

**History 150**  
**Europe, 1648 - Present**

**Marvin G. Slind**

**Spring 2013**

**ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS**

**Examinations:** (300 points)

There will be two midterm examinations, each worth 100 points. The midterm exams have been scheduled for **Friday, March 1 and Friday, April 5**. Make-up examinations must be arranged (not necessarily taken) within three days after the regularly scheduled examination.

The final examination, which will be partly comprehensive, will also be worth 100 points. It will be held on the day for which it is officially scheduled by the Registrar: **1:15 - 3:15 pm Wednesday, May 15**.

Exams and written work (and the entire course in general) are graded on a scale of A = 90 - 100; B = 80 - 89; C = 70 - 79; D = 60 - 69; and F = 59 or below. "Plus" and "minus" grades will be given to the top and bottom two percentage points in each category. (For example, 80 - 81 = B-; 88 - 89 = B+, etc.) Your work will be evaluated individually, not in comparison to a class-wide norm.

Examinations (mid-terms as well as the final) will include short identification questions as well as essay questions. The on-line course materials contain a study guide for each examination, which includes a list of possible identification items, as well as sample essay questions. All exams are to be written in **Blue Books**. When writing examinations, consider the guidelines in the handouts, "Writing Essay Examinations" and "Criteria for Evaluation of Essay Exam Answers."

**Map quizzes:** (75 points)

There will be three map quizzes given throughout the semester (25 points each, 75 points total). Map quizzes will be given on the following dates: **February 15, March 20, April 29**. (For each map quiz, there is a list of map items to locate; the study sheets are included in Supplemental Course Materials. The actual items on the map quizzes will be taken from those lists. Map blanks will be distributed in class for you to use when studying for the quizzes) On each quiz, you will be given a list of approximately 15 - 20 items, of which you must identify 12. Each item is worth two points: one point for proper identification, and one for correct spelling.

**Critique of Scholarly Book Review:** (25 points)

Write a 2 – 3 page **critique of a scholarly review** of an historical **monograph**. (**Due Monday, March 11**) While this assignment does not require you to read every page of the monograph itself, you will need to work with enough of it to write an evaluation of a review someone else has written. You are free to find any monograph that interests you **OTHER THAN THE BOOK FOR WHICH YOU WRITE YOUR OWN REVIEW** (see below), but I must approve all titles. (You will obviously need to find a monograph for which you can also find a scholarly review to

critique. The scholarly review must be published in a “peer reviewed” scholarly journal. If you have any doubts about whether or not your review qualifies, please do not hesitate to ask me.)

NB: this assignment requires you to critique **someone else’s scholarly review** of a monograph, not review that monograph yourself.

**Book Review:** (100 points)

Book Review: April 18 (Early Submit, April 4)

You are required to write one 3 – 5 page book review (worth 100 points). All book reviews are due no later than **Wednesday, April 17**. If you submit the final version of your review no later than **Wednesday, April 3**, you may revise it, and resubmit it (by April 17) for a higher grade. Only the higher score will be counted if the paper is rewritten. (Reviews submitted any time after April 3 will be considered the same as those submitted April 17—that is, they cannot be resubmitted for a higher grade, even if they are submitted before the final due date.) Papers which are submitted after the assigned deadline will be penalized 10 points per class period they are late, to a maximum 50 point penalty. Failure to submit a book review will result in failure in the course.

You may select any book of interest to you that is related to the course. Please note that **ALL** books selected for review must be approved by me. Reviews will not be accepted for other books. Choose your book carefully, and clear it with me **before** you start reading it! Approval will **NOT** be given by phone or e-mail.

The book you select should fit the following general criteria: it should generally be at least 200 pages in length, its original edition must have been published since 1945, and it should be a **monograph**. What is a monograph? It is a book written on a specific subject by a single author. It is **not** a collection of essays edited by an author, **not** a memoir by someone who took part in the events, **not** a collection of documents (primary sources) edited by an author, and **not** a general history of a country in any given period. It is also **not** a novel or a work of "historical fiction." (Some books published before 1945 would be very appropriate, while others would be considered “outdated”—if you find an “older” book that you would like to review, check with me to see if your choice is suitable for this assignment.) NB: The book you review cannot be the same one for which you critiqued a scholarly review.

Please consult the handouts, "Book Reviews" and "A Sample Book Review" for general guidelines for writing book reviews. Reviews which do not fit the criteria outlined for this assignment will receive a grade of zero (0), and must be rewritten and resubmitted in order to receive a passing grade in the course.

(Total for required assignments and examinations: **500 points**)

Please note: A grade of zero (0) for any of these assignments will result in a final grade of "F" in the course. (A zero for individual map quizzes will not result in an automatic "F;" however, a total score of zero for the set of quizzes will result in failure in the course.) Under no circumstances will an "incomplete" be given if the book review assignment has not been completed.

Violations of the Honor System will be referred to the Honor Council, which will assess the appropriate penalties.