

HWC 205 WESTERN CIVILIZATION II

Instructor | Daniel Alvord
Email | dalvord@ku.edu
Office | Bailey 205-E
Hours | T/R 9:30-11:00am

Semester | Fall 2014
Time | T/R 11:00-12:15pm
Place | Fraser 111
Course | #20845

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course considers some of the central ideas and key texts that have helped to shape, as well as to reflect critically upon, the western world's development since the sixteenth century.

COURSE INFORMATION

Organization of the Course: We will place considerable emphasis on the formation of “modernity” as a way of organizing our approach to the western tradition, examining its social, political and cultural features, listening to its more eloquent advocates, and engaging with some of its most influential critics. Our approach will focus on the ambivalence with which many have engaged with modernity, whether it pertains to the tension between science and faith, reason and emotion, change and tradition, culture and nature, or the individual and the collective. Through discussions, lectures, reviews, essays, and exams, we will grapple with these tensions so we can be in a better position to evaluate the strengths and shortcomings of modernity's past while contemplating ways to inhabit its future.

Required Texts: The following texts* are required for this course:

Descartes - *Discourse on Method* (Hackett)
Dostoevsky – *Notes from Underground* (Vintage)
DuBois – *The Souls of Black Folks* (Dover)
Freud – *The Future of an Illusion* (Norton)
Locke – *The Second Treatise of Government* (Harland Davidson)
Marx & Engels – *The Communist Manifesto* (Bedford)
Mill – *On Liberty* (Hackett)
Nietzsche – *Twilight of the Idols* (Hackett)
Rousseau – *Discourse on Inequality* (Hackett)
Shelley – *Frankenstein* (Dover)
Woolf – *A Room of One's Own* (Harcourt)

**For all course work, you may use only the authorized editions of the primary sources, as these editions will be referred to in lectures and discussions, required as citations in papers, and tested on the exams.*

Learning Outcomes: This course satisfies two KU Core Goals: Goal 1.1 (Critical Thinking) and Goal 4.2 (Non-U.S. Culture and Diversity). By the end of this course, you will be able to identify the variety of figures, ideas, and perspectives within the intellectual heritage of modern western society. You will also be able to critically evaluate, analyze, and condense complex arguments, assumptions, claims, and evidence.

GRADING INFORMATION

Attendance and Participation: Attendance is important for any class and this class is no exception. Attendance means arriving on time and not leaving early. It also means coming prepared to class having read the material and being ready to discuss. The books we will be reading this semester are challenging and take time and discussion to work through. So it will be crucial to your success in the class to attend class regularly.

Assignments: For this course you will be expected to complete the following:

Essay (25%): For this course you will complete one large essay. This essay will ask you to identify one tenet of modernity and analyze it using four of the authors we read throughout the semester. The completed essay will be approximately 2,500-3,000. The first installment of the paper is due October 16. The first installment will be a draft where your classmates and I will provide critiques of your paper. There will be a second draft due on November 25. The final paper will be due December 9. The paper is worth 100 points and is worth 25% of your final grade. Each essay must be submitted 1) in person and 2) online through Blackboard's SafeAssign function, a plagiarism detecting software. Emailed papers or papers left in my mailbox will not be accepted. Students will be encouraged, but not required, to meet with me prior to the due date so that I can address any questions or concerns. You are also encouraged to take advantage of the KU Writing Center (writing.ku.edu) and/or the HWC Writing Guide, for more detailed advice on essay writing in HWC classes (<http://www.hwc.ku.edu/pdf/HWCWritingGuide.pdf>).

Exams (45%): You will have two exams – a midterm and a final. These exams will consist of term identifications, short answers, and a long essay. The exams will cover material from lectures and the primary texts. You will be responsible for bringing your own blank blue or green essay book to the exam. Each exam will be worth 100 points. The midterm is worth 15% of your overall grade and the final exam is worth 30%.

Discussion Leader (20%): Throughout the semester, students will present in small groups on each of the books we will read. These presentations will consist of a very brief summary of the argument of the book. Students will then act as discussion leaders by posing questions to the class. The week after they present, each student will individually be responsible for a book review of the book they presented on. Each review will be approximately 1,000 words in length. The presentation is worth 50 points and the book review is worth 50 points for a total of 100 points. Combined, they are worth 20% of your overall grade.

