

HIST 2360: European Civilizations
University of Texas at Dallas, Fall 2025

Dr. Tiffany Bragg

Contact: Tiffany.Bragg@UTDallas.edu

Office Location: JO 5.112

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday: 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

or by appointment

Course Description

In this class, we will attempt to do the impossible: traverse European history from antiquity to the present. We will cover some of the most significant developments of European civilization by highlighting major political, religious, and social changes. Students will dive deep into both primary and secondary sources. The material assigned for at-home consultation is intentionally diverse in medium, authorship, and perspective. You may not agree with all the historical actors, authors, artists, etc., we discuss in this class - that's the point! I want to expose you to as many *perspectives* as possible, so you are equipped to construct your own informed historiographic opinions. This course will encourage students to think critically about the past, analyze source material, form their own opinions, and engage in intellectual discussion with their peers.

*This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the professor.

Course Meeting Information

There are two sections of this course being offered in Fall 2025. Please ensure you are attending the correct section (can be found on your UTD class schedule).

All course meetings will be *in-person*.

Section: HIST 2360.001

Time: Tuesday, Thursday: 11:30AM - 12:45 PM

Location: ECSN 2.120

Section: HIST 2360.502

Time: Tuesday, Thursday: 5:30APM - 6:45 PM

Location: JO 4.502

Required Texts

All required course readings or materials will be uploaded as PDFs on eLearning or linked to a digital resource/copy. No course materials need be purchased. Readings need to be completed *before* the corresponding week's discussion section, so you are prepared to analyze and discuss.

Assignments

Lecture Attendance & Participation - 10%
Discussion Board Posts and Responses – 40% (4% each)
Midterm Examination – 25%
Final Examination – 25%

Attendance & Participation (10%):

Attendance at each lecture meeting is required. Students will be evaluated based upon their attendance and active participation during class time. It is critical to remain diligent in attendance as the material covered in lecture will appear directly on the midterm and final examinations.

Discussion Board Posts and Responses (10 total, 4% each):

This course challenges students to think critically about the past, develop their own opinions, and engage with their peers. A significant portion of your grade depends upon weekly responses to our shared discussion board. Each week, I will post a brief prompt for students to respond to in a short-essay format. The provided prompt will ask you to analyze course themes and narratives while engaging with the assigned materials.

- Students are required to write **10 original posts** to weekly discussion boards (worth 4% each) **and respond to one of their peers' submissions** within the same board.
- Original responses should be between 100 - 300 words, while peer responses should be 50 - 100 words.
- Discussion board posts and responses will be **due at 11:59 PM each Friday**.
- While only 10 responses are required, students can choose to answer the prompt each week (in which case only the highest 10 scores will be recorded).

Midterm & Final Examinations (2 exams, 25% each):

All examinations in this course will be in-person during assigned class time (final exam in accordance with UTD's exam schedule). Both exams will follow the same format, composed of two parts: 1) short essay questions based on lecture content, and 2) a medium length analytical

essay focused on course themes discussed in lecture and assigned readings. The exams are designed to be easily completed within the allotted time. **Students will need an examination booklet** ('Blue Book,' typically less than \$2) for both the midterm and final exam. If this poses a financial hardship for you, *please* reach out to me.

Grading Scale

A	94%-100%	C	73%-76%
A-	90%-93%	C-	70%-72%
B+	87%-89%	D+	67%-69%
B	83%-86%	D	63%-66%
B-	80%-82%	D-	60%-62%
C+	77%-79%	F	below 60%

Course Policies and Procedures

A full list of UTD syllabus policies can be found here: <https://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>

Attendance

Students are required to attend all course meetings. I do understand that students may have obligations that will occasionally interfere with course times (religious observations, family emergencies, sickness, car trouble...etc.). If you have a conflict, please email me in a timely manner so that we can discuss alternative instruction.

Technical Support

If you experience any issues with your UT Dallas account, contact the UT Dallas Office of Information Technology Help Desk or call 972-883-2911. UT Dallas provides eLearning technical support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through UTD eLearning Helpdesk. The services include a toll-free telephone number, 1-866-588-3192, for immediate assistance, Educational Technology Services (eLearning) is available by email to request services. They also have an online chat service.

