Course Syllabus

**Department:** Social Sciences

**Date:** 4/15/15

**Course Prefix and Number:** HIS 101

**Course Name:** Western Civilization II

**Credit Hours and Contact Hours:** 3 credit hours and 3 contact hours

**Catalog Description including pre- and co-requisites:** no pre-requisites or co-requisites

This course, the second half of the history of western civilization sequence, continues the exploration of the social, political, intellectual and cultural development of the western tradition, from 1700 to the present. Using a variety of sources (primary and secondary) and encompassing a range of topics from the Scientific Revolution through the post Cold War era, this course examines the flowering of the rational, scientific and democratic western outlook in the modern era, and the various challenges posed by revolution, industrialization, totalitarianism, world war and the nuclear age. Topics include, the Enlightenment, French Revolution, Napoleon, Industrial Revolution, Age of Imperialism, World War I, Russian Revolution, Hitler and Nazism, World War II, the Holocaust, and the Cold War. HIS/HUM 100 is NOT a prerequisite. (Also listed as HUM 101)

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Students will:

Demonstrate knowledge of the development of the distinctive features of the history, institutions, economy, society, culture etc of modern Western civilization.

Relate the development of Western civilization to that of other regions of the world, and obtain the historical knowledge necessary to live interdependently in a diverse global community.

Demonstrate the ability to comprehend, interpret, analyze and evaluate college-level primary and secondary source readings.

Identify, analyze and evaluate arguments made by some of the major authors in the field of Modern western history, and, in their own writing, will demonstrate well-reasoned arguments when interpreting historical subject matter.

Demonstrate an understanding of the political evolution of western civilization in the 18th – 20th centuries (including Enlightenment-era theories of democracy, representative government, social equality, human rights, and individual freedom, and their application during the French and American Revolutions and the 19th century “Age of Reform”), so as to better
equip themselves with the knowledge, skills and values necessary to be involved in their communities.
Demonstrate the ability to identify, locate, evaluate, use and share information from a range of published and electronic historical resources.

**Relationship to Academic Programs and Curriculum:**
May be taken to fulfill the SUNY General Education requirement of 3 credits of a western civilization course, or as a Humanities (HUM 101) or Social Science (HIS 101) elective requirement. (Also listed as HUM 101)

**College Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course:**

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**III. Instructional Materials and Methods**

**Types of Course Materials:**
Textbook, published primary source reader (or electronic equivalent), assigned historical monograph, College learning management system.

**Methods of Instruction:**
Lecture, reading and discussion

**IV. Assessment Measures:**
Student knowledge of the development of the distinctive features of the history, institutions, economy, society, culture of modern Western civilization will be assessed using in-class, closed-book essay examinations (Critical Thinking competency).

Quizzes and/or essay examinations will be employed to assess students’ ability to comprehend, interpret, analyze and evaluate college-level primary and secondary source readings (Reading competency).

An assigned research paper will be employed to assess students’ ability to gather information from a range of published and electronic historical sources, to identify, analyze and evaluate arguments made by some of the major authors in the field of modern western history, and to develop a well-reasoned and evidence-supported historical argument (Critical Thinking, Computer Literacy and Information Resources competencies).
Quizzes and essay examinations will be employed to assess students’ understanding of the political evolution of modern western civilization (Citizenship competency). Quizzes and essay examinations will be employed to assess students’ understanding of the manifold ways in which the history of western civilization connects with that of the wider world (Global Concerns competency).

V. General Outline of Topics Covered:

Legacy of the Middle Ages

Scientific Revolution

Enlightenment

Enlightenment in Action: French Revolution

Napoleon: Reformer and Tyrant

Industrial Revolution: Blessing and Curse for Humanity

Imperialism: Motivations and Means

World War I: Origins and Causes

World War I: Total War and the Making of the Modern World

Versailles and the Failure to Make a Durable Peace, 1919

Russian Revolution

Troubled Times: Great Depression, Stalinism and Fascism

Revisionism and the Road to World War II

World War II

Holocaust and Birth of the Atomic Age

Cold War

Post-Cold War Europe