ewing/index.htm)) has the syllabus, lecture outlines, supplemental texts used in class, and announcements. Relevant materials will be posted after each class.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic:</b>	<b>Assignments:</b>
January 17	Introduction to European History	
January 19	Old Regime	<u>Western Heritage</u> Ch. 16
January 21	Europe and the World	<u>Western Heritage</u> Ch. 17
January 24	The Age of Enlightenment	<u>Western Heritage</u> Ch. 18
January 26	Critics of Absolutism	Voltaire, <u>Candide</u>
January 28	Power of Monarchy	
January 31	French Revolution	<u>Western Heritage</u> Ch. 19
February 2	<b>Exam</b>	
February 4	No Class	
February 7	Rise of Napoleon	<u>Western Heritage</u> Ch. 20
February 9	Europe at War	<u>Western Heritage</u> Ch. 21
February 11	Restoration	<u>Western Heritage</u> Ch. 22
February 14	Industrial Revolution	Gaskell, <u>Mary Barton</u>
February 16	Rise of Nation-States	
February 18	Classes in Conflict	Film: <u>Germinal</u> (1936)
February 21	Bismarck's Germany	<u>Western Heritage</u> Ch. 23
February 23	<b>Exam</b>	
February 25	No Class	
February 28	European Powers	<u>Western Heritage</u> Ch. 24
March 1	Imperialism	Conrad, <u>Heart of Darkness</u>
March 3	Age of Uncertainty	<u>Western Heritage</u> Ch. 25

March 6	Search for Peace	
March 8	Great War	<u>Western Heritage</u> Ch. 26
March 10	Russian Revolution	
March 20	1918	Film: <u>All Quiet on the Western Front</u> (2973)
March 22	<b>Exam</b>	
March 24	No class	
March 27	In Search of Stability	<u>Western Heritage</u> Ch. 27
March 29	New Women	Woolf, <u>A Room of One's Own</u>
March 31	Great Depression	<u>Western Heritage</u> Ch. 28
April 3	Stalin's Revolution from Above	
April 5	Hitler and Nazism	Film: <u>Master Race</u> (6085)
April 7	Dictatorships in Power	
April 10	Confronting Fascism	Film: <u>Olympia</u> (848/3353)
April 12	<b>Exam</b>	
April 14	No Class	
April 17	Responses to Aggression	<u>Western Heritage</u> Ch. 29
April 19	Total War	Film: <u>Stalingrad</u> (1305)
April 21	Holocaust	
April 24	Post-war Settlements	<u>Western Heritage</u> Ch. 30
April 26	Totalitarianism	Orwell, <u>1984</u>
April 28	Cold War	Film: <u>Cold War: Red Spring</u> (6366)
May 1	A Divided Continent	<u>Western Heritage</u> Ch. 31
May 3	Reunification	
May 6/May 10	<b>Final Exam</b>	