

Rhode Island College

Providence Career and Technical Academy Early Enrollment Program

Ms. Pacitto

Syllabus for History 117E: Introduction to Historical Analysis (4 credits)

Year-long 2024-2025

Course Description

This course introduces students to historical themes within European History. Students will examine the cultural, economic, political, and social developments that helped to shape the world in which we live today. As a historical analysis course, students will interpret and investigate various primary sources and their impact on the different developments that took place since 1648. This course will focus primarily on allowing students to develop skills of historical analysis, document analysis, discussion and debate, and critical thinking.

Textbook

Kagan, Donald, et al. *The Western Heritage, since 1648*. 12th ed., Volume 2, Prentice Hall, 2020. (online)

<https://www.pearson.com/us/higher-education/program/Kagan-Revel-for-The-Western-Heritage-Volume-2-Access-Card-12th-Edition/PGM2398743.html?tab=contents>

Supplemental resources:

As this is a historical analysis course, a good deal of our time will be devoted to primary source analysis from various online databases, including (but not limited to):

Fordham University- Internet Modern History Sourcebook

<https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/mod/modsbook.asp>

Yale University -The Avalon Project

<https://avalon.law.yale.edu/>

Hanover College- The Hanover Historical Texts Collection

<https://avalon.law.yale.edu/>

Course Requirements

To take this course, students must have demonstrated proficiency in reading and writing skills in all previous History and English courses. Students will be required to maintain a portfolio of notes, writing assignments, and other project-based materials. Within this course, students will complete a series of document based questions (2-5 pg), a historiographical piece (2-5 pg), an article review (2-5 pg), and a research-based passion project. Class participation in various discussion activities (online or in person) related to readings will be required of each student. Each chapter will also have a test.

Grading Policy

Writing assignments (document based questions, historiographical pieces, Article review, and a passion project)	50%
Tests	30%
Classwork/discussion	20%

Content Outline

SEMESTER I

PART 1: Europe in Transition, 1648–1750

European State Consolidation in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries
New Directions in Thought and Culture in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries
Society and Economy Under the Old Regime in the Eighteenth Century
The Transatlantic Economy, Trade Wars, and Colonial Rebellion

PART 2: Enlightenment and Revolution, 1700–1850

The Age of Enlightenment: Eighteenth-Century Thought
The French Revolution
The Age of Napoleon and the Triumph of Romanticism
The Conservative Order and the Challenges of Reform (1815–1832)
Economic Advance and Social Unrest (1830–1850)

PART 3: Toward the Modern World, 1850–1939

The Age of Nation-States
The Building of European Supremacy: Society and Politics to World War I
The Birth of Modern European Thought
The Age of Western Imperialism
Alliances, War, and a Troubled Peace
The Interwar Years: The Challenge of Dictators and Depression

PART 4: Global Conflict, Cold War, and New Directions, 1939 to Present World War II

The Cold War Era, Decolonization, and the Emergence of a New Europe
Social, Cultural, and Economic Challenges in the West through the Present