

TRENT UNIVERSITY – TRENT IN OSHAWA
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

HIST 1201H: Western Civilisation from the Middle Ages to 1789 - Fall 2011

Instructor: Dr. Frances Timbers

Email: ftimbers@gmail.com

Office Hours: before and after class

Lectures: Friday 11:10 am – 1:00 pm (Room 125)

Tutorial A: - 10:10 am – 11:00 am

Tutorial B: - 1:10 – 2:00 pm (Room 106)

Course Goals

This course is a broad overview of the political, intellectual, social, and cultural history of western Europe from the high middle ages to the end of the 18th century. It is designed to give the student a better understanding of the roots and origins of the present-day West that have shaped today's current Western world. In addition to becoming familiar with the general tools for the study of history, students will develop the basic skills of historical writing and research. Through the analysis of historical documents, students will be introduced to different methodologies, interpretations, and approaches to history. Seminar discussions are designed to build speaking and presentation skills and help the student to formulate a logical argument.

Required Texts:

John Merriman, *A History of Modern Europe: From the Renaissance to the Age of Napoleon*, Volume 1, Third ed. (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2009). ISBN 978-0-393-93384-0
Previous editions are acceptable, just adjust the pages as necessary.

If you are taking HIST1202, there is a single volume that covers the Renaissance to the present. Tutorial Readings will be posted on WebCT. Please print these off and bring them to class. And by the way, don't forget to read them! You cannot effectively discuss these documents from your laptop. In fact, laptops are best left out of seminars. We are there to discuss and exchange ideas.

MyLearning System (WebCT)

Seminar readings, discussion questions, Power Point presentations, and guidelines for assignments will be posted on Trent's MyLearning System (WebCT). Other helpful information will also be available there such as writing guidelines. It is your responsibility to make yourself familiar with the site.

Evaluation Criteria

Tutorial & Lecture Participation	10%
1% per tutorial will be given for handing in a précis of that week's readings	10%
Journal Article Review (3-4 pages), Due September 30th	15%
Proposal & Annotated Bibliography, Due October 14 th	5%
Research Essay (7-8 pages), Due November 18th	30%
Final Exam in exam period (2 hours)	30%

Deadline Policy

Assignments are due in lecture. Late assignments will be penalised 3% per day for a maximum of 10 days, including Saturdays and Sundays. Assignments will NOT be accepted after 10 days. A doctor's note is required for medical excuses.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty, which includes plagiarism and cheating, is an extremely serious academic offence and carries penalties varying from a 0 grade on an assignment to expulsion from the University. Definitions, penalties, and procedures for dealing with plagiarism and cheating are set out in Trent University's *Academic Integrity Policy*. You have a responsibility to educate yourself – unfamiliarity with the policy is not an excuse. You are strongly encouraged to visit Trent's Academic Integrity website to learn more – www.trentu.ca/academicintegrity.

Access to Instruction

It is Trent University's intent to create an inclusive learning environment. If a student has a disability and/or health consideration and feels that he/she may need accommodations to succeed in this course, the student should contact the Disability Services Office (the DSO office in Oshawa is Room 111, 905-435-5100 disabilityservices@trentu.ca) as soon as possible. Complete text can be found under Access to Instruction in the Academic Calendar.

Lecture Schedule

You are expected to be an active participant in lecture rather than a passive audience member. You are expected to be familiar with the reading material for lectures and to be prepared to answer the discussion questions, which will be posted on MyLearning System. All readings are from the Merriman textbook unless otherwise noted.

September 9: Introduction; Ancient Foundations

September 16: Medieval Legacies, Read Chapter 1, pp. 3-31

September 23: Religion in the Middle Ages, Chapter 1, pp. 7-9, 16-18, Chapter 3, pp. 85-90

September 30: The Renaissance, Read all of Chapter 2 and Chapter 3, pp.80-85

October 7: The New World, Read Chapter 1, pp. 31-43, Chapter 5, pp. 166-74 and 195-98

October 14: The Reformations, Read Chapter 3, pp. 90-125

October 21: The Wars of Religion, Read all of Chapter 4 and Chapter 6, pp. 208-226

October 28: No classes – reading week

November 4: Heretics and other ‘Others’

Alison Rowlands, “Telling Witchcraft stories: New Perspectives on Witchcraft and Witches in the Early Modern Period,” *Gender & History* 10:2 (Aug. 1998): 294-302; Kenneth R. Stow, “The Papacy and the Jews: Catholic Reformation and Beyond,” *Jewish History*, Vol. 6, No. 1/2, The Frank Talmage Memorial Volume (1992): 257-279.

November 11: The Rise of the State/ Atlantic Economy, Read Chapter 5 and Chapter 6, pp. 226-241

November 18: Absolutism and the Ancien Regime, Read Chapter 7 and Chapter 12, pp. 436-440

November 25: The so-called Scientific Revolution, Read Chapter 8

December 2: The Enlightenment, Read Chapter 9

Tutorial Schedule

Readings for the seminars are posted on WebCT. You are expected to read these primary source documents analytically, print them off and bring them to class. Come prepared to discuss and question the readings. Just showing up in class will NOT garner you a good grade.

Tutorial 1, September 23: Why the ‘Dark Ages’ weren’t so dark.

Tutorial 2, September 30: The Cult of Christianity

Tutorial 3, October 7: What is Humanism?

Tutorial 4, October 14: New Discoveries

Tutorial 5, October 21: A Crack in the Edifice of Theology

October 28: Reading Week

Tutorial 6, November 4: Can war be ‘religious’?

Read: James K. Wellman, Jr. and Kyoko Tokuno, “Is Religious Violence Inevitable?” *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 43:3 (Sept 2004): 291-296.

Tutorial 7, November 11: The Construction of the ‘Other’

Tutorial 8, November 18: Early Colonialism

Tutorial 9, November 25: Political Theories: From Machiavelli to Hobbes

December 2: No Tutorial