This course provides a general overview of the dynamic changes in European ideas, politics, and culture during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The course will examine absolutist states beginning with the expansion of the French state under Cardinal Richelieu and the reign of Louis XIV. We will contrast absolute monarchs with non-absolutist states, study commercial and dynastic competition between European powers, discuss the intellectual thought of the Enlightenment, and, finally, analyze the events of the French Revolution that shook the foundations of Europe and culminated in Napoleon’s Empire.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
- Midterm Exam: 20%
- Final Exam: 30% (There are NO MAKEUP EXAMS for the midterm or final.)
- Paper 1*: 20%
- Paper 2*: 20%

* Each paper will be 4-pages in length. There will be a total of THREE topic choices and you MUST choose TWO. NO LATE PAPERS ACCEPTED. A hardcopy of the paper must be submitted in class and another copy via the Sakai website. Failure to follow the submission instructions will result in a lower grade.

- Attendance/Participation: 10%
  Attendance is crucial to this course. You are allowed only two missed classes. More than two missed classes will result in a lower grade. You are expected to come to class on time. Repeated tardiness will lower your grade. In addition to attendance, this portion of the grade includes participation in class discussions and the submission of three one-page “thought” pieces on the readings due on designated discussion days. No late assignments accepted.

READING: Five books are for purchase at the bookstore and listed below. Shorter readings will be posted online. You must do all the reading to do well on the exams and the papers.

BOOKS FOR PURCHASE

  Lady Montagu, Turkish Embassy Letters, Oxford World Classics


NOTE: All other Readings will be posted online.

ETIQUETTE: Please come on time, silence cell phones, and refrain from surfing the Internet during class. It is your responsibility to obtain any missing notes from a fellow student. Feel free to email me with a respectful, formal email and I will try my best to reply as promptly as possible.

PLAGIARISM will be taken very seriously and will be reported. Feel free to discuss the course material and your paper ideas with other students but you can only hand in your own individual work.
Week 1
Jan. 21: The State in Seventeenth-Century Europe
Jan 23: Richelieu and The Thirty Years’ War
Reading:
Richelieu, The Political Testament (For Purchase)

Week 2
Jan. 28: French Absolutism: Louis XIV
Jan. 30: Absolutist States Part II: Prussia and Peter the Great
Film Clips (Roberto Rossellini’s The Taking of Power of Louis XIV)
Readings:
Memoirs of the Duke de Saint Simon (online)
Woloch, pages 1-29

Week 3
Feb. 4: Discussion of Richelieu’s Testament and the Scientific Revolution
Feb. 6: Non-Absolutist States Part: England, the Dutch Republic, Sweden and Poland
Readings:
John Locke, Two Treatises on Government (online)
Select Documents on Prussia (online)
Bishop Burnet on Peter the Great (online)
Woloch, pages 29-45

Week 4
Feb. 11: Maria Theresa; War of the Austrian Succession; Seven Years’ War
Feb. 13: The Enlightenment
Readings:
Voltaire, “On Religion” & excerpt from Candide (online)
Kant, “What is the Enlightenment?” (online)
Description of the Empress Maria Theresa (online)
Woloch, pages 46-72; 181-212

* Paper due Feb. 13 on Richelieu’s Political Testament *

Week 5
Feb. 18: Enlightened Absolutism
Feb. 20: Taste for the East
Readings:
Benevolent Despotism by Frederick the Great (online)
The Magic Flute by Mozart (online)
Excerpt from the Persian Letters (online)
Excerpt from John Chardin, Travels in Persia (online)
**Lady Montagu, *The Turkish Letters*** (For purchase)

**Week 6**
Feb. 25: **Discussion** of Lady Montagu’s *The Turkish Letters*
Feb. 27: Cultural Institutions: The Salon, Political Clubs, Masonic Lodges

**Readings:**
- Woloch, pages 213-238
- Thomas Jefferson, “A Summary View of the Rights of British America” (online)

**Week 7**
Mar. 4: **Midterm Exam**
Mar. 6. Religion: Catholic and Protestant Revival

**Readings:**
- Woloch, pages 256-287

**Week 8**
Mar. 11: American Revolution
Mar. 13: French Revolution Causes I

**Readings:**
- Beaumarchais, *The Marriage of Figaro* (for purchase)
- Woloch, pages 288-309; 309-325

* Paper Due Mar. 11 on Lady Montagu, *The Turkish Letters* *

**Week 9**
Mar. 18 & Mar. 20: **No Class, SPRING BREAK**

**Week 10**
Mar. 25: French Revolution Causes II
Mar. 27: **Discussion** of *The Marriage of Figaro* and film clips “Beaumarchais L’Insolent”

**Readings:**
- Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen (August 1789) (online)
- Rousseau’s Social Contact (online)
- Censor & Hunt, pages TBA
Week 11
April 1: French Revolution Events I
April 3: French Revolution Events II
Readings:
- Robespierre, Justification for the use of Terror
- Thomas Jefferson on the French Revolution (online)
- Edmund Burke, Reflections on the French Revolution (1791)
- Thomas Paine, The Rights of Man (online)
- Censor & Hunt, pages TBA

Week 12
April 8: French Revolution Events III
April 10: Film “Danton”
Readings:
- Olympe de Gouges, Declaration of the Rights of Women (1791) (online)
- Censor & Hunt, pages TBA

* Paper Due April 10 on Beaumarchais, The Marriage of Figaro *

Week 13
April 15 Marie Antoinette
April 17: Images of Marie Antoinette in Film (Clips from Coppola’s “Marie Antoinette” and “The Diamond Necklace Affair”
Readings:
- Censor & Hunt, pages (online)

Week 14
April 22: Revolution in the Colonies
April 27: Napoleon
Readings:
- Civil Code (1804) (online)
- Napoleon’s Coup d’Etat (online)
- Censor & Hunt, pages TBA

Week 15
April 29: The Congress of Vienna
May 1: Conclusion

Final Exam TBA
Note: Syllabus subject to change by instructor.