**College of Dupage History 1120-010, Western Civilization Since 1600**

**Spring, 2017**

**Time: MWF**, 9:00-9:50 **Place:** BIC 3706

**Instructor:** Sam Mitrani **Contact:** mitraniv@cod.edu, (630) 942-3131

**Office Hours:** MWF 7AM-7:50AM, 10AM-10:50AM; T/Th 8:30AM-9:20AM, 12:30PM-1:20PM; by appointment

**Office:** BIC 2626B

**Required Texts:**

Mark Steele, *Vive La Revolution*

Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*

Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold’s Ghost*

Henrik Ibsen, *A Doll’s House*

Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*

Victor Serge, *From Lenin to Stalin*

Art Spiegelman, *Maus I* and *Maus II*

**Course Description**

An examination of the development of intellectual, social, economic, and political characteristics of modern Western Civilization. Themes such as the Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment, political revolutions, the rise of industry, the world wars, and the Cold War will be analyzed.

**Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of the course the student should be able to do the following:

Recognize the major cultural achievements of the West after 1600

Analyze the causes and effects of the American, French, and Industrial Revolutions

Determine the causes and effects of the World Wars and the Cold War

Appraise the impact of Western Civilization on the world

**Course Requirements:**

Everyone in this class is an adult, professional student. You are expected to behave accordingly.

Students are expected to come to class on time every day. I will take attendance. Two late arrivals will be the equivalent of one absence. I have a no-fault attendance policy – I don’t care why you’re absent, but you have missed material in the class. That doesn’t mean you can never be absent (things happen), but no absences are excused.

This class is designed to teach you how to concentrate, without distractions – on the material, on lectures, on each other, on readings. Thus, you are expected to have your phone **OFF and to place it on the table at the front at the beginning of class**. If you have to take an emergency call, please inform me at the beginning of class and sit by the door so you cause minimal interruptions.

Students must come to each class having done the reading. You will be required to turn in a two page reading reaction to every book, seven in all. This response must have a thesis, supports drawn from the readings, and a conclusion. DO NOT SUMMARIZE. I will only count your five best toward your grade.

You will also be required to write a final paper of 4 to 5 pages due at the time of the final exam.

**There are no tests in this class. The papers will make up the vast bulk of your grade. If you do not write the papers and hand them in on time, you cannot pass.**

**You are expected to hand in your own work. Plagiarism will be defined in class. It may earn you a failing grade on the assignment, in the class, and/or disciplinary procedures with the College.**

**Course Design:**

Some days we will have interactive lectures on the key topics covered in the class. Other days, we will have discussion sections, in which you will discuss the readings.

You are encouraged to ask questions, interrupt me with anything unclear, and answer my questions during lecture periods. You are required to attend and participate in discussion periods. Class participation and attendance will count for 20% of your grade.

Once during the semester you will also be required to formulate discussion questions. These should include any questions you didn’t understand, some questions that will help students get out the main ideas and narratives in the readings, and some questions that will help draw bigger themes together, linking the readings to each other and to the lectures.

Many important terms, themes and events will only be covered in my lectures. Therefore, once again, it is imperative that you come to class, take notes and ask questions if you do not understand.

**Grading:**

Your grade will consist of the following five components:

Attendance and participation: 20%

Discussion questions: 10%

Five best responses: 50% (or 10% each)

Final Paper: 20%

**Late Withdrawal Policy:**

A student may drop any course for any reason up to the last day to officially withdraw, and will receive a grade of W on their transcript. After the deadline, students will be required to appeal for late withdrawal and provide appropriate documentation to the Student Registration Services Office for all requests. Students who are granted approval to withdraw by petition will not be eligible for refunds of tuition or fees and will receive a ‘W’ grade on their transcript. Appeals must be submitted prior to the designated final exam period for 16-week classes and before the last class meeting for all other session classes.

**Incomplete Policy:**

I very rarely grant incompletes. To receive one, students must have completed at least 2/3rds of the coursework, have at least a C average, and for reasons beyond their control, be unable to complete the course within the academic term. Incompletes will not be granted to students who cannot document extenuating circumstances. For eligible students, an incomplete contract must be completed and signed by the student and instructor.

**Course schedule**

Mon, Jan 23

Intro to class, what is “western civilization?” What is history? What is a thesis?

Wed, Jan 25

Emerging from the Middle Ages: Renaissance

Fri, Jan 27

Emerging from the Middle Ages: Reformation

Mon, Jan 30

Scientific Revolution

Wed, Feb 1

Readings due: Scientific Revolution: Galileo, Descartes, Bacon

Fri, Feb 3

Enlightenment

Mon, Feb 6

Readings due: Enlightenment: Kant, Hobbes, Voltaire, Lock **Response 1 due**

Wed, Feb 8

Europe expands into the world, imperialism part one

Fri, Feb 10

Plantation complex

Mon, Feb 13

*ancien regime*

Wed, Feb 15

Readings due: Mark Steele through Chapter 4

Fri, Feb 17

French Revolution I

Mon, Feb 20

Readings due: Mark Steele through Chapter 9

Wed, Feb 22

French Revolution II

Fri, Feb 24

Readings due: Mark Steele to end, **Response 2 due**

Mon, Feb 27

Industrial Revolution I

Wed, Mar 1

Readings due: Sadler Commission, Engels, Charter

Fri, Mar 3

Industrial Revolution II/early workers movement

Mon, Mar 6

1848, nationalism, Italian and German unification

Wed, Mar 8

Readings due: Communist Manifesto, Chapter I

Fri, Mar 10

Paris Commune

Mon, Mar 13

Marx

Wed, Mar 15

Readings due: Communist Manifesto, Chapters 2, 3, **Response 3 due**

Fri, Mar 17

Second industrial revolution

Mon, Mar 20

Readings due: King Leopold’s Ghost, Intro, Prologue, Chs 1-3

Wed, Mar 22

Imperialism

Fri, Mar 24

Readings due: King Leopold’s Ghost, chapters 4-6

**No Class, Mar 25-Apr 2, Spring Break. Go Somewhere!!!**

Mon, Apr 3

Readings due: King Leopold’s Ghost, chs 7-11, **Response 4 due**

Wed, Apr 5

Reactions against imperialism, capitalism: 2nd Int’l, feminism, nihilism, anarchism, Leninism

Fri, Apr 7

Readings due: A Doll’s House, all, **Response 5 due**

Mon, Apr 10

Background to WWI, the war’s start

Wed, Apr 12

Readings due: All Quiet on the Western Front, chs 1-6

Fri, Apr 14

The course of WWI

Mon, Apr 17

Readings due: All Quiet on the Western Front, chs 7-12, **Response 6 due**

Wed, Apr 19

Russian Revolution lecture part 1

Fri, Apr 21

Readings due: From Lenin to Stalin, up to The NEP and the Opposition (approx. page 38)

Mon, Apr 24

Degeneration of the Russian revolution

Wed, Apr 26

Failure of revolutions in Germany, Italy

Fri, Apr 28

Readings due: From Lenin to Stalin, to end, **Response 7 due**

Mon, May 1

Rise of fascism

Wed, May 3

Readings due: Maus I

Fri, May 5

WWII part I

Mon, May 8

Readings due: Maus II, **Response 8 due**

Wed, May 10

WWII part II

Fri, May 12

Discussion: Meanings of Western Civ

**Final Paper discussion: Wednesday, May 17, 9 AM-10:45, normal room**