

Course Title	: INTRODUCTION TO EUROPEAN HISTORY
Course Code	: HST1114
No. of Credits/Term	: 3
Mode of Tuition	: Sectional
Class Contact Hours	: 3 hours per week
Category in Major Prog.	: Elective
Prerequisites	: None
Co-requisites	: None
Exclusions	: None
Exemption Requirement(s)	: None

Brief Course Description

This course is an introduction to the history of Europe from the earliest times to the present.

Aims

The objective of the course is to help students understand the historical formation of Europe, and its later impact on world history.

Learning Outcomes

Through taking this course, students should

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the broad outline of European history with an emphasis on the period before the twentieth century;
2. Demonstrate an understanding of historical causation;
3. Demonstrate the ability to understand and analyze difficult primary sources within their historical context;
4. Demonstrate the ability to discuss primary and secondary texts orally;
5. Demonstrate the ability to write a clear and well-organized essay.

Indicative Content

- I. Introduction
 - A. Introduction and course description
 - B. Origins: civilization, migrations, gods, and empires
- II. Antiquity
 - A. The making of classic Greece
 - B. The Hellenistic synthesis
 - C. The Roman Republic
 - D. The Roman Empire and the Pax Romana
 - E. Early Christianity
- III. Medieval Europe
 - A. Germanic civilization and the origins of feudalism
 - B. The medieval state
 - C. The Byzantine and Islamic worlds
 - D. The culture and civilization of the high middle ages
- IV. On the cusp of Modernity
 - A. The Renaissance
 - B. The age of discovery
 - C. The Reformation
 - D. Absolutism

- E. The Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment
- V. Modernity and the Ascendancy of Europe
 - A. The Industrial Revolution
 - B. The Age of Revolution
 - C. Nationalism and Nation-building
 - D. Europe's "New Imperialism"
 - E. Twentieth-century Europe: "Decline and Renewal"

Teaching Method

Lectures, supplemented by readings, are designed to provide students with a big picture of the human experience.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

- a) A mid-term test and a final examination testing understanding of the broad outline of European history;
- b) An essay in which students analyze one or more scholarly historical work;
- c) Regular class discussions that focus on primary sources within the context of the broad outline of European history.

Assessment

Students are expected to keep up with all assignments, and come prepared for each lecture. Two exams and one essay/book review are required.

Class Attendance and Participation: 10%

Midterm: 25%

Course Paper (essay or book review): 35%

Final Examination: 30%

Required Readings

Jack A. Goldstone, *Why Europe? The Rise of the West in World History 1500-1850* (McGraw Hill, 2008), 978-0072848014

Various short primary source readings.

Supplementary Readings

Anderson, Bonnie S. and Judith P. Zinsser, *A History of their Own: Women in Europe from Prehistory to the Present*. 2 vols. Rev. ed., Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.

Boxer, Marilyn J. and Jean H. Quataert, *Connecting Spheres: European Women in a Globalizing World, 1500 to the Present*. 2nd ed., Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.

Coffin, Judith G.; and Robert C. Stacey, *Western Civilizations: Brief Edition: 2 Volumes in One*. New York & London: W. W. Norton, & Co., 2006

Crosby, Alfred, *Ecological Imperialism: The Biological Expansion of Europe, 900-1900*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 1986.

Curtin, Philip D. *The World and the West: the European Challenge and the Overseas Response in the Age of Empire*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.

Diamond, Jared, *Guns, Germs and Steel: the Fates of Human Societies*, New York, W. W. Norton & Company, c. 1997.

Kennedy, Paul M. *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers: Economy Change and Military Conflict from 1500 to 2000*, New York: Random House 1987.

Landes, David S., *Revolution in Time: Clocks and the Making of the Modern World*, Revised ed., Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2000.

Landes, David S., *The Unbound Prometheus: Technological Change and Industrial Development in Western Europe from 1750 to the Present*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1969.

Marks, Robert B., *The Origins of the Modern World: A Global and Ecological Narrative from the Fifteenth to the Twenty-First Century*. 2nd ed, Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2007.

McNeill, William, *The Pursuit of Power: Technology Armed Force and Society Since A.D. 1000*, Reprint edition, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1994.

McNeill, William, *The Rise of the West: A History of the Human Community*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992.

Roberts, J. M., *The Penguin History of Europe*, London: Penguin, 1997

Stearns, Peter, *The Industrial Revolution in World History*, Boulder: Westview Press, 1993.

Stearns, Peter, *Life and Society in the West: the Modern Centuries*, San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1988.

Important Notes:

(1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.

(2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.

(3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.

(4) To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.