

Rise of the Modern World

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)

Weekly Layout:

Course Orientation; Background Leading to the Renaissance

Renaissance Period; Renaissance Art and Architecture

Mannerism; Elizabeth; Shakespeare, Shakespeare's Globe

The Four Bodily Humors and Reintroduction of Aristotle; the Scientific Revolution; Baroque Music & Baroque art; Rococo Period

The Enlightenment (Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Montesquieu, Adam Smith); The American Enlightenment; The French Revolution; Classical Music and Neo-classical Art

Industrialization Overview; Romanticism

Age of Revolutions; Victorian England

América in the 19th Century

20th Century America

20th Century America

21st Century America; What's Next