

Spring Semester 2009**Office:** Harris Hall 533**Office Hours:** Mon. - Thur. 11:00 - 12:15,
Wed. 2:00 - 5:00, and by appointment**Email:** mjeffries@netc.edu**Telephone:** 921-1453

Overview: This course is an introductory overview of the major themes that have shaped Western Civilization, its peoples, and its place in the world community from 1689 to the present. While the basic format of the course will involve lectures and some discussions, we will use a variety of documents, readings, photography, art, architecture, films, and music to explore the ways in which we understand and interpret Western Civilization and its impact in world history.

In accordance with the goals of Northeastern Technical College, this course will help students to identify, conceptualize, and evaluate:

Social and political processes and structures using quantitative and qualitative data

Key primary sources related to Western Civilization, political solutions, and society

The nature and development of the intellectual and philosophical concepts that structure Western Civilization politics

The history and operation of Western Civilization democratic institutions, culture, society, and involvement in world affairs, and

To convey knowledge and understanding of Western Civilization, helping students learn about the opportunities and responsibilities they have as citizens in an increasingly multicultural nation within the global context.

Furthermore, in the spirit of the traditions of a liberal arts education, we will all work together on the expression of ideas in both writing assignments and classroom discussions.

As we proceed through the content of this course, I wish for students to consider the importance of change and continuity over time. I offer two quotes as guideposts for the issues we will study, and to assess how the meaning of these arguments provides perspective on historical ideas, events, and characters.

“I am not an advocate for frequent changes in laws and constitutions, but laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths discovered and manners and opinions change, with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times. We might as well require a man to wear still the coat which fitted him when a boy as civilized society to remain ever under the regimen of its barbarous ancestors.”

Thomas Jefferson, “Letter to Samuel Kercheval,” 12 July 1816, in
David Mayer, *The Constitutional Thought Of Thomas Jefferson*
(Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press, 1994), pgs. 295-296.

“History with its flickering lamp stumbles along the trail of the past, trying to reconstruct its scenes, to revive its echoes, and kindle with pale gleams the passion of former days. What is the worth of all this? The only guide to a man is his conscience; the only shield to his memory is the rectitude and sincerity of his actions. It is very imprudent to walk through life without this shield, because we are so often mocked by the failure of our hopes and the upsetting of our calculations; but with this shield, however the Fates may play, we march always in the ranks of honour.”

Winston Churchill, “To the House of Commons,” 9 November 1940, in
James MacGregor Burns, *Roosevelt: The Soldier of Freedom*
(New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1970), pg. v.

Please note that this syllabus is subject to amendment or change at the discretion of the professor.

Books: Donald Kagan, et al., *The Western Heritage: Teaching and Learning Classroom Edition*, Brief 5th Edition, Vol. 2: Since 1648 (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Person / Prentice Hall, 2007).

Readings and Writing Assignments: Students will have reading assignments for each week's meetings. Each reading assignment will involve primary and secondary sources of different types.

Registration for this Course: Students are responsible for registering for this class and for verifying their class schedule on the College's Web-site. Students are responsible for observing NETC registration deadlines, to which no exceptions can be made. The deadline for registration for this course is January 9, 2009 with instructor / departmental signature. The last day to drop this course without receiving a "W" grade is April 17, 2009. There are no exceptions to these dates.

Course Requirements: Grades in this course will be determined by their performance in the following areas:

1. First Examination (25%, based on examination score)
2. Second Examination (25%, based on examination score)
3. Final Examination (25%, based on examination score)
4. Quizzes, Attendance, Writing Assignments, Discussion, and Participation (25%, based on the average of these scores)

Also, please take the time to create a Moodle account. This is extremely important as there will be supplementary material (readings, media, assignments...etc.) placed on the internet site for the course. You may access Moodle at the following web-site: <http://netc.remote-learner.net/login/index.php> or by visiting college's web-site at: www.netc.edu and clicking the "current students" tab then clicking the "Moodle" tab on the left side of the computer screen.

All work will be graded on a scale of 0-100, with 90-100 being "A," 80-89 being "B," etc. I will provide written explanations for the grades on all written work.

The examinations will be essay in format, must be written in blue or black ink, and be written in a "Blue Book" that each student is responsible for purchasing. Failure to comply with these directions will result in a grade of "0" for the exam. I will not give study guides. Students should utilize all of the course materials, readings, quizzes, and writing assignments as their study guide.

All quizzes and in class writing assignments must be written in blue or black ink, other outside of class writing assignments must be typed and double spaced. If these rules are not followed a "0" will be given for the assignment.

