

**CUYAMACA COLLEGE**  
**COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD**

**HISTORY 106 – MODERN WESTERN CIVILIZATION**

3 hours lecture, 3 units

**Catalog Description**

Survey of European cultures, thought and institutions from 1650 to the present. Includes Absolutism, Scientific Revolution, the Enlightenment, age of the French Revolution, nineteenth-century ideologies, imperialism, the world wars, the Cold War, and contemporary Europe.

**Prerequisite**

None

**Course Content**

- 1) Course Introduction and the Age of Absolutism, 1650-1750
  - a. What is Western Civilization and where is the West?
  - b. What is Modern?
  - c. The social structure of Europe
  - d. France and Louis XIV
  - e. Russia, Austria, Spain, Prussia, the Ottoman Empire (and other examples as appropriate) in the age of Absolutism
  - f. The “Glorious Revolution” and Constitutional Monarchy in Great Britain
- 2) Intellectual and Political Revolutions in the Western World, 1650-1815
  - a. The Scientific Revolution
  - b. The Enlightenment
  - c. The Atlantic Economy
  - d. The American Independence Movement
  - e. The French Revolution
  - f. Napoleonic Europe
- 3) The Early Industrial Age and the Birth of Modern Political Ideologies, 1815-1848
  - a. The agricultural and industrial revolutions
  - b. Liberalism, Romanticism, Conservatism, and Nationalism
  - c. The failed revolutions of 1830 and 1848
- 4) The Age of Reaction and Reform: 1848-1914
  - a. German and Italian unification and the birth of the Third Republic in France
  - b. The Crimean War and reforms in Russia
  - c. The Austro-Hungarian Empire and the nationalism question
  - d. Marxism and Socialism
  - e. European emigration
- 5) Victorianism and Imperialism: 1848-1914
  - a. Victorianism and the rise of the capitalist middle class
  - b. Empire building and colonialism
  - c. New ideas and their implications (Darwinism, Social Darwinism, Women’s Rights, Zionism, etc.)
  - d. Mass Society
  - e. Building the Nation State
- 6) The Great War (World War I) and the Russian Revolution: 1914-1918
  - a. Background to the Great War (international rivalry, the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, and nationalism in the Balkans)
  - b. Major campaigns and unprecedented slaughter of the Great War

- c. The home fronts in the Great War
  - d. Collapse of the Central Powers and the Paris Peace
  - e. Collapse of the Russian Empire and the Russian Revolution (including Marxist-Leninist theory)
- 7) Conflicting Ideologies in the Interwar Period: 1918-1939
- a. Collapse of Empire and the reorganization of Eastern and Central Europe
  - b. Democracies and their weaknesses (e.g., the Weimar Republic)
  - c. Italian fascism and German National Socialism (Nazism)
  - d. Stalin and the Great Transformation in the USSR
  - e. The Spanish Civil War
  - f. Cultural Developments of the 1920s and 1930s (expressionism, Bauhaus, memory of the Great War, etc.)
- 8) The Second World War: 1939-1945
- a. Background to the Second World War (including rearmament, appeasement, etc.)
  - b. Total War (including major campaigns, strategic bombing, etc.)
  - c. The home fronts
  - d. The Holocaust (origins, the Holocaust and the war, victims, and perpetrators)
  - e. The defeat of Germany (and brief discussion of the war in the Pacific)
- 9) Early Postwar and Cold War Europe: 1945 to the early 1950s
- a. Occupied Europe (the new roles of the US and the USSR)
  - b. The ethnic and national reorganization of Europe
  - c. Democracy in the West and the rise of Soviet-sponsored communism in the East
  - d. Economics in the West: the Marshall Plan and the *Wirtschaftswunder*
  - e. Socialist Economics in the East: state planning and the impact of reparations
- 10) Cold War Europe: the 1950s through the 1970s
- a. From the Coal and Steel Community to the European Economic Community
  - b. Economic Life in Eastern Europe
  - c. Cultural Life in Western Europe (including the role of the state and American influence or Coca-colonization, Rise of Feminism)
  - d. Cultural Life in Eastern Europe (including Socialist Realism and the role of the dissident artist, Feminism in the East)
  - e. Remembering and forgetting the war: coming to terms with the war and the Holocaust
  - f. NATO, the Warsaw Pact, armament and the threat of nuclear war
  - g. Decolonization (the Suez crisis, Britain's orderly retreat from Empire, France's violent decolonization [including Vietnam, the Algerian War and the Fifth Republic])
  - h. Communist repression (e.g., Hungary 1956, the Prague Spring and the Brezhnev Doctrine)
  - i. Terrorist groups and their causes in the West (ETA in Spain, the Red Army Faction in Germany, the Irish Republican Army in Northern Ireland, etc.)
- 11) The End of the Cold War: the 1980s
- a. The Soviet War in Afghanistan and the end of the Brezhnev Doctrine
  - b. Gorbachev and his reforms: *glasnost* and *perestroika*
  - c. Reagan, Thatcher, and the acceleration of the arms race
  - d. Ideological and economic collapse in the East
  - e. People Power: People's Revolutions in communist Eastern Europe (East Germany and the fall of the Berlin Wall, Poland, Romania, etc.)
- 12) Europe Since the 1990s
- a. The Revenge of Nationalism: the Break-up of the Soviet Union, the resurgence of Russia
  - b. The Balkan Wars: European failure and a new role for NATO
  - c. From EEC to European Union and the expansion of the EU
  - d. Economic decline and revitalization in the East (capitalist shock-therapy, labor migration to the West)
  - e. Minorities, demographics, and the problem of integration in modern Europe
  - f. Europe, terrorism, and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq
  - g. Europe and Russia in the global economy
  - h. Europe and climate change

