



Instructor: Dr. Michael Połczyński  
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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 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.

### **Format and Assignments**

This online course is broken up into eight modules- one per week. Each week, students are responsible for these activities, which are all accessible through Canvas:

- Watch lectures, take notes.
- Complete readings for this module.
- Watch weekly film through ShareStream-MediaManager. **NOTE:** Some of these films contain violent scenes. You are not required to watch scenes that may you uncomfortable.
  - Respond to film by creating a 3 to 4-minute presentation on VoiceThread if it is your turn (due Wednesdays, 11:59 PM ET).
  - All students participate in online discussion forum (due Fridays, 11:59 PM ET).
  - Write 2 to 3 page double-spaced response paper based on lecture notes as well as assigned readings and film (due Sundays, 11:59 PM ET).

There will be a mid-term exam at the end of week four and a final exam at the end of the course. There will be a final exam that you can elect to take at any time on July 30<sup>th</sup> – July 31<sup>st</sup>. **Mark your calendars.**

## Grading

<u>Grading Breakdown</u>		<u>Grading Scale</u>	
VoiceThread presentation:	10%	A = 100 – 93	C = 76 – 73
Weekly film discussions:	10%	A- = 92 – 90	C- = 72 – 70
Short response papers:	25%	B+ = 89 – 87	D+ = 69 – 67
Midterm exam	25%	B = 86 – 83	D = 66 – 60
Final paper	30%	B- = 82 – 80	F = below 59
		C+ = 79 – 77	

## Assignments

### VoiceThread Presentations:

Each student is responsible for presenting on one movie during this course. Students will sign up for these movies during the Canvas orientation module. Presentations are due on Wednesdays, 11:59 PM ET. **Late work will not be accepted.** When it is your turn to create a presentation about a film with VoiceThread, you will be graded on the following:

- Offer an **analysis** of the major themes that are taken up by the film. Do **not** offer a summary.
- Pose **two thoughtful questions** that can be addressed by your fellow students in the weekly discussion. These questions should seek to connect the film to the weekly readings and lecture material in meaningful ways.
- Your VoiceThread presentation should be **3 to 4 minutes in length**. Be creative!

[Instructions for VoiceThread are available on an external website.](#)

### Weekly Film Discussions:

Every week all students (including those who create VoiceThread presentations) must take part in discussion of the assigned films. All discussion must be completed by midnight of Fridays, 11:59 PM ET. **Late work will not be accepted.** You will be graded based on the following:

- Respond to the questions posed in your classmates' VoiceThread presentation on this week's film.
- For full credit, you must respond to **all** of the posted questions.

### **Short Response Papers:**

Every week, students will write a 2 to 3-page double-spaced paper responding to a prompt given to you on Canvas. These papers are due Sundays, 11:59 PM ET. **Late work will not be accepted.** You will be graded based on how well you respond to the prompt.

### **Midterm and Final Exams**

You will have ninety (90) minutes to complete each exam. Your midterm exam will consist of three short-answer questions. Your answers should be 2-4 paragraphs each in length and must provide brief but thorough responses to the questions that are provided.

Your final exam will consist of one long-form essay question. Your response must be a full essay with an introduction, main body, and conclusion and must respond thoroughly to the question.

For both exams, you will be graded based on how well you answer the questions by integrating course material from the lectures, readings, and films that have been assigned.

### **Technical Assistance**

Posting your presentations requires the use of VoiceThread. For assistance with VoiceThread, visit the following link:

<https://voicethread.com/howto/canvas-2/>

For assistance with uploading weekly papers, visit the following link:

<https://guides.instructure.com/m/4212/1/54353?data-resolve-url=true&data-manual-id=4212>

### **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](mailto: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** – all texts are available at amazon.com.

Machiavelli, *The Prince*, [Penguin Classics].  
Glückel, *The Memoirs of Glückel of Hameln*, [Schocken Books].  
Hanover, *The Abyss of Despair*, [Transaction Publishers].  
Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, [Penguin Classics].  
Christine de Pisan, *The Treasure of the City of Ladies*, [Penguin Classics].  
Natalie Zemon Davis, *Fiction in the Archives: Pardon Tales and Their Tellers in Sixteenth-Century France*, [Stanford University Press].  
Erasmus and Luther, *Discourse on Free Will*, [Continuum].  
*The Song of Roland*, [Penguin Classics].  
*Selected letters of Alessandra Strozzi*, [University of California Press].  
Orhan Pamuk, *The White Castle* [Vintage International].

**Films** - 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 Hoffman)  
*Creation* (2009, Jon Amiel)

### **Topic Outline – 8 modules (8 weeks)**

#### **Module 1 – Pushing Boundaries in the Early Middle Ages**

Assignments:

Book: *The Song of Roland*.

Selections: *Chronicle of the Czechs* and *Gallus Anonymus* (selections).

Film: *The Seventh Seal* (1957, Ingmar Bergman).

#### **Module 2 – Crisis and Change in the Late Middle Ages**

Assignments:

Book: *The Treasure of the City of Ladies*.

Film: *The Name of the Rose* (1986, Jean-Jacques Annaud).

#### **Module 3 – Renaissance Thought**

Assignments:

Book: Natalie Zemon Davis, *Fiction in the Archives: Pardon Tales and Their Tellers in Sixteenth-Century France*

Document: Breslau Adopts the Charter of Magdeburg.

Document: Peter Mundy's Description of Danzig.

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

#### **Module 4 – Reformation and Counter-Reformation**

Assignments:

Book: *Erasmus & Luther, Discourse on Free Will.*

Document: Warsaw Confederation.

Film: *Silence* (2016, Martin Scorsese).

#### **Module 5 – Early Modern Society**

Assignments:

Book: *The Memoirs of Glückel of Hameln.*

Book: *Selected letters of Alessandra Strozzi.*

Film: *The Agony and the Ecstasy* (1965, Carol Reed).

#### **Module 6 – Republic vs. Autocracy**

Assignments:

Book: Machiavelli, *The Prince.*

Source: Polybius, On the Forms of States.

Source: Temple, William. Observations Upon the United Provinces of the Netherlands.

Film: *Colonel Wolodyjowski* (1969, Jerzy Hoffman).

#### **Module 7 – The Enlightenment**

Assignments:

Book: Rousseau, *The Social Contract.*

Film: *Creation* (2009, Jon Amiel).

#### **Module 8 - Frontiers**

Assignment:

Book: Hanover, *Abyss of Despair.*

Book: Orhan Pamuk, *The White Castle.*

Film: *Aferim!* (2015, Radu Jude).