HIST 111
History of the Western World II

1:00–2:20 PM | TUES & THURS
with Prof. David Neufeld

This course traces the vast story: how cross-cultural encounters between peoples—and their beliefs, practices, and technologies—have transformed our world from the seventeenth century to the present. We invite you to join a timely debate assessing the nature and influence of the West as a concept.

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HIST 111: History of the Western World II
Winter 2020
Tuesday/Thursday, 1:00-2:20 p.m.
CGUC 1111

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Course Description

The West as an idea is currently a matter of serious debate. Discussions around the nature of the West generate interest because they demand reconsideration of basic questions: Who are we? Where have we come from? Who has a place in our story? How should we shape our shared objectives?

This course surveys the events and ideas that together make up the history of the West from 1600-present. Together, however, we will approach the concept of the West as a matter worthy of study in its own right, rather than as a historical fact whose existence we must necessarily accept. In tracing the emergence and development of political, social, and cultural traditions associated with the West during the past centuries, we will pay close attention to the ways in which the history of the West has become world history. We will also examine how understandings of the West have shifted over time.

In addition to building a base of historical knowledge, this course introduces you to the practices of the discipline of history and encourages you to engage in them yourselves. As historians in training, you will learn how to discern the significance of centuries-old documents, evaluate the reasoning of other scholars, and present original interpretations of the past in oral, written, and visual forms. History requires you to think critically, use information effectively, understand and value difference, and communicate well-informed conclusions. This course will help you develop skills that you will continue to use in the future.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:
1. Identify the influence of historical change, context, causality, contingency, and complexity on understandings of the West
2. Assess the impact of circumstances, backgrounds, values, interests, and needs on the content of primary sources
3. Critically evaluate the content of other historians’ written argumentation
4. Synthesize evidence from sources of information about the past to produce a historical argument
5. Communicate original and persuasive historical interpretations in oral, written, and visual form
**Course Requirements and Assessments**

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<td>Primary Source Analysis:</td>
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<td>Olaudah Equiano, <em>The Interesting Narrative</em></td>
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