Attendance (10%): Attendance is compulsory and consists of being present and engaged in class. Absences may be “excused” only for religious holidays or due to KU athletic participation, each of which requires notification ahead of time. With the exception of university-sanction absences, I do not differentiate between types of absences (illness, funeral, etc.). Instead, you are permitted three free absences during the semester. You will earn a “1” for attending the course and “0” if you are absent. In other words, we have a total of 30 class meetings, but your attendance grade will be calculated out of 27. Attendance above 27 will act as extra credit. Missing any more than three classes will lead to a reduction of your attendance grade. If you anticipate missing more than three meetings during the semester due to ongoing circumstances, you must contact me in the first week of the semester to discuss appropriate arrangements.

Grade Scale: Your grade will be determined using the CLAS plus/minus grading system:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
Attendance	10%	100 points	465-500	93-100	A
Midterm	15%	100 points	450-460	90-92	A-
Dis. Leader	20%	100 points	440-445	88-89	B+
Essay	25%	100 points	415-435	83-87	B
Final	30%	100 points	400-410	80-82	B-
	<u>100%</u>	<u>500 points</u>	390-395	78-79	C+
			365-385	73-77	C
			350-360	70-72	C-
			340-345	68-69	D+
			315-335	63-67	D
			300-310	60-62	D-
			0-295	0-59	F

The following is a breakdown of the marking system and an indication of the quality of work that roughly corresponds to each grade:

A: Displays a thorough understanding of material and expresses original, text-supported opinions; clear, organized and thoughtful writing; consistent and intelligent contributions and insights. Has completed all required assignments and they have been among the best in class.

B: Displays a good factual understanding of material; very good preparation for class; ability to communicate ideas logically and clearly. Has completed all required assignments and they have been of good quality.

C: Displays an understanding of the basic points of all material, although the presentation may be unclear or disorganized; may also denote sporadic participation in class. Has completed all or most required assignments, which might suffer from small issues, but generally have been free of significant problems.

D: Displays incomplete work; slight grasp of basic ideas; disorganized, poorly presented or communicated ideas; little participation in class. Has failed to complete all required assignments and they have often suffered from problems.

F: Displays incomplete work; unclear and/or inaccurate presentation of the main themes of the course; poor written communication of ideas; numerous absences, and/or little or participation in class. Has failed to complete required assignments and they have routinely suffered from serious problems.

I do not *give* you a grade—you *earn* your grade. Thus, except in the case of a possible calculation error, please do not contact me to change the grade that you earned.

COURSE POLICIES

Classroom Conduct: Students are expected to behave in a respectful manner during class. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated in this class. Students who behave in any manner that interferes or has the potential to interfere with other students' opportunity to benefit from this course will be subject to the relevant University policies and procedures. Per the Electronic Devices policy, do not explore the Internet or play games on your portable computing device during class. It draws others' attention and is rude.

Email Conduct: Email is a very convenient and useful means of communication. Indeed, it is the best way to get in touch with me. However, its convenience often translates into a lack of formality. There are a few email guidelines that should be adhered to during this course. First, I do not discuss grades over email. Any discussion of grades should be done during office hours. Second, unless otherwise noted, I do not read early drafts of papers or answer substantive questions by email. I am more than happy to read drafts, provide comments, and give clarification for concepts covered in class during office hours, but not by email. Finally, I am not "on call" with my email. Do not email me late at night or the night before a paper or exam is due and expect an immediate reply. I respect that all of you will have many things going on at one time this semester, and that your time is incredibly valuable to you. I ask that you please respect that my own time is valuable as well and that I also have plenty going on in my own schedule.

Academic Misconduct & Plagiarism: Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor, providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment), or the attempt to commit such an act. “Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit. Any form of cheating or academic dishonesty will be actively investigated and punished. The University defines academic misconduct in Section 6 of the University Senate Rules and Regulations: “Academic misconduct by a student shall include, but not be limited to, disruption of classes; threatening an instructor or fellow student in an academic setting; giving or receiving of unauthorized aid on examinations or in the preparation of notebooks, themes, reports or other assignments; knowingly misrepresenting the source of any academic work. . .” Cheating will possibly result in an F in the course and the filing of academic misconduct charges. As ignorance of the rules is not an acceptable excuse for academic misconduct, please consult the KU Student Handbook for further information: http://www.writing.ku.edu/~writing/instructors/guides/academic_misconduct.shtml For more information on what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it, please consult the following KU website: <http://www.writing.ku.edu/~writing/guides/>.

