

HIST 4344:

*The Age of
Absolutism & the
Enlightenment
(1648-1789)*

Dr. Kristine Wirts
Associate Professor of
European History

Fall 2016



GENERAL DESCRIPTION AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a general understanding of the major political, economic, social, institutional, intellectual, and cultural forces that shaped Europe from the English Civil War up to the outbreak of the French Revolution. An upper-level online history course, HIST 4344 consists of both intensive reading and writing components. Along with two short textbooks, students are assigned three books of supplemental reading and a series of articles. Students will be required to take two multiple choice exams (Midterm and Final) and four online essay quizzes (short essay response papers). Students are additionally required to submit a bibliography, thesis and abstract, rough draft, and final research paper (8 – 10 pages of text). The final research paper will address an historical question Dr. Wirts will assign at the start of the semester.

*HIST 4344 follows the **Oxford Tutorial Method**, which stresses the development of time management skills, argumentation, and critical analysis. In contrast to the American classroom (standard lecturing), students engaged in this method spend very little face time with the professor and fellow classmates, and a great deal of time researching, reading, and preparing critical responses to assigned questions. The final product of the course, the final research paper, represents the culmination of many shorter assignments aimed at honing these skills.*

*For this course, students are required to read all assignments carefully and think critically about the material presented. Students are expected to turn in all materials on time and keep abreast of classroom assignments as they appear on Blackboard. HIST 4344 is an online course, thus all assignments will be received and returned over the **Blackboard** system. **The professor will not receive assignments over the university email system.** If you have a question concerning the course or its requirements, please contact the professor through Blackboard email.*

OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

M & T 2:30 – 4:30 p.m (online) and by appointment or pre-arranged teleconference. Please feel free to contact Professor Wirts by campus email if you would like to schedule an appointment or teleconference with her. Dr. Wirts' office is 311 ARHU Building. Her phone is 665 – 3561 (Main Dept. Line) and Email is wirtskm@utpa.edu. She is available for teleconferences for both the afternoon and evening hours.

PREREQUISITES AND REQUIRED TECHNICAL SKILLS

To succeed in HIST 4344 students should possess the following skills: 1) Proficiency in English (both reading and writing skills), 2) A rudimentary/basic knowledge of early modern European history (No prerequisites are required for HIST 4344 although students are strongly encouraged to have completed HIST 2321), 3) Proficiency in using email with attachments, 4) Proficiency in creating and submitting files in Microsoft Word format, 5) Familiarity with social studies research and style methods (Chicago style manual or Turabian).

TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES

Students experiencing technical difficulties are encouraged to contact UTRGV's Center for Online Learning, Teaching, and Technology (COLTT). COLTT can be reached either by phone at (956) 665-5327 (Edinburg Campus) or (956) 882-6792 (Brownsville Campus). Students may submit an outline ticket at <http://colttapps.utrgv.edu/helpme>. COLTT's Website address is <http://utrgv.edu/online> and E-Mail address is coltthelp@utrgv.edu. The IT helpdesk can also assist in resolving technical issues and can be reached by phone at (956) 665-2020. The IT helpdesk is located at Visit ACSB 1.102. If any student still cannot access the Blackboard system due to technical difficulties, then he or she may contact Professor Wirts for the needed course materials. Please note that it is incumbent upon the student to address his or her technical difficulties. The Professor will not continue to email course materials to students throughout the course of the semester.

REQUIRED READINGS

TEXTBOOKS:

Richard S. Dunn, *The Age of Religious Wars, 1559-1715* (1979).

Isser Woloch, *Eighteenth-Century Europe: Tradition and Progress, 1715- 1789* (1982).

SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS:

Pierre Goubert, *Louis XIV and Twenty Million Frenchmen* (1972).

John T. Alexander, *Catherine the Great: Life and Legend* (1989).

Eric Hobsbawm and George Rude, *Captain Swing* (2014).

ARTICLES (Articles that may be downloaded from JSTOR or that are available from UTRGV's catalog):

Robert Darnton, "The High Enlightenment and the Low-Life of Literature in Pre-Revolutionary France," *Past and Present*, No. 51 (May 1971), pp. 81 – 115.

