Welcome to History 1010, Modern Western World! This is an online course, which means that we do not meet “face-to-face” in a classroom. However, the objectives, expected learning outcomes, and many of the tasks in this course are the same as a “face-to-face” course. The following pages will explain in detail what those objectives and expectations are, as well as how this course is structured in order to meet those objectives and expectations. This syllabus is broken down into the following sections:

1. About your instructor
2. Contact information
3. Learning objectives and expected outcomes
4. Course structure and assessment (grading)
5. Student conduct and ethics
6. Weekly schedule of lectures, assessments and assignments

Please take the time to read through this syllabus carefully, and ask your instructor if there are any questions you might have about it.
I. About Your Instructor

My name is Dr. Eli Rubin, and I have taught at WMU since 2004, with a 2-year hiatus while I conducted research in Germany. My area of research specialization is modern German history, and I have authored one book on the subject (*Synthetic Socialism: Plastics and Dictatorship in the German Democratic Republic*, University of North Carolina Press, 2008) and have another coming out in a year with Oxford University Press, in addition to several scholarly articles. I am currently working on a research project that focuses on the impact of bombing and war within urban environments in Germany during World War Two. In addition, I am co-authoring a textbook of activities for teaching history in the classroom, to appear in 2016, with Oxford University Press.

At WMU, in addition to general education courses such as History 1010 and History 3030 (World History Since 1500), I also teach 3000-level Writing Intensive (WI) level courses on 20th Century European History (History 3616 and History 3618) and 4000 level Baccalaureate Writing (BW) courses on Modern German and European History, including Modern Germany, The Holocaust in History and Memory, and World War Two in Europe. I also frequently teach History 2900, Introduction to the Study of History, the required introductory course for history majors.

If you enjoy the content of this course, I encourage you to take other history courses taught by myself or others, and to consider becoming a history major or minor! Contact me, or our undergraduate instructor Dr. James Cousins (james.cousins@wmich.edu) for more information.
II. Contact Information

My contact information is as follows:

Dr. Eli Rubin  
Eli.rubin@wmich.edu  
269-387-4646  
4418 Friedmann Hall

My office hours are Wednesdays, 12:30-1:30 pm, or by appointment. It is my policy to reply to all emails within 24-48 hours. If you have not heard back from me within 48 hours, please contact me again. Please address me as "Dr. Rubin" and use your wmich.edu email addresses to contact me. In addition, please check your wmich.edu accounts frequently, as I will use email to send important information and reminders to you.

III. Learning Objectives and Expected Outcomes

This course satisfies the graduation requirement for general education area II (Humanities). There are three main objectives for this course:

• **Objective 1:** To understand the major events, ideas, and themes of the history of Europe and the West since the end of the Middle Ages

• **Objective 2:** To be able to make connections between those events, ideas and themes and our current world

• **Objective 3:** To be able to effectively analyze historical documents and write in a clear and convincing manner about them, using evidence.
IV. Course Structure and Assessment (Grading)

This is an online course. Each week is divided into two modules, and in each module there will be:

- An overview of the module that lays out the basic topic and the expectations for assignments and assessment.
- A list of the objectives of that module.
- A list of the assignments for that module.
- An online lecture (a recorded power point) that students must watch before taking quiz.
- A quiz based on the lecture
- A link to a discussion forum/thread.
- A drop box where students must deposit their ID answers from the textbook.
- If there are other assignments, such as writing assignments, these will be posted along with the modules under the “week” heading.

The following is a detailed list of each grade item and its weight:

**Quizzes (15% of grade)**
Each lecture is followed by a 10 question, multiple-choice quiz, which students must take by 11:59 pm on the Sunday that ends that week. Thus, for example, week one begins on Monday, May 5th and ends Sunday, May 11th. Therefore, all the quizzes for Modules one and two will be due by 11:59 pm on Sunday, May 11th. After that point, the quizzes automatically close and cannot be re-opened. The new quizzes open at 12:01 am the following Monday.

**Online Forums/Threads (15% of grade)**
Discussion topics will be posted and students must respond to them, or post new questions, related to the lecture and/or the reading for that week. Students
must post a meaningful comment or question, at least once, to receive credit, but can earn extra credit for more participation. The forums open and close similar to the quizzes: they close at 11:59 pm on Sunday and the new one opens at 12:01 am on Monday. Because there are two modules per week, there will be two forums/threads open at the same time; you may post in them in any order. To receive full credit for participating, your participation must be significant and demonstrate thoughtfulness and engagement with the topic and with other participants.

