History 105-History of Western Civilization—Part 1
(1300-1815) Online Version

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This course will focus on a formative period in the history of Western civilization. While the course will include information on the origins and social development of a variety of world cultures including the United States, the main focus of this class will be on Western Europe. This is necessary in the sense that the pillars of what we now call “Western Civilization” originated in Western Europe.

Over the last seven centuries, Europe itself was transformed. A society that was largely agrarian and parochial became industrial, urban, cosmopolitan and quintessentially modern. While the nineteenth and twentieth centuries would usher in many of the more easily quantifiable changes and would witness much of the spread of Europeans conceived of and understood their world. Knowledge of this critical intellectual transformation, (which will be referred to in class as “the Great Shift”) and of the political, economic, cultural, and social forces that helped shape it, is crucial to a better understanding of the modern world that European-inspired change shaped.

Doane College’s mission is to provide an exceptional liberal arts education in creative, inclusive, and collaborative community where faculty and staff work closely with undergraduate and graduate students—preparing them for lives rooted in intellectual inquiry, ethical values, and a commitment to engage as leaders and responsible citizens in the world.

This course encompasses the following Doane Plan outcomes:

1. An understanding of the origins, development, values, and distinctive qualities of our collective heritage.
2. An understanding of the nature and effects of economic, political, psychological, and social forces.
3. An understanding of the values, traditions, behaviors, and philosophical foundations of diverse national and international cultures.
4. The ability to read, write, speak, listen, and interpret meanings effectively.

This course also fulfills the UGC in Search of Meaning and Values Requirement through the following means:

Through the study of the aforementioned Great Shift phenomenon, students will consider the transformation of human values during the development of Western Civilization and thereby consider the importance and significance of what it means to be human. In discussions as well as through activities (such as the Decoding Dante Bonus Points Challenge) at a number of points in the course (example—the development of humanistic values during the Renaissance), students will consider ways that humans have used to come to understand the meaning of existence. Additionally, through in-class activities and graded assignments dealing with such materials as the film The Return of Martin Guerre and the writings of Jean Jacques Rousseau students will evaluate the philosophical or spiritual implications of human actions.
Required Texts:


All texts are available at Doane College’s Bookstore.

Grading and Course Requirements:

Assignments, and Participation—25%

First exam—35%

Final exam—40%

Course Policies

Exams will be composed of multiple choice, matching, and essay questions. Review packets will be available prior to each exam.

Any case of academic dishonesty [please refer to the Academic Integrity section of the *Doane College Student Handbook* for an explanation of the various forms of academic dishonesty] will be dealt with as follows: the student or students in question will receive a numerical score of 0 (lowest possible F) for the assignment in question. Repeat offenders will be referred to the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and will face further sanctions up to and including expulsion.

Class grading will be on a converted 100-point scale: 97(A+), 92(A), 90(A-), 87(B+), 82(B), 80(B-), 77(C+), 72(C), 67-71(C-), 60-66(D), 0-59(F). Students with disabilities are invited to contact the instructor to discuss their particular needs.

Course Outline:

Week 1 –Introduction Europe to the 14th century. Dante (online version as assigned)

--Kagan, Ch.9; Wars, Plagues, and Schisms

Week 2 –Kagan, Ch.10; Dante, 160-274. Italian Decline and Spain’s New World Empire.

--Kagan, Ch.11; Dante, 274-Finish. Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation.

**ASSIGNMENT ONE DUE !**

Week 3—Kagan, Ch.12; The Age of Religious Wars.

Week 4—First Exam review First Exam

Week 5—Kagan, Ch.13; Political evolution of the English and French Monarchies.

Week 6 Kagan, Ch.15; Assignment Two Due. Great Power Rivalries.

--Kagan, Ch.16; Life under the Old Regime

Week 7 Kagan, Ch.17; Clash of Empires: Britain, France and the Birth of the Untied States of America.

--Kagan, Ch.18; The Age of Enlightenment. Kagan, Ch.19 (begin); The Damn Breaks: The French Revolution.

Week 8—Kagan Ch.19 (finish) and Ch.20 (first half); Final Review.

Final Exam