AI and Academic Honesty Statement

Use of artificial intelligence or automatically generated content is strictly prohibited. Students should engage their own curiosity, individualism, and knowledge to complete assigned work. This course follows UTDSP5003's 'Prohibited Use' policy: "When the faculty member prohibits use of specific generative AI tools, use is unauthorized and thus is a violation of UTDSP5003. Students should present their work without the use of generative AI, including but not limited to use for ideating, outlining, writing, or studying, and creating text, tables, code,

analysis, video, or images. Given the integration of generative AI tools into commonly used tools, students should receive written guidance from faculty on which applications of generative AI are not permitted."

Academic dishonesty of any form will not be tolerated in this course. Any student caught engaging in academically dishonest behavior (including plagiarism, using AI technology, or unauthorized collaboration) will be reported to the office of student conduct. For more information on what constitutes academic dishonesty, please visit: <https://conduct.utdallas.edu/students/dishonesty/>

Support for Students

The University of Texas at Dallas is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. The syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. If you are seeking classroom accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (2008), you are required to register with the **AccessAbility Resource Center**, located in the Administration Building (AD), Suite 2.224.

- Their phone number is 972-883-2098; email: accessability@utdallas.edu ; and website is <https://accessability.utdallas.edu>
- To receive academic accommodations for this class, please obtain the proper AccessAbility Resource Center letter of accommodation.

The Undergraduate Writing Center, located within the Student Success Center, assists students with writing and tutoring at no cost. You can make an appointment for assistance by going to: <https://studentsuccess.utdallas.edu/programs/writing-center/>.

UTD provides students with several different **Counseling and Psychological services**. For more information, please see: <https://counseling.utdallas.edu>. If you are experiencing an **emergency**, please call 911. If you need additional support, please reach out and I will help point you to available resources.

Office Hours

I will be holding two in person office hours each week. If my scheduled office hours do not work into your schedule, please feel free to email me for an alternative meeting time.

Class Schedule

Week 1

Tuesday: Introduction to Course

Thursday: Ancient Greece

Readings:

- Homer, *The Illiad*, excerpt.

Week 2

Tuesday: Classical Greece

Thursday: The Roman Republic & Revolution

Readings:

- Herodotus, *Histories*, excerpts.
 - [Battle of Marathon]
<https://www.thelatinlibrary.com/historians/herod/herodotus8.html>
 - [Battle of Thermopylae]
<https://www.thelatinlibrary.com/historians/herod/herodotus11.html>

Week 3

Tuesday: The Roman Empire

Thursday: The Crusades & Medieval Europe

Readings:

- Pope Urban II, *Speech at Council of Clermont*, 1095.
 - <https://web.mit.edu/aorlando/www/SaintJohnCHI/Church%20History%20Readings/Urban%20II%20on%20First%20Crusade.pdf>
- Frederic II to Henry III, Jerusalem, 1229.
 - <https://history.hanover.edu/texts/fifthcru.html>

Week 4

Tuesday: The Hundred Year's War

Thursday: The Renaissance

Readings:

- Niccoló Machiavelli, *The Prince*, 1513 excerpt.
- Sir Thomas More, *Utopia*, 1516, excerpt.

Week 5

Tuesday: Reconquista Spain

Thursday: Age of 'Discovery' in America

Readings:

- Miguel Cervantes, *Don Quijote (Quixote)*, excerpt.
- *Codex Mendoza*, ca. 1541, Bodleian Library Digital Collections, ref: MS. Arch. Selden. A. 1.
 - <https://digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/objects/2fea788e-2aa2-4f08-b6d9-648c00486220/>
 - Browse the images/stories and come to class prepared to discuss your favorites (or the ones that stuck out to you the most).

Week 6

Tuesday: The Protestant Reformation

Thursday: The Catholic Counter Reformation

Readings:

- Martin Luther, *95 Theses*, 1517.
 - <https://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/luther/ninetyfivetheses.html>
- St. Ignatius of Loyola, *The Spiritual Exercises*, 1548.
- Eamonn Duffy, *The Stripping of the Altars*, (Yale University Press, 2022), Preface.

Week 7

Tuesday: Scientific Revolution

Thursday: The Enlightenment

Readings:

- Nicolaus Copernicus, *Dedication of the Revolutions of the Heavenly Bodies to Pope Paul III*, 1543.

- https://hti.osu.edu/sites/hti.osu.edu/files/dedication_of_the_revolutions_of_the_heavenly_bodies_to_pope_paul_iii_0.pdf
- OPTIONAL: William Hickes, *Coffee-House Jests*, London: 1686.

