

AP European History

Course Description

This course has three general goals, they are; (1) to provide a general understanding of the chronology of events and broad themes of modern European history from the Fifteenth Century to the present; (2) to introduce students to a range of historical interpretations (historiography), primary sources, and other tools used in the “doing of history”; (3) to develop the intellectual and academic skills necessary to effectively weigh evidence, interpret documents and reach conclusions within the structure of a variety of written exercises.

This course effectively begins with a summer reading assignment. Students are required to read The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers by Paul Kennedy and London by Edward Rutherford. Successful completion of the summer reading exam will allow for continued participation in A.P. European History. Students will then be expected to complete all subsequent readings and assignments. Emphasis will be placed upon class discussion, analytical thinking, document interpretation and the writing of historical essays and papers.

Texts and Supplemental Readings

Primary text:

Colton, Joel, R.R. Palmer A History of the Modern World 10th ed. New York, N.Y., McGraw Hill, 2007

Secondary Text: (provided for analysis)

Barr, Stringfellow, The Pilgrimage of Western Man New York, Harcourt, Brace and Co. 1949 (out of print)

Barzun, Jacque, From Dawn to Decadence: 1500 to the present, 500 years of Western Cultural Life New York, N.Y., Harper Collins, 2000

Primary Source and Document Collections:

Janson, H.W., The History of Art 5th ed. New York, Harry N. Abrams, Inc. 1995

Hughes, William, ed. Western Civilization, vol. I and vol. II, Guilford, Conn., Banta Publishing Group, 1985

Sherman, Dennis, Western Civilization: Sources, Images and Interpretations: From the Renaissance to the Present, 3rd ed., New York, McGraw Hill, 2000

Sowards, J. Kelley, Makers of Western Tradition: Portraits from History 6th ed., New York, St. Martin's Press, 1994

Papers and Assessments

There are basically four types of papers and or assessments utilized during this course, they are as follows:

- 1) multiple choice tests and quizzes (minimum of three per quarter)
- 2) formal essays (minimum of one per quarter)
- 3) Documents Based Questions (minimum of one per quarter)
- 4) Research, source based papers (one per semester)

All tests, exams and quizzes will be announced at least twenty four hours prior.

First Quarter

Unit 1: Background To Modern European History

- Topic A: Development of Feudalism in Middle Ages
- Topic B: Role of Catholic Church - Theocracy
- Topic C: Medieval Synthesis
- Topic D: “The City of God” is Breached – The Transition from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance
 - Assignment 1
 - Theme 1: The Development of Feudalism
 - Theme 2: The Role of the Church in Feudal Europe
 - Theme 3: The Symbolic Meaning of the Gothic Cathedral
 - Theme 4: The Medieval Synthesis
 - Text reading: The Rise of Europe: Palmer & Colton Chapter 1
 - Analysis reading: The City Of God: Stringfellow Barr Chapter 1
 - Reference reading: The Age of Faith and Christian Pilgrimages: Western Civilization Volume 1 pages 132 - 136
 - Primary source reading: Chaucer’s View of the Medieval World: The Canterbury Tales, “The Wife of Bath” & “The Miller’s Tale”
 - Assignment 2
 - Theme 1: The Impact of Bubonic Plague in 14th Century
 - Theme 2: The Difficulties of the Church
 - Theme 3: The Growth of Towns and Trade
 - Theme 4: The Relationship of Kings to Towns and the Middle Class
 - Theme 5: The Transition from Medieval to Renaissance Values
 - Text reading: The Upheaval In Christendom: Palmer & Colton pages 42 - 49
 - Analysis reading: The City of God is Breached: Stringfellow Barr Chapter 2 pages 17 - 32

- Reference reading: Case Study “How Jacques Coeur made His Fortune”
- Primary source reading: Western Societies Volume 1: “God and Nature – The Way of the Heart” pages 321 – 322
“The Way of the Mind” pages 327 – 334
“The Way of Dissent” pages 335 - 337

Unit 2: Man Is The Measure Of All Things – The Renaissance

- Topic A: Overview (12th century to 1648)
 - Topic B: The Renaissance In Italy
 - Topic C: The Religious Revolution – The Reformation
 - Topic D: Spain, The Holy Roman Empire, And The Church
 - Topic E: Reformation and Counter-Reformation
 - Topic F: Shakespeare’s Disillusionment As Depicted In “Hamlet”
Galileo’s Agony and Dilemma, As Depicted in Brecht’s ‘Galileo’
- Assignment 1
 - Theme 1: Essential Difference between Medieval And Renaissance Values
 - Theme 2: Characteristics Of Italian Renaissance
 - Text reading: The Upheaval In Christendom: Palmer & Colton pages 49 - 70
 - Analysis reading: The Paragon Of Animals – The Renaissance In Italy: Stringfellow Barr pages 66 - 86
 - Reference reading: none
 - Primary source reading: The Renaissance: Excerpted documents
 - Assignment 2
 - Theme 1: Causes Of The Reformation – Religious, Political, And economic Factors
 - Theme 2: Martin Luther As Rebel, Conservative, And/Or Opportunist
 - Theme 3: Impact Of Reformation

