Course Title: The Rise of the Modern Western World (Spring Semester)

Course Description: The course begins with a brief survey of the foundations of modern Western Civilization. The rise of individualism, humanism and science, the growth of the state, the emergence of the middle class, the conflict between Protestantism and Catholicism, and the beginnings of the age of liberal revolutions are discussed as ingredients in the birth of the modern world. Next, the historical forces and events that shaped the world in the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries are reviewed and prospects for the future are postulated.

Semester Weekly Topics: (Each topic is explored by means of a PowerPoint)

2. Early Modern to 30 Years War, Cyrano de Bergerac; 1500-2000 Overview
3. Elizabeth, Shakespeare, Shakespeare’s Tragedies, Shakespeare’s Globe, Mannerism
4. The Four Bodily Humors, Reintroduction of Aristotle, Scientific Revolution, Baroque art, Rococo Period, Baroque Music
5. Enlightenment (Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Montesquieu), Adam Smith, Classical Music and Neo-classical Art, Age of Revolutions Overview
6. American Enlightenment, Rise of National States, Romanticism
7. Victorian England, Industrialization Overview
8. American Civil War and Reconstruction After Civil War, América in the 19th Century, Poe
9. 20th Century
10. 20th Century cont.
11. (May 12) 21st Century, What’s Next