

# HISTORY 101: WESTERN THOUGHT SINCE 1600

HASBROUCK HALL RM 126 – MW 11:15 – 12:05 AM

## INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

**Dr. Jon Berndt Olsen**  
Department of History  
University of Massachusetts at Amherst

**Office Hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays 2-3 or by appointment  
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## TEACHING ASSISTANTS:

We have two Teaching Assistants (advanced graduate students) working with this course. Each Teaching Assistant is in charge of three discussion sections. They will lead your discussion sections on Thursdays and will be in charge of grading your exams and papers. If you have questions about the course, please contact your Teaching Assistant first. If you still need assistance, please contact me.

Teaching Assistant	Email Address	Office
Erika Arthur	earthur@acad.umass.edu	Herter 716
Justin Silvestri	jsilvest@history.umass.edu	Herter 716

## OVERVIEW:

Welcome to History 101, Western Thought since 1600. During the next fifteen weeks, we will survey the history of Europe from the Scientific Revolution to the present day. The purpose of this class is to look back on the past 400+ years and analyze how Western society developed in order to better understand phenomena such as revolution, romanticism, nationalism, industrialization, war, and other related themes. Of these themes, nationalism will serve as a connective tissue running throughout the course as we investigate the different ways in which it has been expressed and how it has functioned in different contexts, the impact that it has had in different areas, and the way in which it has interacted with and influenced other important ideologies.

Through lectures and weekly reading assignments, you will be introduced to some of the major social, political, intellectual, and cultural forces and institutions that have shaped the course of Western thought. You will meet "great" and "ordinary" people who both reflected and shaped the West.

The period covered by the course is vast, and the sheer mass of detail threatens to become overwhelming, but you should take comfort in the knowledge that you're not expected to memorize and understand an infinite number of isolated facts. The details that illuminate our major themes are the ones that require your most careful attention. Naturally, in a class that spans such a broad time period, there is a limit to just how much we can cover as well as how deeply we can delve into any one subject. There will be some issues that you would rather see covered in more depth, while others of you would prefer that I skip some of the ones that I do, in fact, cover. Hopefully, though, you will find enough here that interests you (and maybe discover some new areas to which you had previously not given much thought) to make this learning experience a valuable and enjoyable one.

## GOALS:

From this class you should gain a better understanding of the development of Western Thought and therefore a better understanding of the historical path that has contributed to a solid (albeit diverse) set of shared ideals. Equally important, however, this course aims to develop your ability to *think critically* – to read and think about complex historical issues beyond the simple facts of the case. Certainly the facts are important, and the exams and papers will make sure that you are learning them. But beyond that, you will learn to think like an

historian, trying to understand not only the ‘what’ of history, but also the ‘why’. You will then need to be able to express your views and interpretations in a clear, logical, and readable manner. Working with primary sources is a critical feature of this course. The reading load is rather heavy, but it is necessary in order to have you engage the past actively and to expose you to a wide variety of intellectual ideas and viewpoints.

## EXPECTATIONS:

To succeed in this class you will need to keep up with the reading, participate actively in class discussions, and be prepared for exams on the specified dates. If at any time you are having difficulties with the material or the assignments, or just need to talk, please do not hesitate to contact your Teaching Assistant or come see me during office hours.

**Attendance:** I expect you to be here. You will do yourself a great disservice by not attending class – you will miss material and interpretations from that day’s presentation as well as the opportunity to ask questions and otherwise interact with your classmates – an important part of the learning process. There are occasionally good reasons to miss class (religious holidays, medical mishaps, family emergencies, athletic & musical contests); you do not need to keep me or your TA informed of the details. However, if you miss more than three (3) discussion sections, your final grade will drop one full letter. If you miss more than five (5) discussion sections, I strongly suggest you drop the course, because otherwise you will **fail automatically**. This is only reasonable: why should you earn college credit if you miss a substantial portion of the semester?

**Conduct in class:** You may drink any non-alcoholic beverage that suits your fancy. Please refrain from eating and from chewing tobacco. Also, **turn off cell phones** and other electronic messaging devices before class.

**Laptops** may be used for the sole purpose of taking notes in class. Any other use (such as instant messaging, emailing, surfing the web or like activities) will cause you to lose this privilege.

**Special needs:** The University of Massachusetts is firmly dedicated to making a college education available to all students with the appropriate academic preparation, regardless of physical or other conditions. If you are entitled to special arrangements in order to fulfill the course requirements, please bring verification from the Office of Disabilities within the first two weeks of class.