- Text reading: The Upheaval In Christendom: Palmer & Colton pages 75 - 93
 - Analysis reading: The Religious Revolution: Stringfellow Barr pages 44 - 55
 - Reference reading: none
 - Primary source reading: Reformation Documents: Excerpts
- Assignment 3
- Theme 1: Spanish Dominance In The 15th & 16th centuries
 - Theme 2: The Spanish renaissance
 - Theme 3: The tragedy Of Philip II and Spain In The 16th Century
 - Theme 4: The Counter-Reformation (The Catholic Reformation)
 - Theme 5: Loyola And The Jesuit Movement
 - Theme 6: Brecht's Interpretation Of Galileo
 - Text reading: Economic Renewal And The Wars Of religion: Palmer & Colton Chapter 3
 - Analysis reading: The Tragedy Of Philip II: Stringfellow Barr, Chapter 6, 87 - 112
 - Reference reading: "Luther: Giant Of His Time And Ours"
 - Primary source reading: The Catholic reformation And Emperor Charles V: Excerpted documents
- Assignment 4
- Theme 1: The Tragic Disillusionment Of The Thirty Year War
 - Theme 2: The Tragedy Of Shakespeare's "Hamlet"
 - Theme 3: Brecht's Depiction of Galileo As A Tragic Figure
 - Theme 4: The Significance Of The Thirty Year War
 - Text reading: none
 - Analysis reading: The Two Christendoms: Stringfellow Barr Chapter 7 pages 113 – 131
 - Reference reading: The Wars Of Religion : Excerpted documents
 - Primary source reading: The Tragedy of Hamlet: Shakespeare, Hamlet

Second Quarter

Unit 3: Modern Nation States, Absolutism and the Rise of Eastern Europe

- Topic A: The Triumph of Absolutism in France
 - Topic B: The Ascendancy of the Netherlands
 - Topic C: Common Law Becomes King in England
 - Topic D: The French and English Struggle for Supremacy
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- Assignment 1:
 - Theme 1: Development of Absolutism under HenryIV, Richelieu, and Louis XIII
 - Theme 2: The Grande Monarch
 - Theme 3: System of Louis XIV
 - Theme 4: Four Wars of Aggression of Louis XIV
 - Theme 5: Treaty of Utrecht (1714) and its Significance
 - Text reading: The Grand Monarch and The Balance of Power, Palmer and Colton, pgs. 152—153, Triumph of Absolutism P&C pg. 173 - 199
 - Analysis reading: By the Grace of God King: Stringfellow Barr: Chapter 8, pages132 - 155
 - Reference reading: None
 - Primary source reading None:

 - Assignment 2
 - Theme 1: The Dutch Ascendancy In The 17th Century
 - Theme 2: The Unique Development Of English Common Law
 - Theme 3: The Puritan Revolution (The Struggle between Parliament and the King)
 - Theme 4: The Dictatorship of Oliver Cromwell (1649 – 1688)
 - Theme 5: Restoration of the Stuarts (1660 – 1688)
 - Theme6: The Glorious Revolution (1688)
 - Text reading: Palmer and Colton Chapter 4

- Analysis reading: The Killing of the King; Stringfellow Barr, pages 156 - 178
- Reference reading: Western Societies, vol. I, C.H. George, “Revolution” pg. 494; J.H. Hexter, Storm Over Gentry, 494
- Primary source reading: “Petition of Rights”; “Abolition of Ship Money”; “Case of Five Members”

○ Assignment 3

- Theme 1: Causes of Wars Between England and France
- Theme 2: Assessment of Strength of England and France
- Theme 3: Relationship of Austria and Prussia to the Struggle
- Theme 4: Why England Won
- Theme 5: Impact of War On England and France
- Theme 6: Significance of the Treaty of Paris (1763)
 - Text reading: The Transformation of Eastern Europe; Palmer and Colton, pages 200 – 237: The Struggle for Wealth and Empire; Palmer and Colton, pages 238 - 269
 - Analysis reading: Britain Travels Lightly; Stringfellow Barr, pages 178 - 204
 - Reference reading: Western Societies: “Rise of Prussia”, “Rise of Russia”, “Commerce and Conquest”
 - Primary source reading: None

