







Humanities (HUMN) 202

The West from the Enlightenment to the 21st Century (Revision 5)

Status:	Replaced with new revision, see the course listing  for the current revision 
Delivery mode:	Individualized study online 
Credits:	3
Areas of study:	Arts or Humanities
Prerequisite:	None
Precluded:	HUMN 202 is a cross-listed course—a course listed under two different disciplines—with HIST 202 . HUMN 202 may not be taken for credit by students who have obtained credit for HIST 202.
Challenge:	HUMN 202 has a challenge for credit option.
Faculty:	Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences 

Overview

How did the concept of “the West” change over the past few centuries? How and why did the beliefs, practices, and values of the West change throughout different geopolitical contexts? In what ways were intellectual and artistic developments related to the targeted era’s political and social forces? How did the interaction with other cultures define Western thought and culture? What are the roots of today’s dominant ideologies of the West? Is it still relevant to talk about the West in the era of globalization? These are some critical questions examined in this survey course on the West’s development from the eighteenth century to the twenty-first century. In particular, students will examine the role of Western thought and culture in the ages of Enlightenment, revolution, nationalism, modernity, imperialism, the twentieth century’s totalitarianism and destructive world wars, and the search for stability in the postwar era—concluding with the era of globalization, refugee crises, the COVID-19 pandemic, and racial disparities.

Outline

HUMN 202 is divided into fifteen units:

- Unit 1: The Eighteenth Century: An Age of Enlightenment
- Unit 2: The Eighteenth Century: European States, International Wars, and Social Change
- Unit 3: The Era of the American and French Revolutions
- Unit 4: The Industrial Revolution and Its Impact on Society
- Unit 5: Reaction, Revolution, and Romanticism, 1815–1850
- Unit 6: An Age of Nationalism and Realism, 1850–1871
- Unit 7: Mass Society in an “Age of Progress,” 1871–1894
- Unit 8: An Age of Modernity, Anxiety, and Imperialism, 1894–1914 City
- Unit 9: The Beginning of the Twentieth Century Crisis: War and Revolution
- Unit 10: The Futile Search for stability: Europe between the Wars, 1919–1939
- Unit 11: The Deepening of European Crisis: World War II
- Unit 12: Cold War and a New Western World, 1945–1965

- Unit 13: Protest and Stagnation: The Western World, 1965–1985
- Unit 14: After the Fall: The Western World in a Global Age (Since 1985)
- Unit 15: The COVID-19 Pandemic and Racial Inequality

Evaluation

Evaluation of students in HUMN 202 is based on two quizzes, discussion forum participation, an essay assignment, and a final exam. To **receive credit** [↗](#) for HUMN 202 you must submit all course work, achieve a composite course grade of at least **D (50 percent)** [📄](#) and a grade of at least 50 percent on the final exam.

Activity	Weight
History Skills Tutorials Quiz	10%
Primary Sources Analysis/Opposing Viewpoints Quiz	15%
Discussion Forums	15%
Essay Assignment	30%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

The **final examination** for this course must be requested in advance and written under the supervision of an AU-approved exam invigilator. Invigilators include either ProctorU or an approved in-person invigilation centre that can accommodate online exams. Students are responsible for payment of any invigilation fees. Information on exam request deadlines, invigilators, and other exam-related questions, can be found at the **Exams and grades** [↗](#) section of the Calendar.

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's **online Calendar** [↗](#).

Materials

Digital course materials

Links to the following course materials will be made available in the course:

Spielvogel, Jackson J. *Western Civilization: A Brief History, Volume II: Since 1500*, 10th ed. USA: Cengage Learning. 2020

Other Materials

All other materials are available online.

Challenge for credit

Overview

The challenge for credit process allows you to demonstrate that you have acquired a command of the general subject matter, knowledge, intellectual and/or other skills that would normally be found in a university-level course.

Full information about **challenge for credit** [↗](#) can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Evaluation

To **receive credit** [↗](#) for the HUMN 202 challenge registration, you must achieve a grade of at least **D (50 percent)** [📄](#) on the challenge examination.



Challenge for credit course registration form

Important links

- › Academic advising [↗](#)
- › Program planning [↗](#)
- › Request assistance [↗](#)

> [Support services](#) 

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

Opened in Revision 5, April 11, 2022

Updated April 3, 2025

View [previous revision](#) 
