

Vesalius College

Course description

Course title: Modern Europe, 1648-1848

Course code: HIS 201E

Teacher responsible: William L. Chew III, PhD, Full Professor of History at Vesalius College

Course description:

Introduction; Social Aspects of the 18th Century; Economic Aspects of the 18th Century; Court Absolutism: France, Prussia and Russia; The 18th-Century State System; The Enlightenment; The French Revolution to the Fall of the Monarchy; The French Revolution: Terror to Directory; Napoleon; The Vienna Congress and the Congress System; The Rise of Nationalism and Liberalism; The 1830 Revolution

Course objectives:

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 the Westphalian Settlement of 1648 to the revolutions of 1848. 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. In addition to the readings, assignments include a written analysis and oral presentation of a primary source, and a term paper.

Grade weighting scheme:

source	term paper	midterm	final
20%	30%	20%	30%

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

M.S. Anderson. *Europe in the Eighteenth Century 1713-1789*. 4th ed. London: Longman, 2000

Charles Breunig and Matthew Levinger. *The Revolutionary Era, 1789-1850*. 3rd ed. New York: W.W. Norton, 2002.

Reader