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History 103: The Modern World, ca. 1789-1989 – DRAFT!
Spring WEC, Sundays 1-5 pm

"The past is not dead. It's not even past." -- William Faulkner

This course is designed to introduce you to the central events, individuals and ideas that have shaped the western world since 1815 and which are essential for us to know as citizens of the world today. We will be concerned more with explaining and analyzing issues than simply with memorizing "facts." Primary source materials – novels, memoirs and other documents – will help provide a window onto the minds and attitudes of people in the past. The course is organized both thematically and chronologically. Threaded throughout are two general “problems.”

- First, we will be tracing the grand theme of *the rise and fall of the “great powers”* in the 19th and 20th c. From France to Great Britain, then Germany and Russia, and finally to the United States (and what next?), we will ask the questions: Why these shifts? What leads to the rise and fall of great powers?
- Second, we will examine these broad historical shifts through *the eyes and experience of individuals*. During the last 200 years, individuals have been transformed from being “subjects” to “citizens;” they have gained rights as workers, voters and consumers. But two World Wars, fascism and communism, and numerous acts of genocide have also subordinated individual interests to that of all-powerful states.

In addition to exploring these major themes, the course will provide you with opportunities to develop essential skills, namely, the ability to conduct effective library and internet research, develop clear and logical argumentation, and articulate yourself clearly in both oral and written forms. *This course fulfills the Western Heritage perspective (old curriculum) or a Humanities Liberal Arts Foundation course (new curriculum).*

Course Outcomes:

By the end of this course, you will have:

- *become knowledgeable about many of the significant events, ideas, and individuals that have shaped the modern, western world;
- *sharpened your skills of analysis -- that is, at identifying, describing, and explaining the contexts and causes of historical change
- *learned about the methods and sources historians use “to reconstruct the past and give it meaningful shape”
- *completed your own project of historical reconstruction

Our Readings: (available in Augsburg's bookstore)

Mark Kishlansky, et al., Civilization in the West, Vol. C: Since 1789 (7th ed.)

Jana Hensel, After the Wall: Confessions of an East German Childhood

Adam Hochschild, King Leopold's Ghost

Sheri Holman, The Dress Lodger

Mary Lynn Rampolla, A Pocket Guide to Writing in History

Plus some articles on reserve or linked to our Moodle website – see syllabus for details.

Your Assignments:

Midterm #1	20%
Paper	20%
Online Discussion Assignments	20%
Final Exam	20%
In-class reports, discussion and quizzes	<u>20%</u>
Total:	100%

An Explanation of Assignments:

Exams: The two exams will each be a combination of objective questions, document analysis and more in-depth essays. The best way to prepare for the tests is to keep up-to-date on your reading, attend every class, take thorough notes, and pay attention to factual details as well as interpretations. The final exam will contain one cumulative essay question.

Paper: You will be required to write one 6-page paper reconstructing and analyzing a significant event that occurred in the last 150 years. The paper will require research in old newspapers, supplemented by secondary materials. A separate paper handout will provide more details. **The paper is due on June 7.** Please note that late papers will be lose points at the rate of 2 points per day late, unless you have secured from the instructor a written extension *in advance*, or you have a *documented emergency*.

Moodle Discussion: Because the most valuable learning in college often occurs outside the hours you sit in class, we are going to extend our classroom via a wonderful electronic resource called Moodle. Think of it as a gateway to the past and to peoples and places far away, as well as a handy link to your classmates and instructor. We will be using Moodle in several different ways:

- a) As a tool for managing course materials – all course documents, including the syllabus, will be located on our website.
- b) As a means to extend our class time – you will be asked to participate in online discussions during the weeks in-between classes. The forums will help you probe important historical issues, deepen your understanding the material we cover in class, and practice your writing. They will be counted as complete if they draw upon the assigned readings in a thoughtful manner, are satisfactorily developed (at least one full paragraph, but not more than three, please!), and are on time. Moodle responses posted after the deadline will be counted for ½ credit.
- c) As a portal to important historical documents and other resources. In preparation for some classes, you will be required to log on to Moodle and follow the instructions provided for retrieving historical sources or touring (electronically) various museums and archives.

Academic Honesty: All students are required to pledge adherence to Augsburg's Policy on Academic Honesty. Please read and commit to memory the policy, found in the Student Guide. It is essential that you thoroughly understand the definition of "plagiarism" and, very early in your college career, establish a pattern of recognizing and avoiding it. If you have questions about using proper citations, please raise them in class. If you plagiarize any assignment (either deliberately or unwittingly), you may fail that assignment; if the case is particularly egregious, you may be asked to drop the class.

COURSE OUTLINE

- April 5 What is History? Why Study "Western Civilization"?
The French Revolution: Creating Citizens, Dictators and Demagogues
Reading: Kishlansky, ch. 20; Peter Stearns, "Why Study History?"
(online)
- April 19 The Industrial Revolution: Forging the Modern World
Reading: Kishlansky, ch. 21; Sheri Holman, *The Dress Lodger* (all)
QUIZ
- April 26 Europe, 1815-1848: An Age of "Isms"
Urban Rhythms: The Growth of Cities
Building the Nation
Reading: Kishlansky, ch. 22-24
- May 10 The Scramble for Empire
Reading: Kishlansky, ch. 25; Adam Hochschild, *Leopold's Ghost*
MIDTERM EXAM (during first hour of class)
- May 17 The Great War and Modern Memory
Revolution in Russia
1920s: An Age of Anxiety and Excess
Reading: Kishlansky, ch. 26-27
- June 7 The Nazi "Seizure of Power"
World War II: The People's War
The Holocaust
Reading: Kishlansky, ch. 28
PAPER DUE
- June 21 Reconstructing Postwar Europe
Divided Europe
1989: Reunification
Reading: Kishlansky, ch. 29-30; Jana Hensel, *After the Wall* (all)

FINAL EXAM (in-class portion during last hour of class; cumulative question will be take-home)