## GRADING AND REQUIRED WORK:

Midterm Exam	25%
Paper #1	15% You will receive a separate handout covering the paper topic
Paper #2	15% You will receive a separate handout covering the paper topic
Final Exam	30%
Class Participation	15%

### Things to keep in mind:

- Please retain a second copy of papers until your graded paper is returned.
- Please hold all graded assignments until you receive your final grade.
- Please respect a 24-hour moratorium on discussing any individual grade.
- All late papers will be marked down 5 points for each day late (i.e. after one day, an 85 (B) becomes an 80 (B-), etc.).
- Letter grade equivalencies: A=92.5-100; A-=89.5-92.4; B+=87.5-89.4; B=82.5-88.4; B-=79.5-82.4; C+=77.5-79.4; C=72.5-78.4; C-=69.5-72.4; D+=67.5-69.4; D=62.5-68.4; D-=59.5-62.4; F=below 59.5.

**Please Note:** All course requirements must be completed in order to receive a passing grade in the class. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty are grounds for failing this course.

**Also Note:** Exams will only be rescheduled for a documented illness or other emergency.

## Plagiarism and Academic Honesty:

As a condition of continued enrollment in this course, you agree to submit all assignments to the Turnitin.com service for textual comparison or originality review for the detection of possible plagiarism. All submitted assignments will be included in the UMass Amherst dedicated databases of assignments at Turnitin.com. These databases of assignments will be used solely for the purpose of detecting possible plagiarism during the grading process and during this term and in the future.

To access Turnitin.com go to the main login page ([http://www.turnitin.com/login\\_page.asp](http://www.turnitin.com/login_page.asp)) and either login (if you already have an account) or click on "New User" at the top of the page. This service is free, but you do need to register. Once you are logged in, you will need to add the course to your account. Each TA has a separate Class IDs that you will need to enter. For Erika Arthur's sections, enter **2852655** and for Justin Silvestri's sections enter **2852656**. The password is the same for all sections = **westernciv** (written in small case and one word). If you have questions here are some helpful links:

<http://www.library.umass.edu/tools/turnitin/UMassAmherstStudentQuickstart.pdf>

[http://www.turnitin.com/resources/documentation/turnitin/training/Student\\_Manual\\_August27.pdf](http://www.turnitin.com/resources/documentation/turnitin/training/Student_Manual_August27.pdf)

**What is Plagiarism?** According to the UMASS Academic Regulations (2008-2009) Plagiarism is defined as “knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own work in any academic exercise. This includes submitting without citation, in whole or in part, prewritten term papers of another or the research of another, including but not limited to commercial vendors who sell or distribute such materials.” For more info please see the "Preventing Plagiarism" website at <http://www.umass.edu/academichonesty>.

**Honesty:** You may not engage in any form of academic dishonesty. This includes, but is not limited to, cheating on exams, helping another person cheat, or plagiarizing on written assignments. This also includes fabricating excuses for absences from class and signing in for another student. If you are caught cheating at any point during the semester, you will fail the entire course and I report you to the Academic Honesty Board.

## Writing Center:

The university offers a special resource for students who want some additional assistance with writing and research. The Writing Center is located in the northwest corner of the W.E.B. DuBois Library's Learning Commons. For more information, please visit the WC Website: <http://www.umass.edu/writingcenter>. The web site also offers information about the Center, such as current hours of operation and what to bring with you for your first consultation.

## READINGS:

The readings for this course have been chosen to compliment the lectures – they are no substitute. For the most part they are intended to illuminate one or more perspectives on a particular issue. You will discuss the books or readings in discussion sections that meet each Friday with one of the Teaching Assistants. On those days you are to come prepared to discuss the material you have read. The Textbook readings (from Coffin & Stacey's *Western Civilizations*) are assigned for each week. Reading the textbook sections prior to class will help you follow the lecture much easier. Please complete all assigned reading **prior** to attending class. You are responsible for material presented both in class and in the assigned readings.

**Books: Please purchase the following books (available at the University Bookstore Textbook Annex)**

- Coffin & Stacey: *Western Civilizations*, Second Brief Edition, Volume 2, (Norton) bundled with Stevenson: *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (Norton) **Bundled** ISBN: 978-0-393-19835-5
- Beaumarchais: *The Figaro Trilogy: The Barber of Seville, The Marriage of Figaro, The Guilty Mother* (Oxford World Classics) ISBN: 978-0192804136
- Goethe: *The Sorrows of Young Werther* (Modern Library, 2005) ISBN: 978-0812969900
- Hauptmann: *Three Plays: The Weavers, Hannele, the Beaver Coat* (Waveland Press, 1990) ISBN: 978-0881335408
- Spiegelman: *Maus: A Survivor's Tale: My Father Bleeds History* (Pantheon Books, 1993) ISBN: 978-0394747231
- Jay Winter: *Sites of Memory, Sites of Mourning* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1998) ISBN: 978-0521639880

