

HIST 118 (Civilizations II) should be reapproved for the Social Sciences menu.

1. Disciplines: HIST 118 is a history survey course.
2. Definitions: HIST 118 explores human behaviors and interactions in the globalizing West from c. 1450 to the present. Course content includes discussion of the relationships between humans and their physical environment (e.g., the ecological and epidemiological impacts of Columbian exchange in both Old and New Worlds); the creation and interaction with institutions of power and governance (e.g., the emergence of absolutist and constitutional monarchies, republics, democracies, and empires), and/or the study of how people produce, distribute and consume goods and services (e.g, the sugar islands, plantation complex, slave system, industrialization, and empire). In broader terms, the course focuses “on the interpretation of...the history of human functioning over time.”
3. Course Content: HIST 118 introduces students to a particular period of history (c. 1450-present) with an emphasis on event timelines, historical biographies, and the critical debates associated with their interpretation.

Please see course description, purpose, and learning outcomes/competencies below.

Course Description: This course provides a survey of the social, economic, religious, political, and aesthetic activities of Western civilizations from c. 1500 to the present, with particular emphasis on worldview and its development over time. The course explores major themes such as the creation of the state, exploration and colonization, slavery and the Atlantic economy, social and political revolution, modernity, and post-modernity.

Purpose of this course: To cultivate the student’s ability to think critically, consider information in context, and write about and discuss information in an incisive and analytical fashion. The course also seeks to promote global citizenship, historical curiosity and cultural sensitivity. By examining the historic underpinnings of our own civilization, this course should deepen our understanding of ourselves and our way of looking at the world.

Student Outcomes and Competencies: This course seeks not only to communicate facts, but also to cultivate knowledge of chronology, trends, themes, and connections that will help students build a holistic understanding of Western history. Upon completion of the course, successful students will be able to describe the trajectory of Western history from 1500 to the present, analyze and evaluate primary source material related to course themes, and compare and contrast various Western worldviews. Students will also be able to relate historic worldviews to their own understandings of the world and their place in it. The course requires critical thinking, analysis, and use of writing skills.