HIS 2312 – 002: Western Civilization since 1500  
Fall 2020  
Tues/Thurs 11:00 am – 12:15 pm  
474 Ferguson

Robert Allen, History Department  
rballen@sfasu.edu  
Office hours on Zoom:  
Mon 10 am – noon, Wed 2 – 3:30 pm, and by appointment

Course Description:
Political, social, economic, and cultural history of the West from the Reformation to the present.

Course Materials:
Clifford R. Backman, *Cultures of the West: A History – vol. 2, since 1350, 3rd edition*  

Carlo Levi, *Christ Stopped at Eboli*  

Primary sources will also be assigned and posted on Brightspace / D2L.

Course Requirements:

- Three exams, worth 100 points each = 300
- Six discussion post assignments, 10 points each = 60
- Six reading quizzes, worth 10 points each = 60
- One paper, 3 – 5 pages in length, worth 80 points = 80

500 points
Grading scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points earned</th>
<th>Semester average</th>
<th>Semester grade</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>450 – 500</td>
<td>90 – 100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400 – 449</td>
<td>80 – 89</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>350 – 399</td>
<td>70 – 79</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>300 – 349</td>
<td>60 – 69</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 – 299</td>
<td>0 – 59</td>
<td>F</td>
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Extra credit and late work:

Extra credit points may be earned by students who participate in a series of “thought assignments” and turn them in by specific deadlines.

Late work is not accepted.

D2L / Brightspace:

This semester, students will take all of their exams and quizzes on D2L and will also submit their paper assignment and discussion posts on D2L. Students should fulfill these assignments early enough to allow for technical difficulties. If you have difficulties, you can email SFA’s D2L support team at d2l@sfasu.edu or call them at (936) 468-1919 or (888) 357-3278 or (available Monday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm).

It is your responsibility to check D2L frequently to keep up with announcements and assignments.

Attendance policy:

Class attendance is strongly recommended as a vital part of student learning but will not result in points deducted from the semester average. Roll will be taken each class by the instructor, whether students attend in-person or on Zoom.

Course Calendar with Assignments:

Aug 25 & 27  Introduction: rural society and traditional popular culture

                      1st discussion post, due Aug 28 by 11 pm

Sept 1 & 3  Reformations

                      1st quiz, Sept 2 by 11 pm

Sept 8 & 10  Age of Absolutism

                      2nd quiz, Sept 9 by 11 pm
Sept 15 & 17  The Enlightenment
                2nd discussion post, due Sept 16 by 11 pm
Sept 22        Colonial trade and expansion
Sept 24        First exam

Sept 29 & Oct 1 The French Revolution and Napoleon
                3rd quiz, Sept 30 by 11 pm
Oct 6 & 8      The Industrial Revolution
                3rd discussion post, due Oct 7 by 11 pm
Oct 13 & 15    The “isms” of the 19th century
                4th discussion post, due Oct 14 by 11 pm
Oct 20         The revolutions of 1848
Oct 22         Second exam

Oct 27 & 29    The unification of Italy and Germany
                4th quiz, Oct 28 by 11 pm
Nov 3 & 5      Late 19th-century Europe and the origins of World War One
                5th quiz, Nov 4 by 11 pm
Nov 10 & 12    World War One and the Russian Revolution
                5th discussion post, due Nov 11 by 11 pm
Nov 17 & 19    Fascist Italy, Nazi Germany, and World War Two
                6th quiz, Nov 18 by 11 pm
                * Paper assignment due, Thursday, Nov 19 by 11 pm
Dec 1 & 3      Europe after World War Two
                6th discussion post, due Dec 2 by 11 pm
Dec 10         Third exam
**Academic Integrity (A - 9.1):**

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s test or one’s paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/4.1-student-academic-dishonesty.pdf

**Withheld Grades (Semester Grades Policy, A- 54):**

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Students with Disabilities:**

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/

**Course Objectives:**

**Program Learning Outcomes:** This is a general education core curriculum course and no specific program learning outcomes for this major are addressed in this course.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** HIS 2312 is part of the university’s Core Curriculum and as such strives toward both the general goals of the core and the specific objectives for classes designated for inclusion in the Language, Philosophy, and Culture Foundational Component Area as defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Courses in this Foundational Component Area of the Core focus on the ideas, values, beliefs, and
other aspects of culture that express and affect human experience. Courses involve the exploration of ideas that foster aesthetic and intellectual creation in order to understand the human condition across cultures.

In addition to learning the above, students in HIS 2312 will demonstrate the more general ability to:

- Think critically, which includes the ability to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information about this period of history.
- Communicate effectively by developing and expressing ideas through written communication.
- Gain intercultural competence, a knowledge of civic responsibility, and an awareness of past human engagements in regional, national, and global communities.
- Understand the role that personal responsibility has played throughout history and gain the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to the making of ethical decisions.

**Explanation of credit hours awarded for course:**

HIST 2312 (Western Civilization II) meets for 2,250 minutes (37.5 hours), including examination times, during the course of a semester. Students typically have weekly reading assignments from a combination of textbooks, primary document collections, and supplemental materials (biographies, historical novels, memoirs, etc). Typical sections of the course require students to take 2-3 exams per semester, in addition to the final exam. Many also require students to take quizzes. Course instructors are required to hold regular scheduled office hours to make themselves available to consult with students as needed. Combined, studying for quizzes/exams, doing the required reading, completing writing assignments, and consulting with course instructors average two hours of work outside the classroom for every hour spent in the classroom. Online sections of the course contain extensive written content within modules, and instructors hold “electronic office hours” to consult with students as needed, generally responding to student inquiries within twenty-four hours. Online course content includes the same information students in a face-to-face lecture course receive, requiring students to engage the online modules for at least 2,250 minutes per term. Besides engaging the material in the modules, online students have outside reading assignments similar to those mentioned above for face-to-face students. Thus, for every hour an online student spends engaging the content in the modules, he/she spends at least two hours completing associated activities and assessments.

**General Education Core Curriculum:**

This course has been selected to be part of Stephen F. Austin State University’s core curriculum. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has identified six objectives for all core courses: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Teamwork, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. SFA is committed to the improvement of its general education core curriculum by regular assessment of student performance on these six objectives.
By enrolling in HIST 2312, you are enrolling in a Core Curriculum Course that fulfills the Critical Thinking, Written Communication, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility requirements.

The chart below indicates the core objectives addressed by this course and the assignments that will be used to assess the objectives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Course Assignment Title</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking Skills</td>
<td>To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.</td>
<td>Discussion posts, exams, paper assignment</td>
<td>Sept 24, Oct 22, Nov 19, Dec 8, and throughout</td>
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<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas though written, oral, and visual communication.</td>
<td>Paper assignment</td>
<td>Nov 19</td>
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<td>Empirical and Quantitative Skills</td>
<td>To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.</td>
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<td>Teamwork</td>
<td>To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.</td>
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<td>Personal Responsibility</td>
<td>To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.</td>
<td>Discussion posts</td>
<td>Throughout the semester</td>
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<td>Social Responsibility</td>
<td>To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.</td>
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