

Syllabus

SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD
CORE 2.2 WILSON FALL 2009

ABOUT THIS COURSE

CORE 2.2:

THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD

TR5 / 1300

T, Th 5:05–6:25 p.m.

Room 504A

ETR6 / 0279

T, Th 6:30–7:45 p.m.

Room 518A

F9 / 2295

F 9:20 a.m.–12 p.m.

Room 518A

Office Hours

T, Th 4:00–5:00 p.m.

Room 515A

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A history of modernity since 1500: from Europe's expansion and the emergence of the Atlantic world to a global society. Early modern societies, cultures, and state structures. Effects of trade, colonialism, and slavery. Enlightenment and revolutions. Comparative industrialization and urbanization. Nationalism, internationalism, and totalitarianism. Demography, environment, and gender.

This course is called “The Shaping of the Modern World”—the events and movements that created our world. We are looking at how and why the world we know—the modern world around us—has developed the way it has over the last few centuries. We concentrate on Western culture, mainly Europe and America, but placing the West in a global context.

CONTACT INFO

MARK B. WILSON

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Web: <http://markbwilson.com/>

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Office: Room 524A

Phone: (718) 951-5303

Web: <http://depthome.brooklyn.cuny.edu/history/>

I have a **mail box** in the history dept. you can use to drop off assignments. It's UNDER my name.

MATERIALS

MAIN TEXT

Spielvogel, Jackson. *Western Civilization: A Brief History* (Volume II, 4th Edition). Thomson, 2008. ISBN: 0-495-09975-9.

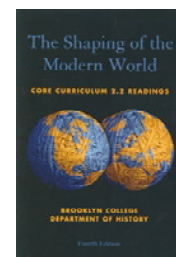
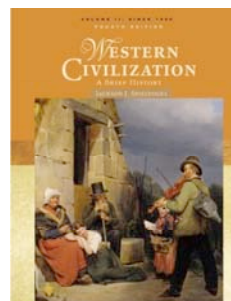
READER

Brooklyn College Dept. of History. *The Shaping of the Modern World* (4th Edition). Pearson, 2007. ISBN: 0-536-48964-5.

AVAILABILITY

The Main Text is available new and used from:

- ▶ The BC Bookstore in Boylan Hall,
- ▶ Shakespeare & Co., at 14 Hillel Place just off campus, and
- ▶ Online bookstores (links are on the web site).



The Reader is available at the BC Bookstore only.

COURSE GRADE

Your grade will be based on these components (details on each will be discussed shortly):

- ▶ Quizzes: 15%
- ▶ Primary Source Presentation: 10%
- ▶ Research Project: 20%
- ▶ Midterm: 20%
- ▶ Final: 35%

A NOTE ON GRADING

In this course, you should know that “A” does not mean average. “C” means average, and average work will get a C. Higher grades are reserved for work that is above average (B) and exceptional (A).

I do not grade on a curve, accept independent extra-credit work, or give incompletes.

EXPECTATIONS

- ▶ I expect you to arrive on time and prepared for class. By prepared, I mean that you’ve done the readings and you’re ready to talk about your reactions to them and the questions they raised in your mind.
- ▶ Class attendance is mandatory; missing classes will damage your grade. You are expected to participate in discussions by raising questions and ideas as well as answering questions.
- ▶ Cell phones and all other electronic equipment must be kept *stowed and off* during class meetings.
- ▶ Make note of deadlines. Late submissions will be downgraded a full letter grade for every class meeting they are late.
- ▶ Missed quizzes are not made up. Exams are made up for emergencies only at my discretion.
- ▶ Plagiarism will result in an F for the assignment and/or the course. (See “Academic Honesty,” below.)
- ▶ Please get an email account if you do not have one. Check it regularly; I give updates and info by email.
- ▶ If you are struggling or concerned, come to me early before it’s too late to turn things around.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Academic dishonesty of any type, including cheating and plagiarism, is unacceptable at Brooklyn College. Cheating is any misrepresentation in academic work. Plagiarism is the representation of another person’s work, words, or ideas as your own. Students should consult the Brooklyn College Student Handbook for a fuller, more specific discussion of related academic integrity standards. Academic dishonesty is punishable by failure of the test, examination, term paper, or other assignment on which cheating occurred. In addition, disciplinary proceedings in cases of academic dishonesty may result in penalties of admonition, warning, censure, disciplinary probation, restitution, suspension, expulsion, complaint to authorities, or ejection.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who need individual accommodations in order to participate more fully in college programs or services should contact the Services for Students with Disabilities (SFSWD) Program, 1303 James Hall (telephone: 951-5363). The SFSWD Program serves as the primary program for assisting students with

disabilities to integrate successfully into the Brooklyn College community and for making determinations of what will constitute appropriate academic adjustments. For more on student rights see <http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/bc/pubs/bulletin/2003/undergrad/html/srcr.htm>

COMPONENTS OF THE COURSE

(1) QUIZZES

We will have occasional, very brief, five-minute quizzes to help gauge our relationship with the material in the readings and discussions. Quizzes are ALWAYS based on the readings due for that class meeting (even if I'm behind the syllabus). Therefore you should always do the assigned readings for that day.

(2) EXAMS

The first half of the course culminates in a midterm. At the end there will be a comprehensive final. All course material will be relevant to the final. The College schedules the final exam and I cannot reschedule it for any reason, so note the date and time when they are announced and make your travel and work plans accordingly. Study aids to help you review and sample questions will be available before exams.

(3) BRIEF PRESENTATION ON A PRIMARY SOURCE

You'll sign up for a brief presentation to the class, lasting just 2-3 minutes. The topic will be any of the assigned primary sources (these are listed on the assignment schedule).

You will sign up to present one source document from the list and you'll give your presentation on the day we discuss that document in class. Sign-up will begin in the second class. In your presentation you will simply answer the Primary Sources questions from the handout we'll talk about in class. You may need to share your topic with another student, in which case you'll each do a part of the presentation.

- ▶ **YOU WILL TURN IN:** A typed summary of your presentation (about a page). This is due at the time of your presentation. Presentations without write-ups will get no credit.

(4) RESEARCH PROJECT

You will write a 5-7 page position paper, based on research you've done to answer one of a number of historical questions.

The most important part of this assignment is for you to:

- ▶ Develop a thesis, that is, a position that someone could disagree with, and then
- ▶ Convince the reader or the listener of your position using both (a) your own reasoning and analysis and (b) the facts and ideas you discover from your research.

Requirements and available topics will be distributed in a separate handout.

An optional draft may be submitted by the due date specified on the schedule. This is a chance for you to get guidance from me on the direction you're taking. Drafts turned in on time earn an extra 5 points on top of the grade for the project.

- ▶ **YOU WILL TURN IN:**
 - A proposal (an initial bibliography and basic outline);
 - A preliminary draft (optional); and
 - Your final paper.