○ Assignment 4

- Theme 1: Characteristics of the Enlightenment
- Theme 2: The Development of Prussian Society (The Weapon!)
- Theme 3: The Consolidation of The Austrian Hungarian Empires Under the Hapsburgs
 - Text reading: Refer to last assignment
 - Analysis reading: The Hinterland; Stringfellow Barr, Chapter 1
 - Primary source reading: Excerpted Documents, Prussia, Russia

Unit 4: The Enlightenment and the French Revolution

- Topic A: The Rise of Science
 - Topic B: Natural Rights
 - Topic C: The Age of Reason
 - Topic D: The French Revolution
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- Assignment 1
 - Theme 1: Evolution of the Compact Theory of Government
 - Theme 2: Impact of Science and the Development of Natural Laws
 - Theme 3: Locke's Rational Thinking Relative to Natural Rights
 - Text reading: The Scientific View of the World; Palmer and Colton, pages 269 – 294; The Age of Enlightenment, Palmer and Colton, pages 295 - 340
 - Analysis reading: The Invisible College; Jacques Barzun, pages 191 - 235
 - Reference reading: None
 - Primary source reading: Excerpts from Lock, Hobbes and Rousseau (see packets)

 - Assignment 2
 - Theme 1: The Development of Enlightenment Values
 - Theme 2: Causes of the French Revolution
 - Theme 3: Stages of the French Revolution
 - Theme 4: The Napoleonic System and Domestic Reforms
 - Theme 5: Napoleon's Grand Empire
 - Theme 6: Application of Crane Brinton's Thesis From "Anatomy of a Revolution"
 - Text reading: The French Revolution; Palmer and Colton, chapter 10

- Analysis reading: Liberty, Equality, Fraternity, Money; Stringfellow Barr, chapter 13
- Reference reading: Crane Brinton “Anatomy of a Revolution”
- Primary source reading: “Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen”; Decree for Proclaiming the Liberty and Sovereignty of all Peoples”; Decree for the Levy en Masse; Napoleon’s Proclamation to his Troops; Imperial Catechism; Decree Suppressing Newspapers

Third Quarter

Unit 5: The Forces of 19th Century Idealism

- Topic A: Romanticism and Reaction
 - Topic B: British Machines; The First Industrial Revolution
 - Topic C: Liberalism
 - Topic D: Socialism
 - Topic E: Realpolitik
 - Topic F: Development of Technology in Germany
 - Topic G: Politics of an Industrial Society
 - Topic H: Industrial Society and Culture
 - Topic I: Imperialism
 - Topic J: World War I
 - Topic K: The Russian Revolution
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- Assignment 1
 - Theme 1: The Congress of Vienna and the Period of Reaction
 - Theme 2: The Politics of Metternich
 - Theme 3: Romanticism as a reaction to the Form and Values of 18th Century Enlightenment
 - Text reading: The Overthrow of Napoleon and the Congress of Vienna; Palmer and Colton pages 406 – 416; The Dike and the Flood, Palmer and Colton, Pages 438 - 447
 - Analysis reading: None
 - Reference reading: None
 - Primary source reading: Western Civilization Sources, Dennis Sherman “The Carlsbad Decree”, Jeremy Bentham, “English Liberalism”, “The First Chartist Petition”

 - Assignment 2

- Theme 1: The Development and Impact of Industrialism in England
 - Theme 2: Why the Industrial Revolution Started in England
 - Theme 3: Evolution and Impact of Capitalism in England
 - Theme 4: Industrialism Brings New Social and Political Problems
 - Text reading: Reaction vs. Progress; Palmer and Colton, Chapter 11
 - Analysis reading: Enter the Machine; Stringfellow Barr, Chapter 14, pages 250 - 262
 - Reference reading: “The Great Inventions and the Factory System” article
 - Primary source reading: Robert Oxen’s view of the Industrial World.
- Assignment 3
- Theme 1: The Roots and Development of 19th Century Liberalism
 - Theme 2: The Revolutions of 1830 and 1848
 - Theme 3: The Roots and Development of 19th Century Nationalism
 - Theme 4: The Relationship of Liberalism, Nationalism, Romanticism and Conservatism in the 19th Century
 - Text reading: Reaction vs. Progress; Palmer and Colton, pages 447 – 461; Revolution and the Re-imposition of Order; Palmer and Colton, chapter 12
 - Analysis reading: none
 - Reference reading: none
 - Primary source reading: Adam Smith, excerpt from “The Wealth of Nations”; Herbert Spencer, “Man vs. the State”; Comte de Gobineau “The Inequality of the Races”; Lamartine, “French Nationalism”; Louis Blanc, “Organization of Work”
- Assignment 4
- Theme 1: Roots of Socialism
 - Theme 2: Utopian and Romantic Socialism
 - Theme 3: Marxist Realism
 - Theme 4: Revisions of Marx

