

History 1204: Revolution in Modern Europe

Fall 2021

Instructor: Jesse Sadler
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Section 1: MWF 8:00–9:00: <https://lmula.zoom.us/j/82869063186>

Section 2: MWF 9:30–10:30: <https://lmula.zoom.us/j/89781893367>

Student hours: Monday/Wednesday 10:45–11:45 and by appointment

[Book an appointment on Microsoft Bookings](#)



History 1204 examines the dynamic transformation of Europe and the world over the past five hundred years, emphasizing periods of rapid and momentous changes that have been seen as revolutionary by either contemporaries or historians. From the closing of the medieval world and the waning of the Renaissance, the course commences with the wide-ranging transformations brought about by the discovery of the Americas and the splintering of the Western Church with the Reformation. The course will investigate periods of political, social, cultural, and economic upheaval, highlighting the experience of contemporaries and how the concept of revolution has changed from the sixteenth century up to the twenty-first century. Through both primary sources and the work of historians, we will pay close attention to debates over the meaning and nature of rights that were supposed to be held by individuals. The topic of revolution will also lead to discussions of the ways that people have conceptualized time in the past and how people have looked to either the past or the future for inspiration in thinking about their present actions. At all points emphasis will be placed on historical thinking and trying to better understand past cultures rather than memorization of facts, figures, and dates.

Assignments

- Participation: Discussion boards, attendance, and engagement: 10%
- Essays
 - Studying revolutions (week 3): 5%
 - Early modern rebellion and revolution (week 6): 15%
 - The French Revolution (week 10): 20%
 - Revolutions of the nineteenth century (week 13): 20%
- Unessay research project
 - Timeline contribution: 10%
 - Unessay presentation: 20%

Course Reading

All assigned readings for the course are available online on Brightspace as PDFs. The vast majority of the assigned reading is available in electronic form through the LMU Library. If you are interested in learning more about a certain topic, you will often be able to find different chapters from the books we are reading through the library.

Instead of reading a textbook that necessarily presents a single viewpoint, we will be reading a wide range of book chapters and articles to give us a more diverse understanding of the past. This will serve to highlight the various ways that historians research the past and allow us to focus more closely on certain aspects of the past. The drawback to this approach is that we will have to develop our own narrative to the historical changes over the past five hundred years. To ameliorate this issue, students are encouraged to ask questions in class and on the discussion boards and to consult further background reading listed each week in addition to textbooks listed below. All of these texts are available through the library.

General textbooks available for further reading

- Jane Burbank and Frederick Cooper, *Empires in World History: Power and the Politics of Difference* (2010)
- Merry Wiesner-Hanks, *A Concise History of the World* (2015)
- Euan Cameron ed., *Early Modern Europe: An Oxford History* (1999)
- T.C.W. Blanning ed., *The Oxford History of Modern Europe* (1999)
- Jerry Bentley, Sanjay Subrahmanyam, and Merry Wiesner-Hanks eds., *The Cambridge World History, Volume 6: 1400–1800* (2015)
- J.R. McNeill and Kenneth Pomeranz eds., *The Cambridge World History, Volume 7: 1750–Present* (2015)

Course Format

Course meetings: The class will meet on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday on Zoom at the above links. These meetings will be split between lectures, discussions, and various activities. Attendance and active participation is expected.

Reading: The required reading should be completed by the meeting under which it is listed. Come to class prepared to discuss and ask questions about the reading assigned for that day.

Discussion board: As part of the participation grade all students are expected to write **at least one** comment on the Discussion board per week. This will be a place for students to ask questions and discuss the reading and lectures.

Assignments: The assignments for the course are split between essays from which students will be asked to write about one prompt from several choices and a research project that we will work on throughout the semester. Details for each assignment will be under the Assignments tab on Brightspace.

Whoopsie clause: All assignments are expected to be completed by their due date. However, things do not always go as planned, especially in a period of a global pandemic. Therefore, each student is able to take advantage of the whoopsie clause once during the semester. This provides an extra 48 hours to complete any assignment (other than the Unessay presentation) without any questions. Just inform Professor Sadler that you want to invoke the whoopsie clause before the assignment is due.

Communication: Professor Sadler can be reached by email (james.sadler@lmu.edu) and will aim to respond to all queries in twenty-four hours. Students are encouraged to make use of the Discussion board and student hours to ask any questions.

Code of Conduct

Though many courses have returned to in-person, we are all well aware of the difficulties and uncertainties that persist in this time of Covid-19. This makes the virtues of patience and respect even more important than usual. Respectfulness for each other and the opinions of others is expected at all times. Our goal in this course is to better understand the perspective of others and that begins with each other. Please take good care of yourself and the people around you and communicate with me if you need accommodations.

Weekly Schedule

The syllabus is liable to change. Any changes will be made clear in class and on the website.

