

History 122-650 (Honors)
Western Civilization From the 1500 to the Present
Dr. Phyllis Soybel
Spring 2009

History is indeed little more than the register of the crimes, follies, and misfortunes of mankind.

Edward Gibbon, British historian and author of *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*.

History balances the frustration of "how far we have to go" with the satisfaction of "how far we have come." It teaches us tolerance for the human shortcomings and imperfections, which are not uniquely of our generation, but of all time.

Lewis F. Powell, Jr., Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court and former Army Intelligence Officer, WWII.

Course Description: This course will explore the development of the west from the age of the Reformation to the present. We will examine the rise of the Western countries and its impact on the world. In doing so, we will explore the development of modern political, economic, social and intellectual ideas which make up the world in which we live.

Instructor Information: My office is **A153** and the direct line is **(847) 543-2543**. My Email is psoybel@clcillinois.edu.

My office hours are below:

Monday and Wednesday: 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. ; 2:15-3:15 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday: 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Sunday (Online): 9:30-11:30

There will also be revolving office hours in the evenings. These are TBD through out the semester. They will be announced in class or on Blackboard. These are the hours I am guaranteed to be in my office or online, unless a last minute meeting is scheduled. I will try to let you know if I will not be in my office due to meetings. If the scheduled hours conflict with classes, appointments can be scheduled.

Books:

Levack, , 2nd Ed. Pearson Education, 2008

Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

There will be handouts and internet-available readings as well for which you will be responsible. These will be available on the Blackboard page for this class. The URL for Blackboard, <http://clc.blackboard.com> . In addition, the PowerPoints shown in class are available on Blackboard as well. These PowerPoints are really outlines will pictures and as such cannot substitute for class lecture or the textbook. They will however allow you to see what the topic is for the day's lecture.

Course Work:

Two Exams. 20% each (40% of final grade)

Two Papers. 20% each (40% of final grade)

Participation/attendance. (20% of final grade) Before you dismiss this, keep in mind that 10% equals one letter grade. Thus, a zero will bring your grade down one letter. While I understand that life can interrupt school, it is an expectation that you will be in class unless you are sick (no use getting other people sick as well), you've been stopped by a cop (speeding to get to class is admirable, but can get you into trouble), there's a death in the family (sorry for your loss.... And it includes the immediate death of a pet), or you are stuck in an airport in Missoula, Montana. (Why did you ever think that this would be a Spring Break hotspot?). On the other hand, consider that if you are at a 88% for your exams and papers, 10% could be the difference between a B and an A going the good way.

Course Expectations:

The expectations I have are really very simple. You should take seriously every subject you study. Besides, you never know when you might be on *Jeopardy*. Seriously, the following are expectations concerning conduct and behavior, as well as late policy and plagiarism. While the bulk of material is delivered through lecture, I expect discussion and a lively exchange of ideas. Occasionally, we will go off on tangents, but even tangents can bring about learning. I truly believe in the notion that active participation promotes learning.

Attendance: You are expected to come to class and to participate in class discussions and to ask questions.

Discussion: I hope that you will engage not only yourself in the material, but to hopefully engage your fellow students. In order to do so, I expect that you will come to class prepared, having read the material for the week. Perhaps, after reading the text or the secondary readings, you will prepare some questions or comments which the reading has fostered. Contrary to popular opinion, history is not a spectator sport. We are all participating in its making. If we think in this mode, then hopefully reading the primary source documents of the previous civilizations in whose footsteps we follow will make greater sense.

Keep up with assignments: Trying to do it all the night before a paper is due or the test is to be taken will only guarantee a sleepless night, headaches; it will not guarantee you a good grade. Instead, keeping up with the reading will give you a basis for understanding the lectures and the broader picture. In addition, one could apply the old adage: slow and steady wins the race; or, in this case, gets a better grade. Studies show that cramming is an ineffective way of learning. Just ask any Psychology professor about short term memory and its limitations.

