

Grande Prairie Regional College
Dept. of Arts and Education
HI1110: The Early Modern World (3 Credits)
Section: B2 Monday/Wednesday 2:30-3:50 pm
Room: E306A

Fall 2005

Instructor: Duff W. Crerar, Ph.D.
Office: C404
Office Hours: Mon. 10-12; Tue. 2:30-3:30, Wed. 10:30-11:30
Phone: 539-2828 (office)
E-mail: dcrerar@gprc.ab.ca

Introduction: The course is an introduction to global history, covering the major political, cultural, intellectual and economic development of the world from the fourteenth century through to 1815. Its goal is to provide a foundation for advanced study in history and related disciplines. Students will encounter a variety of historical documents (including original sources), critical issues for investigation, and research methods, as well as construct and write their own critical and research essays. Keeping caught up with the readings and consistent attendance is essential for success in this course. Students will as acquire better research and essay writing skills by paying close attention to both the written and spoken comments on this subject, and applying them to the craft of academic writing.

Texts: [GPRC Bookstore]
Brummett, Edgar, Hackett, etc., **Civilization: Past and Present, Vol. 2: from 1300.** Eleventh Edition: Longman, 2005. (The old Tenth Edition will do, but you will need to check with me regarding what to read). You also must buy Richard Marius's and Melvin Page's, **Short Guide to Writing About History (Fourth or Higher Edition)**, a valuable guide to understanding both historical research and writing. You will be using both texts on a regular and frequent basis.

Course Outline:

September 9: Roots of Civilization (Section T, but Section B is invited too!)

September 14: Back of the Beginning – the East
16: Back of the Beginning – the West (also *Short Guide, 1-15*)

September 21: Islam: the Ottoman Genius (346-356)
23: Safavid and Mughal (358-369; also *Short Guide, 16-57*)

September 28: Ming China and Korea (370-384; also *Short Guide 57-84*)
30: Rising Sun: Japan (384-395)

2.

October 5: Renaissance Europe: Art, Commerce and Humanism (396-412)
7: Reformation Europe: Crusade and Chaos (413-431)

October 12: Crisis of Truth for Europe: The Problem of Pluralism

October 14: Conquest and Empire in the New Worlds (463-489; **Short Guide**, 85-113)

October 19: Europe: Crisis in War and Government?(434-458; **Short Guide**, 114-134)

21: Europe: Absolutism and its Limitations(496-514; **Short Guide**, 135-174)

October 26: Enlightenment: Science and the Smile of Reason (526-540)

28: Revolution, Terror and Dictatorship (541-558; *also Short Guide*, 175-192)

November 2: **Mid-Term Test!**

November 4: Africa in Agony (562-582; **Short Guide**, 192-202)

November 9: Islamic Dynasties in Crisis (588-597)

November 11: Remembrance Day

November 16: China, Korea and Japan (598-617)

November 18: No Class: essay writing day!

November 23: Revolution in America North (618-633)

November 25: *Vinceremos!* Independence in Latin America (633-640)

NBBB: Last day to accept Research Papers! (Without my permission, that is!)

November 30: Revolution in Europe: Poverty and Progress (642-670)

December 2: The Mighty Continent and the PAX Britannica.

December 7: Review and Wrap-up

Requirements and Grading:

Mid-term Test: written in class 20%

Historical Article Review 20

Major Research Essay (approximately 2000 words) 30%

Final Exam: written in December during exam sessions 30%

Warning: Late assignments will be penalized *heavily* for each week they are late unless there is a compelling written reason.

Article Review Essay: You will find in the Library a variety of historical periodicals (academic magazines or journals) filled with articles on a wide variety of topics in the history of the planet. Choose ONE of these articles (from the time period and the regions of the planet which we cover in the course) and submit a ten-page, double-spaced, typed critical analysis of the thesis, argument and use of evidence by the historian who wrote the article. Your paper should identify the historical problem, its key elements, and how this historian improves our knowledge of that problem. You also should include why or why not you would recommend whether or not I should suggest this article to future students for their research essays. I must have assignments handed in on time, **or else I will not provide a mark for this part of the course.** So take this very seriously: it's worth 20% of your final grade.

Research Paper:

History has plenty of mysteries. Every scholar wants to solve at least one of them and try to understand that part of the past more completely. Your mission is to identify some topic of interest, the key mystery or controversy that confronts you about it, and to research and write your own solution in the form of an essay. To do this you will need to read and make good notes on **at least 5** historical books or articles, as well as other sources your professor may suggest. You will need to come up with some background on the mystery, how perhaps some other historians have offered their solutions, and how your proposition (your THESIS), backed by your research, improves on theirs. Or you may simply decide (and PROVE) that one or more historians already have demonstrated an adequate solution, and you will defend them from other critics who have attacked their thesis. You must have your topic proposal, a sample bibliography and a working hypothesis ready for my approval, handed in on the Wednesday class of THE LAST WEEK OF OCTOBER! **No essay will be accepted without my pre-approval!**

Fun Homework: I have located a number of films in local video stores that dramatize significant episodes and periods of world history. One excellent film that portrays some of the important issues of Atlantic Slavery is *Amistad*. Another is the old TV mini-series *Shogun*. There is also the famous musical film *Amadeus*. See if you can spot the parts that are NOT very historical! See if you can find one to suggest to me and I can add it to next year's list! (Please do NOT include any films by or with Mel Gibson!)