Week 1: Europe and the world in 1500

1. Monday, August 30: Introduction
 - Robert Darnton, *The Great Cat Massacre*, Introduction
2. Wednesday, September 1: The medieval legacy
 - Write an introduction post on the Discussion board
3. Friday, September 3: The waning of the Renaissance
 - Euan Cameron, Introduction in *The Short Oxford History of Europe: The Sixteenth Century*, pp. 1–8
 - Listen to [The Hedgehog and the Fox, Lynn Hunt: Why History Matters](#)

Week 2: Asking historical questions about revolutions

Monday, September 6: Labor Day (**No class**)

4. Wednesday, September 8: Interpreting historical texts

- Clifford Geertz, *Thick Description, Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture*, pp. 3–13

5. Friday, September 10: What is a revolution?

- Keith Michael Baker and Dan Edelstein, Introduction in *Scripting Revolution*, pp. 1–11
- Reinhart Koselleck, *Historical Criteria of the Modern Concept of Revolution*, pp. 43–57

Further reading

- Jack Goldstone, *Revolutions: A Very Short Introduction* (2014)

Week 3: The expansion of the European world

6. Monday, September 13: From the Mediterranean to the Atlantic

- Charles Parker, *Global Interactions in the Early Modern Age, 1400–1800*, Ch 1. European States and Overseas Empires, pp. 13–38

7. Wednesday, September 15: Imagining the New World

- Christopher Columbus to Luis de Santángel, 1493
- Amerigo Vespucci, *Mondus Novus*, 1504

8. Friday, September 17: Slavery and sugar in the Atlantic World

- Look through the [Slave Voyages website](#)

Studying revolutions essay due Monday, September 13

Further reading

- Jane Burbank and Frederick Cooper, *Empires in World History*, Ch 6. Oceanic Economies and Colonial Societies: Europe, Asia, and the Americas
- Karen Ordahl Kupperman, *The Atlantic in World History* (2012)

Week 4: The religious division of Europe

9. Monday, September 20: The splintering of the Western Church

- Euan Cameron, The Turmoil of Faith in *The Short Oxford History of Europe: The Sixteenth Century*, pp. 145–173
- Martin Luther, *Freedom of a Christian*, 1520

10. Wednesday, September 22: Popular religion in the age of the Reformation

- David Sabean, *Power in the Blood*, Ch 1. Communion and Community: The Refusal to Attend the Lord's Supper in the Sixteenth Century, pp. 37–60

11. Friday, September 24: Religious violence/Religious toleration

- Eye-witness Account of Image-breaking at Antwerp, 21 August 1566

Further reading

- Nicholas Terpstra, *Religious Refugees in the Early Modern World: An Alternative History of the Reformation* (2015)

- Ulinka Rublack, *Reformation Europe* (2017)

Week 5: Revolt and rebellion in early modern Europe

12. Monday, September 27: Writing history essays
13. Wednesday, September 29: The Reformation, rebellion, and resistance
- Wayne te Brake, *Shaping History*, Ch 3. Religious Dissent and Civil War in France and the Low Countries, pp. 63–108
 - *Short Exposition*, 1587 in Martin van Gelderen, *The Dutch Revolt*, pp. 229–238
14. Friday, October 1: The Crisis of the 17th century
- The Trial of Charles I, January 1649

Further reading

- Mack P. Holt, *The French Wars of Religion, 1562–1629* (2005)
- Carla Pestana, *The English Atlantic in an Age of Revolution, 1640–1661* (2004)
- David Como, God's Revolutions: England, Europe, and the Concept of Revolution in the Mid-seventeenth Century in *Scripting Revolution*, pp. 41–57

Week 6: Finding order in a changing world

15. Monday, October 4: Absolutism and its limits
- Tim Harris, Did the English Have a Script for Revolution in the Seventeenth Century?, in *Scripting Revolution*, pp. 25–40
 - Jacques Benigne Bossuet, *On Divine Right*, c. 1675–1680
16. Wednesday, October 6: Finding order in nature
- René Descartes, *A Discourse on the Method* (Parts 1–4), pp. 5–34
17. Friday, October 8: News and the public sphere
- Addison and Steele, *The Spectator*, 1711–1712

Early modern rebellion and revolution essay due Wednesday, October 6

Further reading

- Steve Pincus, *1688: The First Modern Revolution* (2009)
- Katharine Park and Lorraine Daston eds., *The Cambridge History of Science: Early Modern Science* (2006)
- Brian Cowan, *The Social Life of Coffee: The Emergence of the British Coffeehouse* (2005)

Week 7: The Enlightenment

18. Monday, October 11: Origins of the Enlightenment
- Lynn Hunt, Margaret Jacob, and Wijnand Mijnhardt, *The Book That Changed Europe: Picart and Bernard's Religious Ceremonies of the World*, Introduction, pp. 1–21
 - Immanuel Kant, An Answer to the Question: What Is Enlightenment?, pp. 17–23
19. Wednesday, October 13: Publishing the Enlightenment: The *Encyclopédie*
- *The Encyclopédie*
- Friday, October 15: Autumn Day (**No class**)

Further reading

- John Robertson, *The Enlightenment: A Very Short Introduction* (2015)
- Robert Darnton, *A Literary Tour de France: The World of Books on the Eve of the French Revolution* (2018)