Make-up Exams: Make-up exams will only be given to students with excused absences. In accord with university policies, students will be allowed to take a make-up exam if they can document that they were ill or if they had a death in the family. Absences which result from participation on a university athletic team and which are documented by the university athletic office will also be excused. Transportation problems do not qualify as a valid excuse. Students without a valid and documented excuse will receive a 0 on any missed exam. Students wishing to schedule a make-up exam must contact me by e-mail within 24 hours of the time at which the original exam was scheduled. Students must be prepared to present me with documentation explaining their absence prior to scheduling a make-up exam. Exams must be taken within a week of the original exam date. It is up to students who have missed an exam to contact me, to provide documentation and to set up a time to make up the exam.

Late Assignments: Unless otherwise noted, all assignments must be submitted by the beginning of class on the assigned due date. Late submissions will be penalized at the rate of 10%, or one letter grade, per day (including weekends).

Extra Credit: There will be no extra credit opportunities in this course.

Electronic Devices: The use of any handheld electronic devices will not be tolerated. Cell phones and other mobile devices are to be silenced and stowed away during all 75 minutes of class. The use of laptop computers will be allowed only in situations where the student can provide documentation from the Academic Achievement and Access Center (<http://www.achievement.ku.edu/>) attesting to their need for the device in class.

Recording & Auditing: As per the Electronic Devices policy, the use of handheld personal recorders will only be allowed in class in situations where the student can provide documentation from the Academic Achievement and Access Center (<http://www.achievement.ku.edu/>) attesting to their need for the device. Any student wishing to record lecture must consult with me before class. Additionally, course attendance is exclusively restricted to members of the class, and you need explicit permission from the instructor to attend any class sessions if you are not formally enrolled in the course.

Religious Holidays: Attendance is required for every class session. If class requirements conflict with religious holidays that you observe, this needs to be discussed with me in advance. Notification after the fact is not acceptable and will count as an unexcused absence.

Disabilities: Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him/her from fully demonstrating her/his abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so that we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate educational opportunity. To do this you must first be registered with the Disability Resources office (22 Strong Hall, 785-864-2620), which coordinates accommodations and services for KU courses. *No special needs will be accommodated without proper documentation and recommendations supplied by this office.* For further information and contact information, please consult the Disability Resources website: <http://www.disability.ku.edu/>.

COURSE SCHEDULE

<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Read</i>	<i>Due</i>
One	August 26	Introductions	N/A	N/A
	August 28	Modernity & Western Civilization	N/A	N/A
Two	September 2	Descartes	1-22	N/A
	September 4	Descartes	23-44	Descartes Discussion
Three	September 9	Locke	1-74	N/A
	September 11	Locke	75-148	Locke Discussion & Descartes Review
Four	September 16	Rousseau	1-44	N/A
	September 18	Rousseau	44-71	Rousseau Discussion & Locke Review
Five	September 23	Shelley	1-86	N/A
	September 25	Shelley	86-166	Shelley Discussion & Rousseau Review
Six	September 30	Mill	1-52	N/A
	October 2	Mill	53-113	Mill Discussion & Shelley Review
Seven	October 7	Darwin	186-198 (PWC)	Darwin Discussion & Mill Review
	October 9	<i>Midterm Exam</i>	N/A	Midterm Exam
Eight	October 14	<i>No Class</i>	N/A	N/A
	October 16	Peer Review Day	Bring Essays	Draft 1 Due
Nine	October 21	Marx	63-77	N/A
	October 23	Marx	77-96	Marx Discussion & Darwin Review
Ten	October 28	DuBois	1-82	N/A
	October 30	DuBois	83-164	DuBois Discussion & Marx Review
Eleven	November 4	Woolf	1-57	N/A
	November 6	Woolf	58-114	Woolf Discussion & DuBois Review
Twelve	November 11	Nietzsche	1-42	N/A
	November 13	Nietzsche	43-91	Nietzsche Discussion & Woolf Review
Thirteen	November 18	Dostoevsky	1-41	N/A
	November 20	Dostoevsky	42-130	Dostoevsky Discussion & Nietzsche Review
Fourteen	November 25	Peer Review Day	Bring Essays	Draft 2 Due
	November 27	<i>No Class</i>	N/A	N/A
Fifteen	December 2	Freud	1-37	N/A
	December 4	Freud	38-71	Freud Discussion & Dostoevsky Review
Sixteen	December 9	End of the West?	N/A	Final Draft Due
	December 11	Final Exam Review	N/A	Freud Review
Seventeen	TBD	<i>Final Exam</i>	N/A	Final Exam

**I reserve the right to alter or amend the course syllabus during the semester within reason.*