JSTOR

Robert Darnton, "Peasant Tell Tales," from *The Great Cat Massacre: And Other Episodes in French Cultural History* (1985). **UTPA CATALOG**

William Monter, "Toads and Eucharists: The Male Witches of Normandy, 1564 – 1660," *French Historical Studies*, Vol. 20, No. 4 (Autumn, 1997), pp. 563-595.
JSTOR

COURSE OBJECTIVES

*Students in this course will (*Note: The Learning Objectives listed below are based on Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills 113.42 & 113.48.):*

- 1) *Identify key themes, events, movements, and historical figures associated with the Age of Absolutism and Enlightenment.*
- 2) *Explain and assess in written form the historical evolution (cause and effect) of ideas and movements of the Age of Absolutism and Enlightenment.*
- 3) *Analyze an historical argument and identify its thesis.*
- 4) *Demonstrate and examine in written form how bias and points of view influence the historical record.*
- 5) *Present and critique in written form important historical concepts, debates and differing interpretations of the Age of Absolutism and Enlightenment.*
- 6) *Conduct scholarly research using library resources and current technology such as library catalogues, networks, online information systems, academic journals, and primary sources on the internet.*
- 7) *Compose a bibliography following accepted social studies forms and methods (Chicago Manual Style or Turabian form.)*
- 8) *Develop a thesis, argument, and conclusion supported by secondary sources.*
- 9) *Demonstrate sustained historical research and reasoned argument using secondary sources.*
- 10) *Present research applying the conventions of usage and mechanics of written English (standard grammar, punctuation, spelling, and sentence structure) and following a social studies form and method appropriate for an academic setting (Chicago Manual Style or Turabian).*

QUIZZES & EXAMS

QUIZZES: Each student will be required to take four essay quizzes. Each quiz is worth 50 points for a total of 200 points. The quizzes will be open-book essays and cover all the assigned readings. Quiz essays must be no more nor less than one page in length, double-spaced (12 point font). Students are required to use proper grammar and punctuation for all of their quizzes. Students are also expected to cite sources appropriately following the Turabian or Chicago style form. Only those quizzes that are typed and that follow the proper guidelines for citations will be accepted.

EXAMS: There are two multiple-choice exams. The exams will be administered over Blackboard. The two exams will cover all assigned readings. The second exam is not comprehensive. **Students will be given 60 minutes to take each exam and will be permitted an unlimited number of times to take the exam until DECEMBER 15, the Midterm and Final Exam deadline.** The highest score achieved by **DECEMBER 15** on the Midterm Exam will stand as the final grade for the Midterm. The highest score achieved by **DECEMBER 15** on the Final Exam will stand as the final grade for the Final Exam. Students are required to work independently when taking their exams. **Collaboration conducted in the course of an online exam is strictly prohibited.**

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

THE RESEARCH PAPER: Each student is required to write an 8 – 10 page research paper (Text) addressing an historical question Dr. Wirts will assign at the start of the semester (Look under the “RESEARCH ASSIGNMENTS” tab for your assigned research question). Writing assignments for the Research Paper are broken down into four activities: the bibliography, the thesis and abstract, the rough draft, and the final assignment that represents the culmination of all previous writing activities, the Final Research Paper. The Final Research Paper (or Project) should contain all previous components in revised form.

THE BIBLIOGRAPHY: Each student is required to submit a bibliography of scholarly books and articles that he or she intends to use for the research paper. The bibliography should be as thorough as possible and include all major works relating to the research topic. While students may include in their bibliography articles and books Dr. Wirts has assigned for this course, students are expected to demonstrate a depth and mastery of the proposed topic by seeking sources well beyond the list of assigned readings. Those students experiencing difficulty locating sources should notify Professor Wirts as soon as possible. Students should avoid using sources from the internet unless they can verify the content as scholarly. Students are encouraged to use sources accessible from JSTOR. **Finally, all students are required to submit a bibliography. Only those students who submit a bibliography by the bibliography due date will be eligible to receive a B or A for the final paper grade.**

THE THESIS STATEMENT AND ABSTRACT: Within the first few weeks of the semester, each student will be required to submit a thesis statement (one or two sentences) and an abstract of approximately 200 words. All students are required to turn in a Thesis Statement and Abstract. **Only those students who submit a Thesis Statement and Abstract by the designated due date will be eligible to receive a B or A for the final paper grade.**

THE ROUGH DRAFT: Each student will be required to submit a rough draft. Students are advised to submit rough drafts that are as clean and final as possible. Rough drafts submitted before the due date are accepted. All students are required to submit a rough draft. **Only those students who submit a rough draft by the rough draft due date will be eligible to receive a B or A on the final paper.** In preparing papers for final submission, students are strongly encouraged to address questions raised in Dr. Wirts' written feedback.

THE FINAL RESEARCH PAPER: Each student is required to write an 8 – 10 page research paper (text) that addresses a major historical question. The paper should be double-spaced and in 12 point font. The total number of pages each student submits should not exceed ten pages of text, excluding foot and/or end notes. Please note Professor Wirts will only read the first ten pages each student submits. Papers that are less than eight pages of text may be subject to a point deduction. Students are additionally required to use proper grammar and punctuation for all their writing and quiz assignments. Only writing assignments that are typed and that follow Turabian or the Chicago Style form will be accepted. Either foot or end notes are acceptable, though not both forms for the same paper. Dr. Wirts will assign each student a research question during the first week of the course. The Final Research Paper should conform to the following structure and order: 1) Title Page, 2) Thesis and Abstract Page, 3) Main Body (8 – 10 Pages of Text), 4) End Note Page (if not using endnotes), and Bibliography. Finally, the thesis (which is usually no more than a few sentences) should also be yellow highlighted in the paper's text. The thesis is the main point the author is trying to demonstrate in his or her paper.