**Texts: You will find all of the non-book texts for this course on the internet**

**Hobbs** : <http://www.thenagain.info/Classes/Sources/Hobbes.html>  
**James I** : <http://www.thenagain.info/Classes/Sources/JamesI.html>  
**Richelieu** : <http://history.hanover.edu/texts/richelie.htm>  
**Saint-Simon** : <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/17stsimon.html>  
**Galileo** : <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/galileo-tuscany.html>  
**Newton** : <http://www.thenagain.info/Classes/Sources/Newton.html>  
**Voltaire** : <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1778voltaire-royalsoc.html>  
**Rousseau** : <http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution/d/275/>  
**National Assembly** : <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/rightsof.htm>  
**de Gouges** : <http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution/d/293/>  
**Robespierre** : <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/robespierre-terror.html>  
**O'Connell** : <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1836oconnell.html>  
**Fichte** : <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1806fichte.html>  
**Mazzini** : <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1852mazzini.html>  
**Casement** : <http://web.jjay.cuny.edu/~jobrien/reference/ob73.html>  
**Kaiser Wilhelm I** : <http://www.h-net.org/~german/gtext/kaiserreich/china.html>  
**Kipling** : <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/Kipling.html>  
**Morel** : <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1903blackburden.html>  
**Hitler** : <http://history.hanover.edu/courses/excerpts/111hitler.html>  
**Musollini** : <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/mussolini-fascism.html>  
**Churchill** : <http://www.historyguide.org/europe/churchill.html>  
**Kennan** : <http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/coldwar/documents/episode-1/kennan.htm>  
**Novikov** : <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/novikov.htm>

**LECTURE SCHEDULE:**

This is the intended series of lectures for this course, though I reserve the right to make adjustments, if necessary, as the semester progresses. It is important on discussion days that you complete all of the reading in advance.

Day	Date	Subject	Readings
Wed	Sep 9	Introduction: Absolutism in Europe	Coffin & Stacey: Chapter 15
Thu	Sep 10	<b>Discussion Section</b>	Hobbs, James I, Richelieu, Saint-Simon
Mon	Sep 14	The Scientific Revolution	Coffin & Stacey: Chapter 16
Wed	Sep 16	The Scientific Revolution	
Thu	Sep 17	<b>Discussion Section</b>	Galileo, Newton, Voltaire

Day	Date	Subject	Readings
Mon	Sep 21	Enlightenment	Coffin & Stacey: Chapter 17
Wed	Sep 23	Enlightenment	
Thu	Sep 24	<b>Discussion Section</b>	Beaumarchais: <i>The Barber of Seville</i>
Mon	Sep 28	French Revolution	Coffin & Stacey: Chapter 18
Wed	Sep 30	Napoleonic Wars	
Thu	Oct 1	<b>Discussion Section</b>	Rousseau, National Assembly, de Gouges, Robespierre
Mon	Oct 5	Restoration	Coffin & Stacey: Chapter 20
Wed	Oct 7	Romanticism	
Thu	Oct 8	<b>Discussion Section</b>	Goethe: <i>The Sorrows of Young Werther</i>
<b>Tue</b>	Oct 13	<b>MID-TERM EXAM</b>	
Wed	Oct 14	Nation-Building	Coffin & Stacey: Chapter 21
Thu	Oct 15	<b>Discussion Section</b>	O'Connell, Fichte, Mazzini
Mon	Oct 19	Liberalism and Socialism	Coffin & Stacey: Chapter 23
Wed	Oct 21	Liberalism and Socialism	<b>Paper #1 Due</b>
Thu	Oct 22	<b>Discussion Section</b>	Hauptmann: <i>The Weavers</i>
Mon	Oct 26	Mass Politics	
Wed	Oct 28	Modernism	
Thu	Oct 29	<b>Discussion Section</b>	Stevenson: <i>Dr. Jeckyll and Mr. Hyde</i>
Mon	Nov 2	Imperialism	Coffin & Stacey: Chapter 22
Wed	Nov 4	Imperialism	
Thu	Nov 5	<b>Discussion Section</b>	Casement, Kaiser Wilhelm II, Kipling, Morel
Mon	Nov 9	First World War	Coffin & Stacey: Chapter 24
Wed	Nov 11	First World War	
Thu	Nov 12	<b>Discussion Section</b>	Winter: Sites of Memory, Sites of Mourning
Mon	Nov 16	Interwar Period	Coffin & Stacey: Chapter 25
Wed	Nov 18	Interwar Period	<b>Paper #2 Due</b>
Thu	Nov 19	<b>Discussion Section</b>	Hitler, Mussolini
Mon	Nov 23	Second World War	Coffin & Stacey: Chapter 26
Wed	Nov 25	<b>NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING</b>	
Thu	Nov 26	<b>NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING</b>	
Mon	Nov 30	Second World War	
Wed	Dec 2	The Holocaust	
Thu	Dec 3	<b>Discussion Section</b>	Spiegelmann: <i>Maus I</i>
Mon	Dec 7	Post-1945	Coffin & Stacey: Chapter 27
Wed	Dec 9	Post-1945	Coffin & Stacey: Chapter 28
Thu	Dec 10	<b>Discussion Section</b>	Churchill, Novikov, Kennan

<b>TBA</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>
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