

## **Professor Bill Acres**

Lawson Hall 2248

Office Hours: Tuesday 2.30-4.30

[wacres@uwo.ca](mailto:wacres@uwo.ca)

519-661-2111 ex 80155

History 1401E introduces students to the history of modern Europe. It begins by analyzing the causes and consequences of the industrial and French revolutions, processes and events that transformed the history of Europe and most of the world. It then examines the spread of nationalism, the clash between liberal and conservative ideologies, and European imperialism. The twentieth century section of the course analyzes the cataclysms of the First World War, the Nazi period, and Soviet communism, as well as the post-1945 era.

History 1401E is entirely online. The course materials are all laid out in sections. It is good to note from the beginning how to read and answer questions in logical order. While OWL is a good system, it breaks down the normal lecture format into sections. These sections have to be understood as part of a whole. Get used to the site in the first two weeks.

Your primary point of reference will be the navigation bar at the left of your course OWL site. Start with Resources. You will find all of the background materials you need there.

### Readings

Forums (topic every two weeks or so) on readings from the Unit (1,2 etc) given under “Resources” in the “Course units” section.

Assignments (two novel analyses, participation in forums, major essay, final exam)—these can be found in Gradebook with due dates

### Course Units (as above)

Academic Resources—read through all of these near the beginning of the course.

Library Resources etc. These will be very useful for essays, but also the style guides. Everything in the course will be submitted in Chicago Style (or Turabian) so please get used to this format.

All of these very important elements of the course are found there in a complete form. You will see most of this material repeated several times: e.g. the Assignments have their own tab on the navigation bar; look through those. Also, Course Units (for breaking down the weekly work): read through those and post on Forums by the due date (which is listed for each Unit there). Take a few hours in the first week or so to familiarize yourself with how the course is set up and what happens and when.

Every single section of the course is copied and pasted in this master list (twice: copied again under “Imported from WebCT”). But while Resources contain all of the parts of the course these files give no sense of direction, or flow. For that you want to see the weekly work of reading and posting.

Proceed to Course Units (on the left navigation bar) for the content and analysis of materials for each week. What will you be reading?

**Readings and Textbooks: (These were finalized only last week with a deal with a publisher, see below\*\*)**

Our textbooks are: (as you will find them listed in the Bookstore)

Campus: DE - DISTANCE ONLINE STUDIES

FALL/WINTER DISTANCE STUDIES 2015 650

HIS1401E - HISTORY 1401E

Prof: BILL ACRES

- 1) Palmer, Kramer, Colton: *History of Europe in the Modern World*, 2012 MCGRAW HILL RYERSON LTD.-. Required \$141.35 (the price may be cheaper—bookstore has copies)
- 2) Perry, *Sources of the Western Tradition*, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition (ONLY) PB PERRY NELSON EDUCATION LTD. Required: \$ 52.50 ISBN: 0495913219 \*\*

Palmer, Kramer and Colton is a tried-and-true text, used by generations of first-year European History students for the modern era. It is NOT a fascinating read. But it is very complete and easy to read. It is also huge. Perry’s *Sources of the Western Tradition* is also a very respected text. These two are the backbone of the course. You will find that between these two texts all of the required materials are covered. Perry’s *Sources* and Palmer, Kramer and Colton’s *History* will be enough. Try to purchase these at the Bookstore at Western. Why? We have a deal with the publisher for Perry\*\*. If you try to get this through Amazon it is much more expensive. You will notice that there is a hyperlink in Readings for Course Units: this no longer works. It was a free resource for purchasing the text. This month (April, 2015) that arrangement changed for copyright reasons: so we will use ONLY 8<sup>th</sup> edition Perry. Although the site suggests using the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> edition, please use the 8<sup>th</sup> edition only. You might also try to get all of these books used (it’s a lot cheaper).

You will want to do the readings. These are found in detail on our site under “Course Units”. Lecture and visual materials are found there. I have recorded podcasts for each of the Unit powerpoint presentations and some other major topics. Look for those under Podcasts.

I will upload the occasional video through announcements which go with each of those Units and Reading for Each Unit. I find given time constraints the podcasts are easier—they do require you to have the lecture notes open, however.

### **Forums and Postings: 20%**

Once you have read the materials under “Course Units” you will want to look at the “Forums” which accompany each of the “Course Units”. By doing the reading of the lecture material and textbook readings (each found in every “Course Unit”, you may then answer the questions in the weekly postings. For the first two weeks, I will be a bit relaxed on postings. As long as you read things through you will get the drift.

These are assessed on a) quality b) promptness c) engagement in discussion and following through with points others may raise. So you may find yourself posting several times per unit. Posting at the last minute is not a good idea. So, stay on top of the readings and take notes and answer the questions found under Resources for each course unit (these are with the powerpoints on which the Podcasts are based). All of this can be very usefully done together.

So: In order, 1) Read the “Course Unit”; 2) read the text materials; 3) answer the question for weekly posting in that week’s “Forum”. Participation grades are worth 20% of the course (see Gradebook). Your grade is based on your forum postings.

**Written Assignments: These are all described under “Assignments”—look for the .pdf file attached near the foot of each of those sections. If you have any problems accessing these please let me know.**

**Discussion Paper #1: 13 October, 2015, 12.5%**

**Discussion Paper #2: 1 December, 2015, 12.5%**

**Major Research Paper: 29 March, 2016 25%**

The first two written assignments are two short reviews of a novel. I will post the outline for this during the first week. Choose a novel. Analyze it by following the weighting of grades in the outline. Grading these “Discussion Papers”, numbers 1 and 2, will be done by cutting and pasting the grading sheet with comments and grades

into your “Assignment” folder. You will see that I can link that with your personal gradebook.

The novels for the period 1750-1850 are to be read during May: the discussion paper is due 13 October; the second novel, 1850-1960, is due 1 December, 2015, so organize your time accordingly. Only the first discussion paper may be re-submitted. Reasons will be given. I will accept the revised Discussion Paper #1 until 1 December.

The *major research paper* is due on 29 March, 2016. This material will be chosen from a list of suggested topics. I will be available for consultation. For all three written assignments, send your paper through Turnitin. There are instructional videos for all of those three which I will post through Announcements—look for those.

Final Examination: 3 essays, 30% in a three-hour final during the FW Distance Exam period (28-30 July, 2015)

You **MUST** pass the final examination to pass the course.