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 European influence beyond the continent of Europe, the 1300-1815 period is notable for a no less important intellectual transformation that revolutionized the way that 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 a 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. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the origins, development, values, and distinctive qualities of our collective heritage.
2. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the nature and effects of economic, political, psychological, and social forces.
3. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the values, traditions, behaviors, and philosophical foundations of diverse national and international cultures.
4. The student will demonstrate the ability to read, write, speak, listen, and interpret meanings effectively.

Required Texts:

Books below are available free online:
Dante Aligheri, *Inferno*
Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract*

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 sessions will be held prior to each exam. Two short essay participation assignments and grades for attendance will round out your grading experiences. All written work will be graded and available to students within one week of the date that it was turned in.

Late or missed tests or participation assignments may be made up with no penalty if prior notification was received by the instructor and there was a legitimate reason for the lateness. Failure to notify the instructor previously and/or lack of a legitimate excuse will subject the student to a 0.5 (one-half grade level) to a 1.0 (one grade level penalty) at the instructor’s discretion. Failure, without notification and/or a legitimate excuse, to do an exam or assignment within one week will result in the student in question receiving a 0 score (lowest possible F) for that exam or assignment.

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 – Kagan, Ch. 9; Wars, Plagues, and Schisms, Dante to 101-160.
Week 2 – Kagan, Chs 10-11; Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation. 
ASSIGNMENT ONE DUE.

Week 3 – Kagan, Ch. 12; The Age of Religious Wars. First Exam Review
Week 4 – FILM: THE RETURN OF MARTIN GUERRE. First Exam
Week 6 – Kagan, Ch. 15; Rousseau to 96. Beginnings of the Great Shift Assignment Two Due.
Week 7 – Kagan, Chs. 16-18; Life under the Old Regime. Final Exam review Second Exam