If you will be absent due to illness or family emergency, particularly the day a paper is due, you are still expected to pass the paper in on time via email or fax. My fax information and Email is listed above under Professor information. Should you not have access to email, you must inform me the day a paper is due that you are absent due to illness and when you expect to have the paper in. A penalty will still be assessed. Late papers will be accepted only to the next scheduled class period and will be assessed a full letter grade penalty. Exams and Pop quizzes cannot be made up **unless** you have a doctor's note, a traffic ticket, or other suitable documentation.

Cell Phones and Pagers: As we become more connected to the world around us and increasingly informal with each other, it has become easier to forget basic common courtesy, **cell phones** and **paggers** must be silenced and placed in book bags/backpacks, purses, or coat pockets before you come into class. With no exception, answering your cell

phone during class is disruptive to both your instructor and to your classmates. Such behavior is also disrespectful. However, should you be expecting a phone call which is addressing a serious situation (i.e. waiting on a doctor's phone call), please notify me prior to class, place your phone on vibrate, sit close to the door and step out of the classroom to take the call should you receive it during the class period. Arriving late to class or leaving before class is over is equally disturbing and disrespectful. This should not have to be said, but unfortunately this has happened. Thus, such tardiness, etc will be noted and will go into your attendance and participation grade. Don't assume that because I don't talk to you about it that I do not care about it. My exams are often based on my lectures with the book as supplement in some cases. However, there may be book-only questions. Thus, attending class is essential as is reading the textbook. **Laptops:** this is a new one. I believe that we all take notes in a fashion which suits our study needs. If you were to look at my notes, I tend to develop abbreviations for many things. I don't have an issue when students are using laptops to make their note taking more efficient. I DO have a problem when students use their laptops to Instant Message friends, surf the internet or do homework from other classes. I would remind you that using a laptop is not a given right, but a privilege. Many instructors prohibit its use. Thus my policy is that laptops are allowed as long as you are taking notes for this class. Occasionally, students have also looked for a date or name I have forgotten. This too is acceptable as it is related to the work we are doing in class. However, should you be discovered using the laptop for non-history purposes, you will no longer be allowed to use a laptop in this class. In other words, you will lose the **privilege** of its use. You may wonder why this is such an issue with me; I feel that your attention should be squarely placed on the subject matter at hand during class. We all occasionally disappear into our heads, but when you text on your cell phone, surf the internet, do homework for another class you are cheating yourself out of an education that you are paying for. In addition, it is, as said above, incredibly disrespectful to the instructor (me in this case) AND to your fellow classmates. I try and make history come alive and make it interesting to learn, but, as a student, you must be willing to learn, to pay attention, and to participate. None of which you can do if you are IMing your BFF about the cute guy/girl you saw in Lancers that morning. You can also think of it as a life skill. Imagine that you are at work and you are texting your significant other as your boss is trying to talk to you about a project, etc&. I wonder how long you will have that job.

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class, and work which is plagiarized or not of your own doing will receive a failing grade and may involve further action on the part of the college, up to and including reporting the infraction to the Vice-President of Student Affairs. **Cheating** should need no explanation. My exams are essay driven, whether short paragraph or long essay. While it is not easy to cheat, you may be tempted to take short cuts. Don't! Any student caught cheating on an exam or quiz will receive an F for the first violation. Should you be tempted to try it again and do, it will be reported to the Vice President of Student Development, Ms. Darl Drummond. **Plagiarism** is the intentional use of someone else's words, thoughts, or ideas without giving the source proper and due credit, such as through the use of citation or footnote, as well as bibliographic notation. I will do my best to make you aware of how to avoid **plagiarizing**, but it is up to you to actually make the commitment. The rule on **plagiarism** is applicable to **ALL** written work you hand in. One way to avoid **plagiarism** is to footnote (or use parenthetical citations) in all your written work for this or any social science class. Failure to provide such

will result in an F on the first assignment and failure in the class if it happens again as well as a report to the Vice-President for Student Development.

