

RENAISSANCE, REVOLT & REVOLUTION: HIS 201 – Fall 2024

Dr. Louis Schwartz

lshwartz@smac.edu

Room 302 ~ 8:05 to 9:25

Plenary Lectures on Mondays ~ Tutorials on Tuesdays / Wednesdays / Fridays

Office Hours by appointment.

Course Description

Starting with the crises afflicting Catholic Europe during the fourteenth century and ending with Napoleon, this course explores, through lectures and primary source readings, the new historical realities which forever changed the West and thus the rest of the world as well. The spiritual upheaval of the Western Schism and the physical ravages of the Black Death; the rebirth of classical culture; the discovery and colonization of new lands by European explorers and missionaries; the fragmentation of Christian unity during the Protestant Revolt; the development of new political theories, forms of government, and technological innovations: these and many other factors challenged long-standing traditions and laid the foundations for the modern, secular nation-state.

Required Text

Coursepack = CP

Evaluation Criteria

Tutorial Participation – 40%

Students meet weekly, in small groups, to discuss thematically arranged primary source selections from the Coursepack. Each student brings four typed-out questions inspired by the readings, shares some of them, and submits all of them at the end of the tutorial; the Coursepack contains a detailed description of this process.

Book Review – 25%

Each student selects a monograph (a book-length analysis of a specific topic) on any area of personal interest within the early modern period. To be eligible for selection, the monograph must have been first published within the past 25 years by a professional historian through an academic press. A detailed outline of the assignment along with assessment criteria are included in a separate handout.

Midterm – 15%

Students identify one passage from the Coursepack – author, date, place, literal meaning, larger significance – and respond to one broad essay question. The essay response should cite specific evidence from lecture material and primary source readings.

Final Exam – 20%

Similar to the Midterm, students identify one passage from the Coursepack and answer a broad essay question inspired by the general themes of the course, citing specific evidence from lecture material and primary source readings.

Week One: Crises in the Fourteenth Century

- Plenary Lecture: Tuesday, Sept. 9

CP Reading #1

- Tutorial Group A: *joins B or C this week*
 - Tutorial Group B: Wednesday, Sept. 6
 - Tutorial Group C: Friday, Sept. 8
-

Week Two: Age of Exploration

- Plenary Lecture: Monday, Sept. 16

CP Reading #2

- Tutorial Group A: Tuesday, Sept. 12
 - Tutorial Group B: Wednesday, Sept. 13
 - Tutorial Group C: Friday, Sept. 15
-

Week Three: Italian Renaissance

- Plenary Lecture: Monday, Sept. 23

CP Reading #3

- Tutorial Group A: Tuesday, Sept. 19
 - Tutorial Group B: Wednesday, Sept. 20
 - Tutorial Group C: Friday, Sept. 22
-

Week Four: Protestant Revolt

- Plenary Lecture: Monday, Sept. 30

CP Reading #4

- Tutorial Group A: Tuesday, Sept. 26
 - Tutorial Group B: Wednesday, Sept. 27
 - Tutorial Group C: Friday, Sept. 29
-

Week Five: Catholic Response

- Plenary Lecture: Monday, Oct. 7

CP Reading #5

- Tutorial Group A: Tuesday, Oct. 3
 - Tutorial Group B: Wednesday, Oct. 4
 - Tutorial Group C: Friday, Oct. 6
-

Week Six: Crime, Punishment & Social Order

- Plenary Lecture: Monday, Oct. 14

CP Reading #6

- Tutorial Group A: Tuesday, Oct. 10
 - Tutorial Group B: Wednesday, Oct. 11
 - Tutorial Group C: Friday, Oct. 13
-

Week Seven: Scientific Revolution

- Plenary Lecture: Monday, Oct. 21

CP Reading #7

- Tutorial Group A: Tuesday, Oct. 17
 - Tutorial Group B: Wednesday, Oct. 18
 - Tutorial Group C: Friday, Oct. 20
-

MIDTERM

- Friday, Oct. 28
-

Week Eight: New Political Theories

- Plenary Lecture: Monday, Nov. 4

CP Reading #8

- Tutorial Group A: Tuesday, Oct. 24
- Tutorial Group B: Wednesday, Oct. 25
- Tutorial Group C: Friday, Oct. 27

Week Nine: Commerce and Colonization

- Plenary Lecture: Monday, Nov. 11

CP Reading #9

- Tutorial Group A: Tuesday, Nov. 7
 - Tutorial Group B: Wednesday, Nov. 8
 - Tutorial Group C: Friday, Nov. 10
-

Week Ten: Enlightenment

- Plenary Lecture: Monday, Nov. 18

CP Reading #10

- Tutorial Group A: Tuesday, Nov. 14
 - Tutorial Group B: Wednesday, Nov. 15
 - Tutorial Group C: Friday, Nov. 17
-

Week Eleven: American Revolution

- Plenary Lecture: Monday, Nov 25

CP Reading #11

- Tutorial Group A: Tuesday, Nov. 28
 - Tutorial Group B: Wednesday, Nov. 29
 - Tutorial Group C: Friday, Dec. 1
-

Week Twelve: French Revolution

- Plenary Lecture: Tuesday, Dec. 3

CP Reading #12

- Tutorial Group A: Tuesday, Dec. 5
 - Tutorial Group B: Wednesday, Dec. 6
 - Tutorial Group C: *joins A or B this week*
-

Week Thirteen: Napoleon

- Plenary Lecture: Monday, Dec. 9

CP Reading #13

- Tutorial Group A: Tuesday, Dec. 12
- Tutorial Group B: Wednesday, Dec. 13
- Tutorial Group C: *joins A or B this week*