Week 8

Tuesday: **Midterm Exam Pt. 1**

Thursday: **Midterm Exam Pt. 2**

Week 9

Tuesday: State Building

Thursday: Seventeenth Century Crisis

Readings:

- H.R. Trevor Roper, "General Crisis of the 17th Century," *Past and Present*, 16 (1959), excerpt.
- Geoffrey Parker, "Crisis and Catastrophe: The Global Crisis of the Seventeenth Century Reconsidered," *The American Historical Review*, 113, 2008, excerpt.

Week 10

Tuesday: The French Revolution

Thursday: Industrialization

Readings:

- National Assembly of France, Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen, 1789.
 - https://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/rightsof.asp
- Olympe de Gouges, The Declaration of the Rights of Woman, 1791.
 - <https://revolution.chnm.org/d/293/>
- Leeds Woolen Workers' Petition, 1786.
 - <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/mod/1786machines.asp>
- *The Penny Magazine*, 1833.
 - https://utdallas.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01UT_DALLAS/2hgl0t/alma9925203190001421

- Browse the articles and come to class prepared to discuss your favorites (or the ones that stuck out to you the most).

Week 11

Tuesday: Global Reactions to the French Revolution

Thursday: Nationalism and Realism

Readings:

- “Lettre des députés de Saint-Domingue à leurs commettants,” in *The Haitian Revolution: A Documentary History*, (Hackett Publishing, 2014).
 - https://utdallas.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01UT_DALLAS/5v0hp7/alma9927611702201421
 - Read section 3, item #19, "Fear of Emancipation and Revolt"
- *The Haitian Constitution of 1801*, 1801.
 - https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/english/currentstudents/undergraduates/modules/fullist/second/en213/syllabus2017-18/haitian_constitution_1801.pdf

Week 12

Tuesday: The Russian Revolution

Thursday: World War I

Readings:

- 'Russia's Struggle,' University of Warwick, MSS.15B/5/1/14.
 - <https://warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc/collections/digital/sara/russiastruggle>
 - Browse the images/image sets and come to class prepared to discuss the ones that stuck out to you the most on Tuesday.
- Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*, (G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1929), chapter IV.
 - <https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/75011/pg75011-images.html>

Week 13

Tuesday: The Interwar Period

Thursday: World War II

Readings:

- Pablo Picasso, "Guernica," oil on canvas, 1937, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia.

- <https://www.museoreinasofia.es/en/collection/artwork/guernica>
- UCSD 'They Still Draw Pictures' Project
 - <https://library.ucsd.edu/speccoll/tsdp/frame.html>
 - Browse the images/stories and come to class prepared to discuss your favorites (or the ones that stuck out to you the most) on Tuesday.
- OPTIONAL: Reporting of Guernica bombing
 - United States
 - *The Evening Star*, April 27, 1937:
 - <https://www.loc.gov/resource/sn83045462/1937-04-27/ed-1/?sp=1&q=guernica&r=-0.64,0.021,2.28,1.419,0>
 - *The Washington Times*, April 27, 1937 (pg. 2, top left):
 - <https://www.loc.gov/resource/sn84026749/1937-04-27/ed-1/?sp=2&q=guernica&r=-0.063,0.045,0.567,0.353,0>
 - *L'Humanité* (French, contains images)
 - April 28, 1937: <https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k407063x/f1.image>
 - April 29, 1937: <https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k4070649/f1.image>

Week 14

Tuesday: Fall Break

Thursday: Fall Break

Week 15

Tuesday: Post WWII Europe

Thursday: The Cold War

Readings:

- Winston Churchill, "The Sinews of Peace" [The Iron Curtain Speech], 1946.
 - Excerpts: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/cold-war-on-file/iron-curtain-speech/>
 - OPTIONAL (entire speech):
https://www.nato.int/docu/speech/1946/s460305a_e.htm

- Extract from a report called 'The Threat to Western Civilisation' from the Foreign Secretary to the British Cabinet in March 1948, The National Archives of the United Kingdom, (Catalogue ref: CAB 129/25).
 - <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/cold-war-on-file/threat-to-western-civilisation/>
- NATO, "The North Atlantic Treaty," Washington D.C., April 1949.
 - https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official_texts_17120.htm

Week 16

Tuesday: Final Course Lecture