

HON P 202 (010)

HISTORY OF CIVILIZATION

“THE POWER OF PRINTING: THE PRINTED WORD AS AN AGENT OF CHANGE IN THE HISTORY OF THE WESTERN WORLD

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Introduction to the Course

The shift from the copyist's desk to the printer's workshop revolutionized all forms of learning. During the second semester of this survey we will view the results of what some have called "The Unacknowledged Revolution." We will explore the consequences of printing. We will examine the history of ideas from the year 1450 and the media used to transmit those ideas. We will use the wealth of material found in Special Collections here at BYU. For instance, there are 475 examples of incunabula -books printed before 1501. We will understand history and culture better by seeing and using our collection of Luther tracts, our voluminous holdings of the first printing of Greek and Latin classics, the hundreds of early books in the vernacular languages, our 16th century diplomatic history sources, the scores of books detailing the scientific revolution, the thousands of French political pamphlets printed between 1550 and 1700, the first printing of the English, German and French philosophers, the early examples of printed music and graphic art, and the thousands of books printed in the nineteenth century as reading became a necessity of life. In short, we will see how printing affected ways of learning, thinking, and perceiving. We will learn that no political, ecclesiastical, economic, scientific, philosophical, or literary movement since 1450 can be fully understood without taking into account the influence of the printing press.

Work Required

1. Required Texts:

Ralph, Philip Lee. *World Civilizations: Their History and Their Cultures*. 9th ed., Vol. 2. New York, 1997.

Various readings from several other texts. These will be provided for you.

3. Exams: Two "Midterm" examinations; one Final. (Short identification, multiple choice, and essay questions)
4. Paper: One 8 to 12 page paper on a topic of your choice that amplifies the theme of the course. The paper needs to be typed, footnoted, and include a bibliography. Footnotes may be at end or at bottom of each page.

Evaluation and Grading

1. "Midterms" 200 points apiece (Total of 400)
Final 300 points
Paper 200 points

900 points possible.

2. The final grade is determined according to the total number of points obtained.

A = 94%-100% A- = 90%-93% B+ = 87%-89%

B = 83%-86% B- = 80%-82%