

History 1400
Spring 2015
Syllabus

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Office Hours: Tuesday, 2-3pm and by appointment

"It is in fact a part of the function of education to help us escape, not from our own time – for we are bound by that – but from the intellectual and emotional limitations of our time." ~ T.S. Eliot

Course Description

This course covers, broadly, the history of the “west” in “modern” times. It will not be simply a recitation of facts about the past, nor will you be assessed on your ability to recall facts about the past and compress them into a blue book. Rather, we will attempt to come to some understanding about how different people in different times and places have imagined and represented the world around them. You will be assessed on your ability to analyze and make connections between course readings, both in writing and in class discussion, as well as your reflections on your own learning in this course.

Course Readings

There are no textbooks or other materials to purchase for this course. A schedule of readings is available on HuskyCT, and all readings are (or will be) available for download as PDFs. I *strongly* recommend that you print these readings and bring them to class, in order to facilitate in-class discussions.

Assessments

You will be assessed on your participation in this course. Participation includes your contributions to class discussions, responsiveness to your classmates, preparation for class, completion of in-class writing assignments (if any), and generally engaging with the content of this course. Participation will be worth 20% of your total grade for this course.

Each week throughout the semester (except for weeks one and eight), you will submit a “think aloud” on Tuesday. These are designed to help you engage with and think about the reading for that week. Each one will be worth 3% of your grade for this course. We will discuss these in more detail (and walk through exactly what is involved) on Thursday.

Four times over the course of the semester, you will submit a two-page reflection. These reflections are intended to help you think constructively about your learning in this course, and to consider the role that this course, and the study of history more generally, play in a 21st century university education. These reflections will be due on February 12th, February 26th, April 2nd, and April 16th. Each one will be worth 6% of your grade for the semester. We will discuss these in more detail as the first due date approaches.

At the midterm (during week eight) and the final (at the beginning of finals week), you will submit a longer reflection of 3-4 pages. These will be a more comprehensive personal assessment of your learning during this semester. Each one will be worth 10% of your grade for this course. We will discuss these in more detail as the midterm gets a little closer.

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Schedule

Week One – in the beginning

Tuesday, January 20th – course introduction, etc.

Thursday, January 22nd – think-aloud example + what is the west?

Week Two – brave new worlds...: Europeans encounter the Americas

Tuesday, January 27th - ...that have such people in them

- Amerigo Vespucci – *Mundus Novus* (1504)

Thursday, January 29th – visualizing the new world

Week Three – a mighty fortress: religious and social change in the 16th century

Tuesday, February 3th – challenging religious order

- Katharina Zell, “Letter to Caspar Schwenckfeld” (1553)

Thursday, February 5th – representing the “reformation”

Week Four – adam’s rib: men and women in the 17th century

Tuesday, February 10th – upholding the social order

- Joseph Swetnam, *The Arraignment of Women* (1615)

Thursday, February 12th – the “pamphlet wars” and social upheaval
First Reflection Due

Week Five – going native: colonial encounters in the 17th century

Tuesday, February 17th – European women and the captivity narrative

- Mary Rowlandson, *The Sovereignty and Goodness of God* (1682)

Thursday, February 19th – non-Europeans in a European world

Week Six – spiritual rebirth: the first Great Awakening in colonial America

Tuesday, February 24th – the damned and the saved

- Jonathan Edwards, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” (1741)

Thursday, February 26th – the new hymnal and emotional religion

Second Reflection Due

Week Seven – the rights of man: the enlightenment and the new social order

Tuesday, March 3rd – rights for whom in eighteenth century France?

- Olympe de Gouge, “Letter to the People” (1788)

Thursday, March 5th – varieties of enlightened thinking

Week Eight - intermission

Tuesday, March 10th

Midterm Reflection Due

Thursday, March 12th

No class – individual meetings with instructor

Week Nine – separate spheres: gender and society in the 19th century

Tuesday, March 24th – the triumph of domesticity

- Sarah Stickney Ellis, *The Women of England: Their Social Duties and Domestic Habits* (1838)

Thursday, March 26th – alternative femininities

Week Ten – the internal empire: assimilation in 19th century America

Tuesday, March 31st – the experience of Native Americans

- Luther Standing Bear, *Life at Boarding School* (1879)

Thursday, April 2nd – imperialism and the political cartoon

Third Reflection Due

Week Eleven – the second sex: women’s rights in the early 20th century

Tuesday, April 7th – the justification for women’s rights

- Nelly Roussel, “She who is always sacrificed” (1905)

Thursday, April 9th – the struggle for suffrage

Week Twelve – a dying colonialism: resisting the “west” in the 20th century

Tuesday, April 14th – challenges to European intellectual and cultural traditions

- Frantz Fanon – *The Wretched of the Earth* (1961)

Thursday, April 16th – violence and resistance in the western empires

Fourth Reflection Due

Week Thirteen – rivers of blood: racial tension in the late 20th century

Tuesday, April 21st – “western” responses to a changing world

- Jorg Haider, *Manifesto* (1992)

Thursday, April 23rd – songs of hate/the strength of street knowledge

Week Fourteen – how it is with us: social conflict in the 21st century

Tuesday, April 28th – the belly of the beast

- Assata Shakur, “Letter” (2007)

Thursday, April 30th – local and global challenges

Finals Week

Sunday, May 3rd

Final Reflection Due via email