

## **Course Syllabus: Fall 2019**

**History 3303: 001/MC1 Europe 1648-1815**

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**Office Hours: Monday-Wednesday 10:00-10:45/Tuesday-Thursday 10:00-10:45/1:15-2:00**

**Office Hours can also be set with an appointment**

### **Course Objectives**

The objective of this course is to examine and interpret the history of Europe in a critical era that bridges the late Renaissance and Reformation era (1400-1517-1648) with the modern era; what some historians oftentimes refer to as “the early modern era.” This is an incredible era of transformation and revolutionary upheaval in areas as wide ranging as demographics, society, culture, politics, geo-politics, religion, trade, manufacturing and commerce, technology and more. The era begins with the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648 which formally ends the Thirty-Years War or “Wars of Religion” and gives birth to the notion of the modern nation-state and the era ends with the French Revolution and Napoleonic Wars and the early nineteenth-century.

One of the core themes of this era is the transition from universalist-based identities and political and economic structures (empires, and universalist religions) to the emergence of the post-Westphalian concept of the nation-state. It is through the prism of the rise of nation-states that we will examine the emergence of early modern Europe. Within this core transformation of the rise of nation-states are many other core concepts and developments such as the rise of absolutism (France and Russia), the enlightenment and the formation of modern political ideologies, Europe as a global commercial and military force (the Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch, French, and English), the industrial revolution (England), and the revolutionary forces unleashed by such forces (the American, French Revolutions, and Latin American) that swept away the old order and gave birth to a new revolutionary-republican age. Although this course’s main-focus is Europe, we will also examine the Ottoman (Turkish) Empire as it began its long-term decline in terms of geo-political-economic power visa-vi- a dramatically transforming Europe.

### **Course Requirements**

There are a number of requirements for this course.

1. Regular and punctual attendance
2. No-cell-phones-this is a distance education course so in addition to being rude and disrespectful to the class by using cell-phones or texting, the use of such devices interferes with the communication between Alpine and Midland.
3. Four exams worth 100 points each. At the end of the course I will add all four of your exams and divide them by four and that will constitute your grade—The final exam is mandatory—no exceptions will be made. It covers the American, French, and Latin American Revolutions and Wars for Independence and this is a vital subject for modern Americans and therefore it will be

required. Each exam will consist of three essays and one essay draw directly from the text—so four essay questions per exam. All exams are mandatory. No exceptions.

4. Respect and toleration of any alternative views you hear in class that you may not agree with; we live in a nation that is much more politically and culturally polarized than any time since the 1860s and 1960s and I think we should learn to respect and tolerate ideas and viewpoints that others may share—even if we disagree with them, for the sake of our Republic and for a classroom experience that we can all mutually benefit from. In the words of one of the great thinkers of the enlightenment (Francois Voltaire) who we will examine in class “I may not agree with what you say but I will fight for your right to say it).

### **Course Readings**

Tim Blanning, *The Pursuit of Glory: The Five Revolutions That Made Modern Europe 1648-1815*, Penguin Books 2007, ISBN # 978-0-14-311389-8.

The book is available in the Sul Ross bookstore.

### **The Americans with Disabilities Act:**

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartze in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-171, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone 432-837-8203.

These competency variables will be assessed through multiple choice questions, essay questions short answers and assigned readings.

### **Course Outline**

**Aug. 27-introduction to course, The Thirty Years War and the Treaty of Westphalia**

**Aug. 29-The Renaissance and Scientific Revolution**

**Sept. 03-Spain and the Spanish Empire**

**Sept. 05-the Dutch**

**Sept. 10-France**

**Sept. 12-France**

**Sept. 17-England**

**Sept. 19-England**

**Sept. 24-England**

**Sept. 26-Exam # 1 (Exam # 1 covers the lecture material and Part One in the textbook)**

**Oct. 01-Eastern Europe**

**Oct. 03-Russia**

**Oct. 08-Russia**

**Oct. 10-the Ottomans**

**Oct. 15-the Ottomans**

**Oct. 17--Exam # 2 (covers the lecture material and Part Two in the textbook)**

**Oct. 22-the Industrial Revolution**

**Oct. 24-the Industrial Revolution**

**Oct. 29-Britain in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century**

**Oct. 31-Britain's Empire**

**Nov. 05-New Political Ideas**

**Nov. 07- Exam # 3 (covers the lecture material and Part Three in the textbook)**

**Nov. 12- the Enlightenment**

**Nov. 14-the American Revolution**

**November 15-The French Revolution-last day to withdraw from course with the grade of a W.**

**Nov. 19-The French Revolution**

**Nov. 21-The Napoleonic Wars**

**Nov. 26-Latin American wars of independence**

**Nov. 28-thanks giving holiday-no class**

**Dec. 03-A new Europe 1815-1830**

**Dec. 09-final exam (covers the lecture material and Part Four in the textbook)**