Course Title: INTRODUCTION TO EUROPEAN HISTORY
Course Code: HST1114
Recommended Study Year*: Year 1
No. of Credits/Term: 3
Mode of Tuition: Sectional
Class Contact Hours: 3 hours per week
Category in Major Prog.: Elective
Prerequisites: None
Co-requisites: None
Exclusions: None
Exemption Requirement(s): None

Brief Course Description
This course is an introduction to the history of Europe from the earliest times to the present.

Aims
The objective of the course is to help students understand the historical formation of Europe, and its later impact on world history.

Learning Outcomes
Through taking this course, students should
a) Demonstrate an understanding of the broad outline of European history with an emphasis on the period before the twentieth century;
b) Demonstrate an understanding of historical causation;
c) Demonstrate the ability to understand and analyze difficult primary sources within their historical context;
d) Demonstrate the ability to discuss primary and secondary texts orally;
e) Demonstrate the ability to write a clear and well-organized essay.

Indicative Content
I. Introduction
   A. Introduction and course description
   B. Origins: civilization, migrations, gods, and empires

II. Antiquity
   A. The making of classic Greece
   B. The Hellenistic synthesis
   C. The Roman Republic
   D. The Roman Empire and the Pax Romana
   E. Early Christianity

III. Medieval Europe
   A. Germanic civilization and the origins of feudalism
   B. The medieval state
   C. The Byzantine and Islamic worlds
   D. The culture and civilization of the high middle ages

IV. On the cusp of Modernity
   A. The Renaissance
   B. The age of discovery
   C. The Reformation
   D. Absolutism
   E. The Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment
V. Modernity and the Ascendancy of Europe
   A. The Industrial Revolution
   B. The Age of Revolution
   C. Nationalism and Nation-building
   D. Europe’s “New Imperialism”
   E. Twentieth-century Europe: “Decline and Renewal”

Teaching Method
Lectures, supplemented by readings, are designed to provide students with a big picture of
the human experience.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes
a) A mid-term test and a final examination testing understanding of the broad outline of
   European history;
 b) An essay in which students analyze one or more scholarly historical work;
 c) Regular class discussions that focus on primary sources within the context of the broad
   outline of European history.

Assessment
Students are expected to keep up with all assignments, and come prepared for each lecture.
Two exams and one essay/book review are required.

Class Attendance and Participation: 10%
Midterm: 25%
Course Paper (essay or book review): 35%
Final Examination 30%

Required Reading
Jack A. Goldstone, Why Europe? The Rise of the West in World History 1500-1850
(McGraw Hill, 2008), 978-0072848014
Various short primary source readings.

Supplementary Readings
Anderson, Bonnie S. and Judith P. Zinsser, A History of their Own: Women in Europe
Boxer, Marilyn J. and Jean H. Quataert, Connecting Spheres: European Women in a
Coffin, Coffin, Judith G.; and Robert C. Stacey, Western Civilizations: Brief Edition: 2
Crosby, Alfred, Ecological Imperialism: The Biological Expansion of Europe, 900-1900,
Curtin, Philip D. The World and the West: the European Challenge and the Overseas
Diamond, Jared, Guns, Germs and Steel: the Fates of Human Societies, New York, W. W.
Kennedy, Paul M. The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers: Economy Change and Military
Landes, David S., Revolution in Time: Clocks and the Making of the Modern World,