For example, if the discussion topic is “remark on how life for women changed during the industrial revolution” the following response would earn minimal or no credit:

“Women had a hard time during the industrial revolution”

whereas, the following post would receive near or complete full credit:

“Women were forced to abandon their traditional roles and had to work extremely long hours in dangerous conditions, but women in the bourgeoisie had to learn a new set of skills as their ran their servants and became wealthy socialites. I disagree with one of the other posters that the industrial revolution was all bad for women.”

Posting (relevant posts) more than once in each thread can earn up to 5 extra credit points for that module’s discussion.

**ID Terms (15% of grade)**

Students are assigned one chapter per module from the course textbook. At the end of each chapter there is a list of important terms called “Who, What, Where.” Students must submit 1-2 sentence explanations of each of these terms at the end of each week, by 11:59 pm on Sunday. The new one opens at 12:01 am on the next Monday. You must write as much as you can about each term—only doing the absolute minimum for the terms will not count as credit.

For example, compare the two responses to the ID term is “Napoleon”:

1. Napoleon was a French guy who did some stuff.
2. Napoleon was an artillery commander in the revolutionary French army who rose to prominence through his victories over the Austrian and Prussian armies and eventually become the new Emperor of France, conquering most of Europe.

Answer #1 is technically true. It also will receive no credit. Answer #2 is a model of what you should strive for in your answer.

The course textbook is:

Clifford Backman, *The Cultures of the West Volume 2 Since 1350*
Oxford University Press

This is available at the WMU Bookstore.
The ID terms must be deposited in the dropbox in each module.

**Writing Assignment (20% of grade)**
This will be a 5-page, double-spaced writing assignment based on a packet of documents. Students will be asked to pick from one of three modules. Each module will have a prompt, and students must answer it using extensive quotation from the documents. This will be available in week four and will be due at the end of week seven (specific details will be provided in assignment packet itself). Students will be provided specific examples of what is expected in this assignment, as well as the rubric that will be used to grade the assignment.

**Midterm Exam (15% of grade)**
This will be a short-answer exam based on both the lectures and the book that will require students demonstrate an understanding of the course material and progress towards the course objectives. It will take place during week four, in lieu of lectures, quizzes, or reading. It will be available at 12:01 am on Monday, and will be due by 11:59 on Sunday. It will cover the course material up through the end of week three. Note: this will take place on week four, and during week four, there will be only one module, to accommodate the extra time needed for preparing for and taking the midterm.

**Final Exam (20% of grade)**
This will be a similar structure as the midterm exam. It will be cumulative, although will focus mainly on the material covered after week three. It will be made available Monday June 23rd at 12:01 am and will be due Friday, June 27th at 11:59 pm.

Your final letter grade in the course will be determined using the standard WMU grading scale:

- A = 100-93
- BA = 92-88
- B = 87-83
- CB = 82-78
- C = 77-73
- DC = 72-68
- D = 67-60
- E (failing) = 59 and below

**Late policy:** The online class environment is different than the face-to-face one, and although it allows greater flexibility, it also puts more responsibility on the student to keep track of deadlines, as your instructor is not present to remind you. I will endeavor to send out reminders over email, but it is your responsibility to keep track of your due dates and deadlines. **I do not accept late work without a documented excuse.** I encourage anyone experiencing difficulties outside the “classroom” to discuss these with me in advance, and work out a plan for how to work around the disruption.

**V. Student Conduct and Ethics**

The online class is unique also because students do work independently on their own, with no supervision from the instructor. This can mean that there is a temptation to plagiarize by using the internet for text or answers to assignments, rather than the assigned course material.

All answers to ID terms, exam questions, all text on the writing assignment, **must be written only by you the student, and must be based on the material assigned or provided in the course.**
Any copying and pasting, even of just one sentence, from any other source; any paying for any other person or service to write a paper or complete an assignment for you; or any other similar violation is plagiarism. I take plagiarism very seriously and if I suspect that you have plagiarized, I will immediately initiate charges with the Office of Student Conduct, which will lead to a hearing and, if found guilty, a punishment ranging from a zero on the assignment to failure in the course or worse.

Furthermore, the online discussion forum is an environment unique from a face-to-face environment, as are all online discussion forums. The same standards of courtesy and respect for diversity of opinions and backgrounds holds for online discussions as for face-to-face discussions.