- i. Culture in contemporary Europe (Americanization or globalization?)
- j. Europe in the Age of the Great Recession
- k. The future of the EU: integration or disintegration?
- l. Demographic change, immigration, refugees, the challenge of integration

### Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Identify and recall major themes, events and figures in modern European history. Analyze the concept of the West.
- 2) Compare European societies in historical context (including state formation, social hierarchies, and gender hierarchies).
- 3) Catalog and interpret the role of religion, philosophy, and ideology in defining modern European history.
- 4) Identify the relationship between physical geography and climate on European history.
- 5) Recognize political geography and changes in political geography.
- 6) Recognize major historical theories relevant to modern European history (e.g., Marxism, the *Annales*, postmodern, etc.).
- 7) Evaluate and interpret the impact of cross-cultural contact and trade on the development of modern European history.
- 8) Analyze works of literature in the context of modern European history.
- 9) Discriminate between primary and secondary sources. Compose arguments using primary and secondary sources as appropriate.
- 10) Cite sources appropriately in written work using the Chicago Manual of Style (Turabian) or Modern Language Association formats.
- 11) Demonstrate an understanding of Western Civilization through multiple analytical categories such as race, class, gender and ethnicity.
- 12) Analyze the social and economic organization in the western world and explain their historical significance.
- 13) Explain the historical significance of major discoveries, inventions, and scientific achievements.
- 14) Explain the historical significance of cultural developments such as art, music, architecture, literature and religion.
- 15) Analyze the relevancy of history in today's world.

### Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Quizzes and/or exams that measure the student's ability to identify and recall major themes, events and figures in modern European history.
- 2) Quizzes and/or exams that measure and verify the student's ability to identify the relationship between physical geography and climate on modern European history and recognize changes in political geography.
- 3) Write a timed in-class essay that evaluates and verifies the student's ability to formulate an argument based on historical theories, organize information chronologically and thematically, and recall major themes, events and figures in modern European history.
- 4) Write analytical papers that assess the student's ability to recognize themes, organize information, and interpret the significance of literature in modern European history.
- 5) Compile sources and write a research paper that demonstrates the student's ability to discriminate between primary and secondary sources, evaluate the relative quality of sources, organize information, and formulate an informed point of view and argument.

### Special Materials Required of Student

Computer access (available on campus)

**Minimum Instructional Facilities**

- 1) Smart classroom with writing board, overhead projector/screen
- 2) Library with adequate collections in Modern Western Civilization

**Method of Instruction**

- 1) Lecture
- 2) Multimedia presentations
- 3) Group projects, discussion

**Out-of-Class Assignments**

- 1) Reading, reading response questions, reading journals
- 2) Map exercises
- 3) Field exercises including museum and library research and historic sites

**Texts and References**

- 1) Required (representative examples):
  - a. Joshua Cole and Carol Symes, *Western Civilizations: Their History and Their Culture. Volume Two*. 20th edition. Norton, 2020.
  - b. Hunt, et al. *The Making of the West*. 6th edition. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2019.
  - c. Spielvogel, Jackson. *Western Civilization, Volume II*. 10th edition. Cengage, 2018.
- 2) Supplemental (representative examples):
  - a. Conrad, Joseph. *Heart of Darkness*. Norton, 2004.
  - b. Henisch, Peter. *Negatives of My Father*. Ariadne, 1990.
  - c. Perry, Marvin, et al. *Sources of the Western Tradition Volume II: From the Renaissance to the Present*. 9th edition. Cengage, 2014.
  - d. Remarque, Erich Maria. *All Quiet on the Western Front*. Fawcett, 1996.
  - e. Voltaire, *Candide and Other Stories*. Oxford World's Classics, 2008.
  - f. de Beauvoir, Simone. *The Second Sex*. Vintage, 2011.
  - g. Brophy, et al, eds. *Perspectives from the Past: Primary Sources in Western Civilization*. 7th edition. Norton, 2020.
  - h. Fest, Joachim. *Memoirs of a German Childhood*. Other Press, New York, 2013.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Analyze, evaluate, and interpret primary and secondary sources.
- 2) Analyze and apply historical patterns and current events to students' own lives and experiences.
- 3) Analyze how power operates in society, through the categories of race, class, gender, ethnicity, and sexuality.
- 4) Develop and support an argument or thesis statement with historical evidence.
- 5) Evaluate the impact of geographical and climatic factors on historical development and changes in political geography over time.