HIST 4335-001 An Age of Revolutions: Europe in 1700- 1918

Fall 2025

Instructor Contact

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**Pronouns: she**

**Office Location: WH 237**

**Phone Number:**

**Office Hours: Every Friday 12-1 pm via Zoom (see link in the Zoom tab)**

Course schedule overview (tentative)

For details, refer to the Week module.

**Week 1.** Introduction. The world in the 1700s. Launching Modernity. The Age of Absolutism.

* Mini-essay on Nicola Machiavelli, *The Prince* (SWT).

**Week 2.** Social and Economic Change in the 18 cent. Agrarian Revolution. The beginning of the Industrial Revolution. England.

* Mini-essay on Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations* (SWT).

**Week 3.** Revolution in Minds: The Enlightenment.

* **Discussion**

**Week 4.** Causes of the French Revolution.

**Week 5.** The French Revolution.  Revolutionary culture. Everyday life.

**Week 6.** Napoleon. The Empire. Expansion and Defeat. The Congress of Vienna.

**Week 7.** Ideas and Ideologies. Conservatism.  Romanticism.The Persistence of Revolution. 1815-1830.The Counterrevolution in Russia.

**Week 8.** The Persistence of Revolution. 1815-1830.

 J. Habermas on the [Public sphere Links to an external site.](https://inpropriapersona.com/articles/jurgen-habermas-on-the-public-and-private-spheres/)

**MIDTERM:** Week 8.

**Week 9.** Industrial Revolution.

**Week 10.**Ideas and ideologies. Liberalism.  Socialism. Nationalism. Unification of Italy and Germany. Crimean War.

**Week 11.** The Revolutions of 1848. Nationalism. Unification of Italy and Germany. Crimean War. Reforms in Russia

**Week 12.**   Imperialism. European World hegemony. Mass politics. Darwinism

Correction: on Slide 10 on PPT Darvinism and Imp read "Merriman, p. 827".

**Week 13.**   Challenges of Modernity.  Modernism.

* **Discussion**: Chamberlain, Hobson, Dostoevsky, Nietzsche, Freud, Le Bon. Questions on Canvas.

**Week 14***.* War and Revolutions: World War I. Revolutions in Russia.

**Final** exam online on Dec 11.

Course Description

Why revolution is impossible to predict? The course examines the theory and mechanism of revolutions in the context of European political, social, economic, and cultural developments from the Old Regime in the 18th century France to the Russian revolution of 1917. Topics include the agrarian and industrial revolutions, the Enlightenment as intellectual revolution, the Great French Revolution, and European revolutions of 1830, 1848, and 1917. The course will provide a survey of key events and processes of social change while emphasizing the origins of ideologies such as nationalism, socialism, liberalism, and conservatism. We’ll study the cultural context of the revolutions and how they affected the everyday lives of people. We’ll read and discuss the most important primary sources – the documents and works that still comprise the foundation of Western civilization: Machiavelli, Adam Smith, Lock, Voltaire, Rousseau, Marx, Nietzsche, Freud, and Le Bon.

Course Objectives

In this course, you will learn about European history in the crucial period of the 18th and 19th centuries when the foundations of Western civilization were built.

You will be able to:

* develop *historical* thinking: recognize a range of viewpoints, compare competing *historical* narratives, challenge arguments of *historical* inevitability, and analyze the cause and effect of relationships, and multiple causations.
* analyze the primary sources of classical authors: Machiavelli, Lock, Voltaire, Nietzsche, and others, i.e. to describe their biases and situate them in a historical context.
* support an interpretation with *historical* evidence from a variety of primary and secondary sources
* apply knowledge to interpret modern politics, culture, and economy
* see current and historical events and personalities from a broad perspective