

## HISTORY 1050

Spring 2006  
MWF 1:30-2:20  
WIDT 007

Prof. Robert Cole, Ph.D., F.R.H.S.  
OFFICE M321K  
Hours: T-TH 1:00-4:00  
or by appointment.  
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TA Trent Nelson

### REQUIRED TEXTS

(1) Jackson J. Spielvogel, *Western Civilization, vol. II: Since 1500*. Hereafter referred to as Spielvogel.

(2) Merry E. Wiesner, et. al., *Discovering the Western Past: A Look at the Evidence, vol. II*. Hereafter referred to as Wiesner.

### THE COURSE

The content is a survey of Western Civilization with a primary focus on Europe from the Reformation to the present day. You will become acquainted with fundamental religious, political, intellectual, military, diplomatic, social, and economic issues and developments in the West from 1500 to the Present.

The term 'civilization' derives from the Latin *civitas*, which means 'city.' After all, as the Romans would have been the first to point out, a bunch of rural peasants who wouldn't know a work of art from toilet paper (to neither of which did they have access in any case) could hardly be considered the architects of 'civilization'. Beginning in the late Middle Ages, European cities began to evolve into the centres of power, political and economic administration, and culture; and, wherever there were no cities in the sense indicated above, there was no 'civilization' as the Romans would have defined it. Happily, by the 16<sup>th</sup> century, which is when we begin our journey through the European past, cities were numerous, increasingly large and sophisticated, and centres from which spread new--or old but more sophisticated--religious, political, intellectual, military, diplomatic, social, and economic issues and developments.

Cities were where rulers lived, where universities, cathedrals, and trading companies lay, and where style, fashion, and cultural standards were defined. In short, 'the city was where it was at.' The size of a city is not the point. Paris, London, Vienna, Munich, Rome, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Prague, Warsaw, St. Petersburg, and Moscow were large cities--so too Berlin, but only by the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century--but much smaller cities such as Cologne (Köln), Florence (Firenze), Salzburg, Bamberg, and Bordeaux also

were centres of 'civilization,' because of their cathedrals, artists, universities, or wine trade.

Mind you, this overview of civilization as 'the city' does not mean that we are limited to urban history. Quite the contrary; this course is an overview of politics, economics, foreign policy, ideas and expression, and how Europeans liked to beat up on each other and others, in such places as India, Africa, and the Middle East. Have fun-- and learn something!

**The main objectives of the course are:**

1. To acquire an appreciation for those historical events and personalities that make up part of what is called “cultural literacy.”
2. To learn to think critically about historical events and the materials upon which our knowledge of them is based.
3. To learn to effectively express in writing an understanding of historical events.

**OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

Four one hour exams. The scheduled dates are:

- Exam One: January 27
- Exam Two: February 27
- Exam Three: March 31
- Exam Four: April 24

Each exam is worth 100 points.

Each examination will include (1) terms to define; (2) multiple choice questions. I will monitor these examinations in accordance with my instructions.

**Writing:** Each chapter in Wiesner contains a ‘Problem,’ ‘Sources and Method,’ ‘Evidence,’ and ‘Questions to Consider’ section. You will write a one page essay concentrating on the “Evidence,” or documents, portion of the particular chapters assigned for this purpose. They are listed below. The essays are worth ten (10) points each

**COURSE GRADE:** Your grade in this course will depend upon what percentage you earn of the possible 440 points. Grading breaks down as follows:

- A 95-100%
- A- 90-94%
- B+ 87-89%
- B 83-86%
- B- 80-82%
- C+ 77-79%

C 73-76%  
and so on.

### ***READING and WRITING ASSIGNMENTS***

Part One: January 9-27

Spielvogel, chapters 28-29; Wiesner, chapters 13-15. The essay is based on Wiesner, ch. 14: 'The Perils of Prosperity: The Unrest of Youth in the 1960s.' It is due January 23.  
First Exam: January 27.

Part Two: January 30-February 27

Spielvogel, chapters 13-17; Wiesner, chapters 1-4. The essay is based on Wiesner, ch. 3: 'The Mind of an Age: Science and Religion Confront Eighteenth-Century Natural Disaster.' It is due February 24. Second Exam: February 27.

Part Three: March 1-31

Spielvogel, chapters 18-22; Wiesner, chapters 5-8. The essay is based on Wiesner, ch. 7: 'Two Programs for Social and Political Change: Liberalism and Socialism.' It is due March 22. Third Exam: March 31.

Part Four: April 3-24

Spielvogel, chapters 23-27; Wiesner, chapters 9-12. The essay is based on Wiesner, ch. 12: 'Selling a Totalitarian System.' It is due April 21. Fourth Exam: April 24