Week 8: The French Revolution

20. Monday, October 18: Origins of the French Revolution

- Sarah Maza, The Cultural Origins of the French Revolution in *A Companion to the French Revolution*, pp. 42–56

21. Wednesday, October 20: A new revolutionary script

- The Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen, 1789

22. Friday, October 22: Edmund Burke and the dangers of revolution

- Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, pp. 3–11, 34–41, 49–54, 59–63, 78–98

Timeline contribution due Friday, October 22

Further reading

- Peter McPhee ed., *A Companion to the French Revolution* (2013)
- Peter M. Jones, *The French Revolution 1787–1804* (2016)

Week 9: The consequences of the French Revolution

23. Monday, October 25: Family and gender in the French Revolution

- Lynn Hunt, *The Family Romance of the French Revolution*, Ch 3. The Band of Brothers, pp. 53–88
- Olympe de Gouges, The Declaration of the Rights of Woman, September 1791

24. Wednesday, October 27: Slavery, race, and the Haitian Revolution

- Jane Burbank and Frederick Cooper, *Empires in World History*, Ch 8. Empire, Nation, and Citizenship in a Revolutionary Age, pp. 219–235
- The Haitian Declaration of Independence, 1804

25. Friday, October 29: The Napoleonic Revolution

Further reading

- Wim Klooster, *Revolutions in the Atlantic World: A Comparative History* (2018)
- Jeremy D. Popkin, *A Concise History of the Haitian Revolution* (2011)

Week 10: The birth of a modern society

26. Monday, November 1: The Industrial Revolution

- Robert Allen, *The British Industrial Revolution in Global Perspective*, Ch. 6. Why was the Industrial Revolution British?, pp. 135–151
- Richard Guest, *Compendious History of the Cotton Manufacture*, 1823

27. Wednesday, November 3: Life in the industrialized city

28. Friday, November 5: Mass politics and the revolutions of the 19th century

- Dominica Chang, Reading and Repeating the Revolutionary Script: Revolutionary Mimicry in Nineteenth-Century France in *Scripting Revolution*, pp. 181–198

The French Revolution essay due Wednesday, November 3

Further reading

- Stefan Berger, *A Companion to Nineteenth-Century Europe: 1789–1914* (2007)
- Margaret Jacob, *The First Knowledge Economy: Human Capital and The European Economy, 1750–1850* (2014)
- Jonathan Sperber, *The European Revolutions, 1848–1851* (2005)

Week 11: The birth of ideology

29. Monday, November 8: The Marxist theory of revolution

- Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*, pp. 1–20
- Karl Marx, *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte* (Section 1), pp. 31–40
- Karl Marx, *A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy*, Preface, pp. 158–162

30. Wednesday, November 10: The birth of nationalism

- George Mosse, *Nationalism and Sexuality*, Ch 4. Friendship and Nationalism, pp. 61–82

31. Friday, November 12: Liberalism and the turn to empire

- Thomas Babington Macaulay, On Empire and Education, 1830s

Further reading

- Dean Kostantaras, *Nationalism and Revolution in Europe, 1763–1848* (2020)
- Jennifer Pitts, *A Turn to Empire: The Rise of Imperial Liberalism in Britain and France* (2005)

Week 12: Crises in liberalism

32. Monday, November 15: Modernism

- Georg Simmel, The Metropolis and Mental Life, pp. 324–339

33. Wednesday, November 17: A halt to progress: The Great War

- Richard Overy, Global War 1914–45, pp. 299–320

34. Friday, November 19: Lenin and the Russian Revolution

- Lenin, 1917 Revolution in *Revolution, Democracy, Socialism: Selected Writings of V.I. Lenin*, pp. 257–284

Further reading

- Daniel Orlovsky, *A Companion to the Russian Revolution* (2020)
- Rex Wade, *The Russian Revolution, 1917* (2017)

Week 13: The Russian Revolution

35. Monday, November 22: Experiencing the Russian Revolution

- Jan Plamper, *Sounds of February, Smells of October: The Russian Revolution as Sensory Experience*, pp. 140–165

Wednesday, November 24: Thanksgiving Holidays (**No class**)

Friday, November 26: Thanksgiving Holidays (**No class**)

Revolutions of the nineteenth century essay due Monday, November 22

Week 14: War, globalization, and revolution in the twentieth century

36. Monday, November 29: Totalitarianism and genocide in World War II

37. Wednesday, December 1: Decolonization

- Jane Burbank and Frederick Cooper, *Empires in World History*, Ch 13. End of Empire?, pp. 413–442
- Sukarno, Speech at the Opening of the Bandung Conference, April 18 1955

38. Friday, December 3: The Cold War: 1968 and 1989

- Julian Bourg, Writing on the Wall: 1968 as Event and Representation in *Scripting Revolution*, pp. 287–306

Further reading

- Klaus Larres ed., *A companion to Europe since 1945* (2007)

Week 15: Conclusion

39. Monday, December 6: The place of revolution in the 21st century

40. Wednesday, December 8: Unessay presentations

41. Friday, December 10: Unessay presentations