For complete information on your rights and responsibilities as a student, please go to the Office of Student Conduct’s webpage at:

http://www.wmich.edu/conduct/index.html

VI. Schedule of Lectures, Assignments, and Assessments

Week One (May 5-11)

Module One: The Black Death and The Columbian Exchange
1. Listen to Lecture “The Black Death” and take quiz
2. Listen to Lecture “Columbus” and take quiz
3. Read Ch. 11 in Backman, and answer and submit ID terms
4. Participate in online discussion

Module Two: Slavery and the Renaissance
1. Listen to Lecture “Slavery” and take quiz
2. Listen to Lecture “Renaissance 1: Power and Politics” and take quiz
3. Read Ch. 12 in Backman and answer and submit ID terms
4. Participate in online discussion
**Week Two (May 12-18)**

**Module Three: Renaissance Art and the Reformation**
1. Listen to lecture “Renaissance II: Art” and take quiz
2. Listen lecture “Scientific Revolution” and take quiz
3. Read Ch. 13 in Backman and answer and submit ID terms
4. Participate in online discussion

**Module 4: From the Reformation to the Religious Wars**
1. Listen to lecture “Reformation” and take quiz.
2. Listen to lecture “Religious Wars” and take quiz
3. Read Backman Ch. 14 and submit ID terms
4. Participate in online discussion

**Week Three (May 19-25)**

**Module 5: From the Enlightenment to the French Revolution**
1. Listen to lecture “Enlightenment” and take quiz
2. Listen to lecture “French Revolution” and take quiz
3. Read Backman Ch. 15 and submit ID terms
4. Participate in online discussion

**Module 6: Napoleon and the Industrial Revolution**
1. Listen to lecture “Napoleon” and take quiz
2. Listen to lecture “The Industrial Revolution” and take quiz
3. Read Backman Ch. 16 and submit ID terms
4. Participate in online discussion

**Week Four (May 26-June 1)**

**Module 7: Midterm**
Midterm Exam made available Monday, May 26 at 12:01 am; due on Sunday, June 1 at 11:59 pm in drop box.

**Module 8: Radical Ideologies**
1. Listen to lecture “Radical Ideologies 1” and take quiz
2. Listen to lecture “Radical Ideologies 2” and take quiz
3. Read Backman Ch. 17 and submit ID terms
4. Participate in online discussion

Writing assignment made available

**Week Five (June 2-June 8)**

**Module 9: From Colonialism to World War**
1. Listen to lecture “Colonialism Imperialism” and take quiz
2. Listen to lecture “WWI” and take quiz
3. Read Backman Ch. 18 and submit ID terms
4. Participate in online discussion

**Module 10: Weimar and the Avant-Garde**
1. Listen to lecture “Weimar Germany” and take quiz
2. Listen to lecture “Modern Art” and take quiz
3. Read Backman Ch. 19 and submit ID terms.
4. Participate in online discussion

**Week Six (June 9-June 15)**

**Module 11: Inside the Third Reich**
1. Listen to lecture “Inside the Third Reich” and take quiz.
2. Read Backman Ch. 20 and submit ID terms.
3. Participate in online discussion
*Note: there is only one lecture and one quiz in this module

**Module 12: World War Two: From the Invasion of Poland to the Air War**
1. Listen to lecture “WWII Part I” and take quiz
2. Listen lecture “The Bombing War” and take quiz
3. Read Backman Ch. 21 and submit ID terms.
4. Participate in online discussion

**Week Seven (June 16-June 22)**

**Module 13: World War Two: From Barbarossa to the Fall of Berlin**
1. Listen to lecture “WWII Part II” and take quiz
2. Listen to lecture WWII Part III” and take quiz
3. Read Backman Ch. 22 and submit ID terms.
4. Participate in online discussion

Module 14: The Cold War
1. Listen to lecture “The Cold War” and take quiz.
2. Listen to lecture “Fall of the Wall” and take quiz
3. Read Backman Ch. 23 and submit ID terms.
4. Participate in online discussion

FINAL PAPER DUE IN DROP BOX SUNDAY, JUNE 22ND BY 11:59 PM

Week Eight: Final Exam Week (June 23 – 27)

Module 15: Final Exam
Final exam will be available 12:01 am June 23 and is due by 11:59 pm June 27th.