

HIST 007 Europe I

Instructor: Michael Polczyński
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Course Description

This course will examine European history from 800-1800, during which time the peoples of Europe gained essential traits that continue to inform modern identities and processes around the globe today. Social, cultural, political, intellectual, economic, and religious themes will be addressed. This course also aims to help students think historically and understand the process of historical reasoning and analysis. Lecture material and assigned readings of both primary and secondary material will allow students to discuss and analyze questions related to the creation of historical narrative.

Course-level learning objectives

Engaged students who complete all course material, participate actively in discussions, and complete all readings and written assignments will improve their abilities to:

1. Engage and access pre-modern modes of thought and circumscription that will, in turn, allow them to appreciate and understand places, peoples, and cultures of various eras and regions apart from their own.
2. Think critically about history, not as a collection of self-evident facts, but as the interpretation, based on evidence, of human experiences, interactions, and relationships as they change over time.
3. Identify and evaluate primary sources, use them critically as evidence to build historical interpretations, and engage critically with secondary source material.
4. Write critically and thoughtfully on a variety of subjects.

Assignments

This is an online course managed through Canvas. All students will be given course material and accompanying assignments due at certain times throughout the week. Students are free to work on and complete these assignments at any time within the constraints of each particular due date and time.

Grading

<u>Grading Breakdown</u>		<u>Grading Scale</u>	
Participation:	%	A = 100 – 93	C = 76 – 73
Response Papers:	%	A- = 92 – 90	C- = 72 – 70
Final	%	B+ = 89 – 87	D+ = 69 – 67
Research Paper	%	B = 86 – 83	D = 66 – 60
		B- = 82 – 80	F = below 59
		C+ = 79 – 77	

Course Policies

Academic Integrity. As per the Georgetown Honor Pledge, students are expected to demonstrate academic integrity in all aspects of the course. Plagiarism, which includes both claiming another's work as one's own and failing to attribute sources properly, will result in a formal report to the Honor Council. In addition, a student demonstrating academic dishonesty on a given assignment will receive a failing mark on the assignment and, possibly, the class. If you have questions or concerns about this issue, please consult the instructor.

Disability Accommodation. If you have a disability, please contact the Academic Resource Center (arc@georgetown.edu), which can arrange for an accommodation.

Title IX. The instructor is required by University policy to report any disclosures about sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator.

Canvas and E-mail. Students are responsible for checking their Georgetown e-mail account regularly, as well as Canvas, for updates and announcements.

Required Texts

Machiavelli, The Prince
Glückel, The Memoirs of Glückel of Hameln
Hanover, The Abyss of Despair
Hobbes, Leviathan
The Letters of Abelard and Heloise
Boccaccio, The Decameron
Christine de Pisan, The Treasure of the City of Ladies
Las Casas, A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies
Erasmus and Luther, Discourse on Free Will
The Song of Roland

Films (made available to students via Canvas)

All films will be available on Canvas through the ShareStream App.

The Seventh Seal (1957, Ingmar Bergman)

The Name of the Rose (1986, Jean-Jacques Annaud)

Aferim! (2015, Radu Jude)

The Agony and the Ecstasy (1965, Carol Reed)

Silence (2016, Martin Scorsese)

Age of Uprising: the legend of Michael Kolhaas (2013, Arnaud des Pallieres)

Colonel Wolodyjowski (1969, Jerzy Hoffmann)

Topic Outline – 8 modules (8 weeks)

Module 1 – Pushing Boundaries in the Early Middle Ages

Module Learning Goals:

In addition to a brief course introduction, this week students will focus on the question, “What is Europe?” In search of the answer we begin with an exploration of European societies during the Early Middle Ages. Our inquiry will take us all the way to the edge of Christendom as we learn about the last gasping breath of Paganism in Scandinavia and East Central Europe.

Module 2 – Crisis and Change in the Late Middle Ages

Module Learning Goals:

During the Late Middle Ages, new developments in government and warfare caused crises and change throughout Europe. Students will learn about religion and religious communities, surveying not only the Catholic and Orthodox worlds, but also the lives of Jews and Muslims living in Europe during this period.

Module 3 – Humanism and Science

Module Learning Goals:

Students will be introduced to major themes of the Renaissance as it was experienced not only in Italy and the German states but also in far reaching parts of Europe, from Lithuania, to Iberia, and from Istanbul to Ireland. The beginnings of humanistic thought will be introduced along with an exploration of new technologies and discoveries that continue to effect the world that we live in today.

Module 4 – Reformation and Counter-Reformation

Module Learning Goals:

Students will develop a deeper understanding of the effects of the Reformation and Counter-Reformation in Europe. The powerful religious, social, and political movements that emerged from this era will be tied to modern issues.

Module 5 – Early Modern Society

Politics, religion, economy and society merge to give students an understanding of family and gender in the renaissance and reformation eras.

Module 6 – Republic vs. Autocracy

The early modern period is known for the rise of Absolutist monarchies from France to Russia. It was also an age of emerging Republics that presaged modern governmental systems. This module explores the development of two regimes; French Absolutism, and Polish Republicanism.

Module 7 – The Enlightenment

Important changes in politics and economy in the eighteenth century were coupled with equally momentous changes in the daily lives of Europeans. This module will familiarize students with major issues related to the Enlightenment and the Scientific Revolution.

Module 8 - Frontiers

By the end of the pre-modern era, European Empires were pushing far beyond the boundaries of their home continent. The final module of this course will re-evaluate the notions of gender, culture, race, and the family in Europe on the cusp of the modern age.