

**HISTORY 240A: Europe from the Renaissance to the French Revolution****COURSE OUTLINE 2019**

Subject to change

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Office Hours: 12:30-2:00 on Wednesdays, or by appointment.

This survey consists of a broad narrative of principal developments in Europe during the early-

should write the equivalent of an encyclopaedia entry, explaining why something was important.

Seminars: you will be expected to attend four seminar classes in the term. They provide an opportunity for discussion & you will be marked for your participation in each one.

### Topics

\* There may be some variation, but the topics covered will largely consist of the following.

#### Part A: The Renaissance and Reformation

Intro

The late Middle Ages: General Characteristics

Rebirth: The Italian Renaissance

The Renaissance in Northern Europe

State Formation in the West: the 'New Monarchies' of Spain & France

State Formation in Central & Northern Europe

Hegemon?: Charles V & the Era of the Protestant Reformation #1

Hegemon?: Charles V & the Era of the Protestant Reformation #2

#### Part B: The Wars of Religion

New Worlds?: Spanish & Portuguese Overseas Empire

Europe Divided: Religious & Civil War

Seminar I: 'The Spread of the Reformation'.

Philip II Part 1: War with the Ottomans & Dutch Revolt

Philip II: Part 2: Spanish Armada & Economic Collapse

The Thirty Years War: Part 1: Devastation in Central Europe

The Thirty Years War: Part 2: French Ascendancy in the West

**In-Class Test: Covers Parts A & B Only**

#### Part C: The Age of Louis XIV

Absolutism in 17<sup>th</sup>-Century France

Seminar II: 'Staging Absolutism'.

The Cost of Glory: the Wars of Louis XIV, 1661-1715

Pursuit of Power in the North: Russia & Sweden in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century

#### Part D: The Era of the Enlightenment & French Revolution

The Enlightenment & the Age of Reason

Enlightened Despotism: Prussia & Russia

Seminar III: Groups A & B: 'The Mind of an Age: Science and Religion Confront

Eighteenth-Century Natural Disaster'.

Reform & the State in 18<sup>th</sup>-Century Austria and France

Inter-State Relations in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century: the Balance of Power

Liberty?: The French Revolution: Part I

Equality?: The French Revolution: Part II

Fraternity?: The French Revolution: Part III

Seminar IV: Groups A & B: 'A Day in the French Revolution: July 14, 1789'.  
**In-Class Test: Covers Parts C & D Only**  
Conclusion & Exam Preparations