There is a method of citation used in all historical work. Called Turabian, it was developed out of the *University of Chicago Manual of Style*. It is this method you will utilize in all written work submitted for grade. We will discuss this within the first two weeks of classes so that you are aware of how it is done. Before you start to complain, I want you to think about how important adaptability is for both school and for the work place. As you go on to any four year college or University, each discipline has its own method of citation or accountability; learning to adapt now will save you immeasurable headache down the road.

College Information:

The Last Day to Withdraw is April 8, 2009. The instructor strictly adheres to the college's policy concerning requests to withdraw from classes after the deadline. Unless there is a medical emergency which arises after the date to withdraw, please make sure you follow all the steps and withdraw from the class, as failure to do so will result in a failing grade on the final grade rosters. An incomplete is an option **only** under extenuating circumstances; and, if the student is passing the course at the time of the request. It would only be done after consultation between the instructor and the student. Do not assume that it is not a given.

Students with disabilities: If you are a student with a documented disability and may need academic accommodations, such as extended time for exams and/or an in-class note taker, please present documentation to the Office for Students with Disabilities in L112 at the Grayslake Campus. To schedule an appointment, please call (847) 543-2474. If you have already contacted the Office for Students with Disabilities and have completed the **Instructor Notification Form.**, please schedule a time to meet with me.

FYI: During the term, the OSD needs one or more weeks to complete the turnaround for exams to be taken in the testing center. However, for the final exam, please make sure that you request accommodation from the OSD three or more weeks ahead of time. As soon as I have the specific date by which you need to request accommodation, I will inform the class as a whole.

Important Dates to Remember:

First Day of Class: January 20, 2009

Last Day to Withdraw without penalty and with refund: February 5, 2009

Last day to Withdraw with a grade of W: April 8, 2009

Final Exam: May 12, 2009 at 10:00-11:50 p.m.

Schedule of Readings and Discussion: It is my intention to keep to this schedule, but we may fall behind due to good class discussion. Therefore, this schedule may be subject to change as we progress through the semester. In addition, the readings list is incomplete. I will be adding to it as the semester progresses.

January 20: The Reformation

External Links: Reformation Readings. (The Protestant Reformation and the Counter Reformation); Luther: A Letter to the Christian Nobility (of Germany)

January 27: France as Standard: Absolutism

Levack, Chapter 15

External Link: Duc de St. Simon, The Court of Louis XIV; Bossuet: On Kingship (Folder; Absolutism)

February 3: England as Exception: The Development of Constitutionalism

Levack, Chapter 15

External Link: Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan; John Locke, Treatise on Civil Government. (Folder: Hobbes. Locke and Rousseau)

February 10: The Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment

Levack, Chapter 16, 17, 18

External Link: Galileo Folder

February 17: The French Revolution

Levack, Chapter 19

External Link: Arthur Young, Travels in France; Abbe de Sieyes, "What is the Third Estate?"; Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen

February 24: Napoleon

Levack, Chapter 19

External Link: TBP (To Be Posted)

March 3: The Industrial Revolution

Levack, Chapter 20

External Link: Folder: Industrial Revolution

March 10: Reaction, Romance and Revolution

Levack, Chapter 21

External Link:

March 17: 19th Century Life

Levack, Chapter 22
External Link: TBP

March 24: The Late 19th Century
Levack, Chapter 23
External Link: TBP

March 31: Spring Break

April 7: World War I and the Russian Revolution
Levack, Chapter 24
External Link: WWI Folder

April 14: The Interwar Period
Levack, Chapter 25

April 21: The Rise of the Dictators
Levack, Chapter 25
External Link: Benito Mussolini, "What is Fascism, NSDAP, "25 Point Program";
"Nuremburg Laws"

April 28: WWII
Levack, Chapter 26
External Links: TBP

May 5: 1950-Present
Levack, Chapter 27-28
External Links: TBP

May 12: Final Exam, 12:30-2:20 (A156)