CHICAGO STYLE GUIDELINES FOR CITING SOURCES: Students may access guidelines for citing sources from the following web address: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/01/>

TURABIAN GUIDELINES FOR CITING SOURCES: Students may access guidelines for citing sources from the following web address: <http://www.libs.uga.edu/ref/turabian2009.pdf>

LATE WRITING ASSIGNMENTS AND MISSED WORK

Students who experience difficulty in submitting their writing assignments through Blackboard are permitted to turn in a late copy. **Late copies may be submitted within 48 hours (grace period) following the official due date.** Students must notify Dr. Wirts that their assignment will be arriving late due to technical difficulties. Papers submitted after the 48 hour grace period will not be accepted without the appropriate written documentation. **No assignments will be accepted after December 13 – even with proper documentation.**

GRADING POLICY

Grades are based on the numerical score achieved in the multiple choice exams combined with the total points achieved on written work. Dr. Wirts follows a rubric when grading written work (quiz essays and all other written assignments). Rubrics for writing assignments and quiz essays are located in the instructions/drop box section of each assignment. **In general, Dr. Wirts employs the following criteria in evaluating written work:** 1) Clearness of writing (proper spelling, grammar, punctuation, transitions, and sentence structure. Does the paper satisfy length requirements?).

2) *Analytical Content* (Did the Student address the question in a thoughtful and critical way?). 3) *Strength of Argument* (Has the student demonstrated mastery of content and presented a strong case for his or her thesis? Is the thesis clearly outlined and viable?). 4) *Research* (Did the student conduct research relying on scholarly resources appropriate for the assigned task? 5) *Did the student adhere to proper standards for citation of sources, following either Turabian or Chicago style form.?* 6) *In evaluating the final research project, the professor also considers the extent to which the student incorporated revisions suggested in feedback from previous assignments (i.e., bibliography, thesis & abstract, and rough draft).*

Return Policy on Writing Assignments: *Note that all writing assignments will be returned to students within two weeks of submission. Please allow for up to three weeks for written feedback on rough drafts. Dr. Wirts responds to emails as soon as she receives them (usually no later than three days unless she is out of town).*

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. The Early Modern European Economy: *Explain how Europe's economy changed from the seventeenth to the eighteenth centuries. How did the Atlantic trade shape Europe's economy? What importance did the rise in population have on Europe's economy during the eighteenth century?*

2. The Absolutist State: *How did France manage to centralize while other nations did not? Was France truly an absolutist state by the close of the seventeenth century? Why or Why not?*

3. The English Civil War: *What caused the English Civil War?*

4. The Glorious Revolution: *How was constitutional monarchy achieved in England?*

5. Absolutist Monarchs: *Compare and Contrast the reigns of Louis XIV of France and Peter the Great of Russia. Were they truly absolutist monarchs? What reforms did they introduce to centralize their power? Were these kings successful as monarchs?*

6. The Decline of Spain: *Explain Spain's decline as a world power. What factors contributed to Spain's eventual decline as a European and global power following the Thirty-Years War?*

7. Enlightened Absolutism: *What do scholars mean by the term "enlightened absolutism.?" What reforms did the enlightened rulers of Europe seek to achieve? Were the enlightened rulers successful? Why or why not?*

8. Eighteenth-Century Diplomacy: *What did the rise of Prussia mean to European diplomacy of the eighteenth century? What other major international events influenced European diplomacy during the eighteenth century?*

9. The Old Regime: *Describe life during the eighteenth century. How did scientific and technological advances change the lives of ordinary people during the eighteenth century?*

10. The French Revolution: *What caused the French Revolution?*

GRADE POINT BREAK DOWN

POINT BREAK DOWN

Quiz #1	= 50 Points
Quiz #2	= 50 Points
Quiz #3	= 50 Points
Quiz #4	= 50 Points

Bibliography	= 10 Points
Thesis & Abstract	= 20 Points
Rough Draft	= 20 Points
Final Paper	= 150 Points

Midterm Exam	= 100 Points
Final Exam	= 100 Points

Total Points Possible = 600 Points

FINAL COURSE GRADE

A = 540 - 600 Points

B = 480 - 539 Points

C = 420 - 479 Points

D = 360 - 419 Point

F = 359 or less Points

IMPORTANT DUE DATES

Writing Assignment Due Dates:

Bibliography	9/11
Thesis & Abstract	10/9
Rough Draft	10/30
Final Paper	12/11

Quiz (Short Essay) Due Date

Quiz #1	9/18
Quiz #2	10/16
Quiz #3	11/6
Quiz #4	11/27

Examination Start Dates:

Midterm	10/16
Final Exam	12/11

Examination Close Date

Midterm	12/15
Final Exam	12/15

COURSE READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

PART I: THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

- Aug. 29*** *Society and Economy during the Seventeenth Century*
Reading: Dunn, Chapters 1, 2, & 3
- Sept. 4*** *Absolutism vs. Constitutionalism*
Reading: Dunn, Chapter 4
Pierre Goubert's *Louis XIV and Twenty Million Frenchmen* (1972)
- Sept. 11*** *Absolutism vs. Constitutionalism (continue)*
Bibliography Due Sunday, Sept. 11
Reading: Goubert's *Louis XIV and Twenty Million Frenchmen* (1972)
- Sept. 18*** *War and Diplomacy during the Seventeenth Century*
Quiz (short essay) #1 Due Sunday, Sept. 18
Reading: Dunn, Chapter 6, and pp. 82 – 102.
- Sept. 25*** *The Scientific Revolution*
Reading: Dunn, Chapter 5.
- Oct. 2*** *Popular Religion*
Reading: William Monter, "Toads and Eucharists."
- Oct. 9*** ***Thesis and Abstract Due Sunday, Oct. 9***
- Oct. 16*** ***Midterm Commences Sunday, Oct. 16***
Quiz #2 (short essay) Due Sunday, Oct. 16

PART II: THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

- Oct. 23*** *War and Diplomacy during the Eighteenth Century*
Reading: Woloch, Chapters 1 & 2
- Oct. 30*** *The Social Order / Scientific Agriculture*
Reading: Woloch, Chapters 3, 4, 5, & 6

Robert Darnton, "Peasant Tell Tales."
Rough Draft Due Sunday, Oct. 30

Nov. 6 The Enlightenment: The Philosophes
Reading: Woloch, Chapter 7.
Darnton, "The High Enlightenment."
Quiz # 3 Due Sunday, Nov. 6

Nov. 13 Russia during the Enlightenment
Reading: Alexander's Catherine the Great: Life and Legend (1989)

Nov. 20 Russia during the Enlightenment (continued)
Reading: Alexander's Catherine the Great: Life and Legend (1989)

Nov. 27 The Industrial Revolution
Reading: Eric Hobsbawm and George Rude's, Captain Swing (2014)
Quiz #4 Due Sunday, Nov. 27

Dec. 4 The Industrial Revolution (continued)
Reading: Eric Hobsbawm and George Rude's, Captain Swing (2014)

Dec. 11 **Final Paper Due Sunday, Dec. 11**
Final Exam Commences Sunday, Dec. 11
Midterm & Final Exams Close Thursday, Dec. 15

UNIVERSITY AND COURSE POLICIES

ONLINE ETIQUETTE: *At all times, students should keep in mind that the online environment is a public space. Students are asked to exercise common courtesy and professional standards appropriate for an academic setting. Students are asked to write in standard English (in both formal writing assignments and online discussions) and respect their fellow students in all email, chat, and group discussion. In online discussions and chats, students are additionally asked to communicate in complete sentences.*

EMAIL COMMUNICATION: *Per UTRGV policy, all email communication between the UTRGV faculty and staff and students must be conducted through the students' official University supplied Email account. Therefore, please use your UTRGV assigned Bronc Mail for any correspondence with UTRGV faculty and staff. Other emails may be blocked by the spam filter. Students are responsible for the consequences of an undelivered or delayed email blocked by the spam filter. For online courses students should use the email system in Blackboard.*

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: *If you have a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects your academic performance) and would like to receive academic accommodations, please inform your instructor and contact Student Accessibility Services to schedule an appointment to initiate services. It is recommended that you schedule an appointment with Student Accessibility Services before classes start. However, accommodations can be provided at any time. **Brownsville Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at accessibility@utrgv.edu. **Edinburg Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at accessibility@utrgv.edu.*

MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD: *Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (<http://my.utrgv.edu>); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades.*

ATTENDANCE: *Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV's attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.*

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY: *As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.*

Plagiarism is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Any student who plagiarizes will receive a zero for the writing assignment on which he or she has plagiarized and a grade of F for the course. Professor Wirts will additionally recommend that UTRGV take appropriate disciplinary action. Professor Wirts does not consider group study or consulting a tutor (or the professor) as academic misconduct. In writing your papers, keep in mind that all written material should be properly cited. If the idea is not yours, cite the source from which you found the material. If you are using a direct quote, put the quote in quotations and cite the source. If you are not sure what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism, ask the professor. Finally, students are required to work independently when taking their online exams. Collaboration conducted in the course of an online exam or quiz is strictly prohibited.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE: *In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.*

COURSE DROPS: *According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher educational institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.*