

Vesalius College

Table I.2 Course description

Course title: Modern Europe: 1848-Present					
Course code: HIS112E					
Teacher responsible: William L. Chew III, PhD, Full Professor of History at Vesalius College					
Course description: Explanation of assignments, research method, choice of topics; The Expansion of the Industrial Revolution; The 1848 Revolution in France, Napoleon III, the Third Republic; German Unification 1815-1871; The Austro-Hungarian <i>Ausgleich</i> ; Imperialism; World War I: Origins and Consequences; The Foundation of the USSR; The Inter-War Period and the Rise of Nazism; Germany Under National Socialism; World War II: Origins, Course, and Results; The Early Cold War. Lectures complement basic textbook readings, highlight individual aspects of special interest or offer alternative interpretations. Students present orally the findings of primary source analyses. Stress is placed on the historian's approach and tools. Thus, a reading and interpretation of selected sources introduce students to the critical method while acquainting them with fundamental texts. Case studies are provided by the professor. On occasion, visual or aural sources are added to further illustrate readings and stimulate discussion.					
Course objectives: Students majoring in International Affairs need a basic survey of European history from 1848 to the present in order to place more advanced courses focussing on domestic political, social and economic history, or diplomatic history, into a general historical context. In an overview, the course introduces students to the main political, social, economic and intellectual developments that contributed to the development of Western Civilization and its common culture from 1848 to the early Cold War period. At the same time, students acquire basic analytical, research and writing skills within the field. These include basic library research skills; basic internet research skills; taking notes and drafting bibliographies following an accepted style; outline writing; prose writing; abstracting a journal article; drafting a biographical sketch; analyzing a historical document; researching and writing a basic history term paper with integration of one primary source, as a case study; doing a short (15 min.) presentation on a narrowly defined topic, alone or with one partner.					
Grade weighting scheme:					
abstract	bio	source	midterm	final	term paper
5%	5%	15%	15%	30%	30%

Used course material (handbooks, readers, readings, newspapers, magazines) and references:

McKay/Hill/Buckler. *A History of Western Society*. vol C: chaps. 21-31. New York: Houghton Mifflin 8th ed. (2006)

Townson, Duncan. *The New Penguin Dictionary of Modern History, 1789-1945*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1994.

Reader