- Text reading: Socialism Overview: Palmer and Colton, pages 483 – 488, 577 – 578, 464 - 468
- Analysis reading: Enter the Machine, Stringfellow Barr, pages 262 - 266
- Reference reading: Heilbrunner, “The Worldly Philosophers”
- Primary source reading: Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, “The Communist Manifesto”; John Stuart Mill, “On Liberty”

○ Assignment 5

- Theme 1: Resurgence of Conservatism
- Theme 2: Resurgence of Nationalism
- Theme 3: Unification of Italy and Germany
- Theme 4: Reforms and Concessions – Marx is proven wrong with respect to the inevitability of Revolution
- Theme 5: Period of Realism and “Realpolitik”
 - Text reading: The Consolidation of Large Nation States (1859 – 1871), Palmer and Colton, pages 502 - 527
 - Analysis reading: The New Nation States; Stringfellow Barr, chapter 15
 - Reference reading: none
 - Primary source reading: “Bismarck’s Writings and Speeches”; Mazzini, “Young Italy”; Disraeli, “Conservatives and Liberal Principles”; “Debates on the Reform Bill of 1832”

○ Assignment 6

- Theme 1: Germany Develops Technology
- Theme 2: Charles Darwin and the Impact of Social Darwinism
- Theme 3: Scientific Thinking and its Impact
- Theme 4: The Critics of Scientific Thinking and The Naturalist Movement
 - Text reading: European Civilization, 1871 – 1914: Palmer and Colton pages 542 - 600

- Analysis reading: F.H.Hinsley “The Decline of Political Liberalism”
- Reference reading: none
- Primary source reading: Charles Darwin ”The origin of Species and the Descent of Man”

Fourth Quarter

Unit 5: Continued

- Assignment 7
 - Theme 1: The Impact of Industry and Capitalism on Domestic and International Affairs
 - Theme 2: The New Imperialism and Its Effect
 - Theme 3: The Trilogy of Imperialism, Capitalism, and Nationalism
 - Theme 4: The Impact of Imperialism on European Politics
 - Text reading: Europe’s World Supremacy; Palmer and Colton, chapter 15, pages 601 - 653
 - Analysis reading: Paul Kennedy revisited; “Britain as Hegemon”
 - Reference reading: “The Age of Victoria” article
 - Primary source reading: Rudyard Kipling “The White Man’s Burdon”; Lord Lugard, “The Rise of Our East African Empire”

- Assignment 8
 - Theme 1: World War I as a Culminating Event of Nineteenth Century Forces of Idealism
 - Theme 2: The Russian Revolution as a Culminating Event of Nineteenth Century Forces of Idealism
 - Text reading: World War I; Palmer and Colton, chapter 16, pages 654 - 689
 - Analysis reading: World War I; Stringfellow Barr, chapter 17
 - Reference reading: Excerpted Documents: Reign of Alexander I, Nicholas I, Alexander II, Alexander III
 - Primary source reading: selected

Unit 6: The Twentieth Century: Age of Anxiety

- Topic A: Rise of Fascism

- Topic B: World War II
- Topic C: Cold War
- Topic D: Demise of U.S.S.R. and The End of the Cold War
- Topic E: The Uncertainties of the 1990's
 - Assignment 1
 - Theme 1: The Failure of the Treaty of Versailles
 - Theme 2: The Rise of Fascism
 - Theme 3: Causes of World War II
 - Text reading: The Apparent Victory of Democracy; Palmer and Colton, chapter 18, pages 735 – 762; Democracy and Dictatorship, Palmer and Colton, chapter 19, pages 763 - 790
 - Analysis reading: Men Like Beasts, Stringfellow Barr, chapter 18
 - Reference reading: The Coming of a Bipolar World, Paul Kennedy Revisited, pages 333 - 395
 - Primary source reading: selected readings
 - Assignment 2
 - Theme 1: World War II: Men Like Beasts
 - Theme 2: World War II and the Atomic Age
 - Theme 3: The Cold War
 - Theme 4: The End of the Cold War and the European Union
 - Text reading: The Second World War, Palmer and Colton, chapter 20, pages 791 – 826; Cold War, Communism, and Colonial Revolution, Palmer and Colton, pages 840 - 883
 - Analysis reading: Men Like Beasts, Stringfellow Barr, pages 284 - 297
 - Reference reading: Strategy and Economics Today and Tomorrow, Paul Kennedy Revisited
 - Primary source reading: Selected graphs and consumption tables