I would like to have the opportunity to interact with every student, thus I request that each student come to my office hours at some point during the semester to introduce themselves to me.

Honor Code: I expect all students to abide by the Northeastern Technical College Honor Code. As a student, it is your responsibility to be familiar with the Code and with plagiarism, and by signing into this course you are agreeing to uphold the Code. I insist that all work that you present be your own original work, no exceptions will be made. Information about the Honor System at NETC may be found in the NETC Course Catalogue and Student Handbook, also found on the internet at <http://www.netc.edu/Pathways.html> as a linked, downloadable Adobe Reader .pdf file. All work that students submit for this course, including writing assignments and examinations, must contain your signature and printed name.

Attendance and Assignments: Presence at all class meetings is necessary for students to participate in discussions and debates, to take quizzes, turn in assignments, and to obtain a working knowledge of material for which students will be held responsible. Attendance is mandatory and absences will count against the student's final grade. I will take attendance at the beginning of every class meeting, past classroom experiences demonstrate that poor attendance will result in low scores on assignments and examinations, ultimately lowering the student's final grade average. Therefore, *students should be present for all lectures and take thorough notes on lectures and class discussions*. I will not provide lecture notes if students are absent, so do not ask me to do so. It is the student's responsibility to be prepared for every class meeting, quiz, examination, and assignment. If the student misses seven class meetings for the semester they will be dropped from the course with a grade of "F" for the entire course. The instructor reserves the right to change, update, or alter assignments, quizzes, and examinations at anytime.

I expect that you will have completed all readings prior to coming to class and that you will be prepared to discuss such readings. Work should be handed in as indicated to you. Late work will *NOT* be accepted, and there are no make-ups for missed assignments, including examinations. There are NO EXCPETIONS to this policy except in the most extreme of circumstances, with proper documentation. All missed work will result in the grade of "0."

Students who have any scheduling conflicts with any assignments should discuss conflicts with me at the earliest date possible. I will deny any and all requests to change the dates or times of assignments at the last minute.

Classroom Etiquette: In order that all students contribute to discussions and a positive classroom environment, I insist that all students demonstrate respect toward one another and toward the instructor at all times. I WILL NOT tolerate any inconsiderate student behavior. Failure to follow classroom etiquette will result in lowered grades and immediate dismissal from class, be considerate of others at all times.

Each week will feature specific cultural, social, and ethnic information dealing with Western Civilization and its peoples including but not limited to music, artifacts, arts, crafts, food, health and medicine, social programs, environment, exploitation, capitalistic endeavors, portrayal, representation, politics, policies, stereotypes...etc. and their relationship to Western Civilization, its peoples and government, during the certain time period.

Class Schedule:

Week 1: <i>January 12</i>	Colonialism and Imperialism Kagan et al., Ch. 16
Week 2: <i>Jan. 19</i>	Enlightenment: Eighteenth-Century Thought Kagan et al., Ch. 17
Week 3: <i>Jan. 26</i>	“Off With Their Heads”: The French Revolution Kagan et al., Ch. 18
Week 4: <i>February 2</i>	Napoleon and Romanticism Kagan et al., Ch. 19
Week 5: <i>Feb. 9</i> (EXAM #1)	Nineteenth-Century Politics Kagan et al., Ch. 20
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Week 6: <i>Feb. 16</i>	Nineteenth-Century Economics and Society Kagan et al., Ch. 21
Week 7: <i>Feb. 23</i>	The Age of Nation-States Kagan et al., Ch. 22
Week 8: <i>March 2</i>	The Birth of Modern European Thought Kagan et al., Ch. 24
Week 9: <i>Mar. 9</i>	Society and Politics to World War I Kagan et al., Ch. 23
Week 10: <i>Mar. 16</i> (EXAM #2)	Bismarck’s Europe: Alliances and Imperialism Kagan et al., Ch. 25
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Week 11: <i>Mar. 23</i>	“The Great War”: World War I Kagan et al., Ch. 25 continued
Week 12: <i>Mar. 30</i>	Society and Politics of the 1920s and 1930s Kagan et al., Ch. 26-27
Week 13: <i>April 13</i>	The Road to War: Nationalism, Socialism, and Dictatorships Kagan et al., Ch. 28
Week 14: <i>April 20</i>	World War II and the Holocaust Kagan et al., Ch. 28 continued
Week 15: <i>April 27</i> (EXAM #3)	“Spheres of Influence”: The Cold War and Modern Europe Kagan et al., Ch. 29-30