

**History 1402F**  
**History of Modern Europe, 1715-1918: The Age of**  
**Revolutions**

**Summer Distance 2026**

Instructor: Dr. Bill Acres

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Office Hours: **Virtual, Mondays 1-2:30pm or by appointment**

This is a **draft** outline. Please see the course site on OWL Brightspace for a final version.

**Course Description**

History **1402F** introduces students to the history of modern Europe. We begin 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. We then examine 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 changes in society, personhood, and politics justify the use of the word “Revolutionary”: this is nothing less than the birth of modern Europe, its empires, colonies, and global power.

**Antirequisite(s):** Former History 1401E

**Course Syllabus**

For the long version of the Syllabus see under ‘Syllabus’ on the course Brightspace site. Consult also ‘What to do when in History 1402F, 2026’, posted in Announcements (also) and the ‘Long Outline’ under Syllabus.

Those documents give precise instructions as to what you will need to read on the course site, in our course text, and in our book of primary sources. You will see for each week the 1) readings, 2) discussions or forum posts; 3) and discussion questions for forum postings.

Forum postings will be our most regular interaction. They combine your reading and analysis with others. I read these each weekend. You will see that the Assignments—the Discussion paper and final examination--are discussed below.

The ‘Long Outline’ (a separate document) will help with navigating the OWL site. ‘What to do when’ is a guide to the speed and expectations of an online course. You will see these three documents together under Syllabus once you are in the course site: consult these documents frequently.

A novel discussion is due 5 June, 2026. A take-home final examination will be scheduled for late June. Please see under Assignments for the discussion and instructions.

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## Methods of Evaluation

Forums: Weekly postings in eight (8) units for discussion questions on readings. 40%

Discussion Paper on a novel (list provided) 1750-1850, 20%

Final examination (take-home) during examination period, 40%

## Timing of Assignments:

Discussion Paper: Due June 5, 2025, is on a novel 1750-1850. Full details on OWL site under Assignment tab in a .pdf file. If you have any questions, please email. This is worth 20%

There is an essay take-home final examination, three (3) essays. This examination is meant to be a cumulative account of the course. It can be found under the Assignment tab and is worth 40% of the final grade.

Weekly postings or Forums (more on these below) are as shown on the course Brightspace site, answering 2-4 questions in each Discussion, responding to other students' postings. Mandatory 6 weeks of postings. The postings are worth 40% of the overall grade. *It is extremely important that these are done regularly and in a timely manner.* By June 5, 2026 you will receive a “half-way” grade on these or 20% of your final grade.

**Forums:** 40%, are in eight (8) units. For each Unit under Resources you will find:

- **Goals and Objectives;**
- **Lecture Notes, PowerPoints and analysis** (two files for each Unit under Lecture Notes in Resources)

Then, read the **Discussion questions**. These are based on course reading from our two textbooks. These readings are found in Kramer/Colton (our textbook) and in Perry, *Sources of the West*. You will answer discussion questions—at least 2-3 per unit. The total word count is up to you. But aim for 250-300 words.

The process goes like this: Please go to the Brightspace site under Forums, Discussions and Readings in 1402F. Look first under Goals and Objectives. There you will see the overall outline for each unit. Then begin reading the PowerPoints and lecture notes under Lecture Notes. Once that's skimmed, you will have a good idea of what is going to be asked for in the Unit. Look for the readings under Course Readings in Resources. Proceed to do the textbook readings. These readings are given for each Unit. Then go back and have a look at the Discussion questions for each Unit. You will then answer these questions in the Forums. I provide a “What to do When” for the whole course and this is posted under Resources and Syllabus.

**Final Examination**, date is TBA and it will be a take-home over 48 hours during the final examination period (40%): there will be 3 essay questions will appear when the tab opens under Assignments in the box you will see there; the same instructions are given in a .pdf attachment. It is technically a take-home examination. You will have 48 hrs. to complete the examination and it **MUST** be handed in through the Assignment tab (that will open when the examination begins). I will provide 7 questions of which 3 will appear on the examination. You should prepare to

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answer all seven questions. You may also work with other students in the course in preparing your materials, but you may NOT write together. Content will be compared from each examination using Turnitin. More on this very soon. There is a research component to each question. I will be giving an extensive handout on structuring, and thinking through the materials.

Unless there is accommodation gained from the Academic Advising in your home faculty papers and essays will not be graded if submitted more than 7 days late. A late penalty of 2% per day will be given.

Make-up tests, midterms, and exams can only be approved by Academic Advising. Please see [https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program\\_module\\_information/policies.html](https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html) for department procedures and requirements involving make-up tests and exams.

**Absences and Late Assignments:** Late penalties of 2% per day will be given for each assignment. The final examination must be submitted within the allotted period.

### **Course-specific conditions:**

Students must obtain a grade of 50% on the final examination in order to receive credit for History 1402F. In order to meet the minimum required grade a total of at least six (6) forum postings must be made.

Students must complete all course assignments in order to pass the course.

### **Course Materials**

All aspects of the OWL site are explained in detail in the long ‘Syllabus’ posted online. These include Resources, Discussions, Readings, and Assignments.

*The textbooks are available in the Bookstore at Western*, these are already ordered and it's the fastest way to get them. Textbook costs can be confirmed by accessing Western's bookstore website - <https://bookstore.uwo.ca/>:

1. Palmer, Kramer, Colton: *History of Europe in the Modern World*, 2012 McGraw-Hill, 11<sup>th</sup> edition (Preferred)
2. Perry, *Sources of the Western Tradition*, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition (Preferred), Wadsworth Cengage

Discussion forums: questions are under Goals and Objectives; Lecture Notes (ppt) are under Lecture Notes; readings are found in the long outline and under readings. Both are posted under Syllabus.

### **Course Schedule and Readings**

See Readings for 1402F in Syllabus on our Brightspace site.

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**Additional Statements**

I will hold virtual office hours as scheduled during the course in conjunction with special lectures. All lectures should be considered asynchronous and will be recorded on zoom and posted in Announcements. You may email me at any time during the course. I will respond twice a day to emails with the exception of May 12-14, and Victoria Day weekend. I will always respond within 24 hours.

**Use of generative artificial intelligence (AI):**

The use of generative AI tools, such as ChatGPT, is permitted in this course for activities such as brainstorming and refining your ideas, drafting an outline to organize your thoughts, or checking grammar and style. Any use of such tools should be clearly acknowledged and explained. If in doubt, please ask me for clarification.

Please review the Department of History's shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at: [https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program\\_module\\_information/policies.html](https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html) for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.