Instructor: Dr. Ömür Birler
Office: A108
Phone: x 2002
E-mail: birler@metu.edu.tr
Office Hours: Thursday 1 to 4 pm.

Course Description
This course is an introduction to the history of the western world. It examines the social and political scenery the Western civilizations from 16th century to present. While the course follows a conventional periodic reading of the developments witnessed in the western world, it analyzes those developments within a thematic framework. The course aims to provide an insight to the near history of the western world as well as to develop an understanding of the key issues and concepts that make western culture the West today.

Course Requirements and Grading
1- Attendance and participation to discussion hours: 10%
2- Mid-term exam: 30%
3- Reflection papers 20% (5 points each)
   Students are expected to submit 4 reflection papers of their choices out of 6 suggested topics. The papers must be handed on Mondays following the discussion group. Late papers will not be accepted.
4-Final Exam: 40%}

Required Readings:
Levack B., et. al. The West: Encounters and Transformations (Pearson)
Anderson, P. Passages from Antiquity to Feudalism
Beaud, M. A History of Capitalism (Monthly Review)
Galeano, E. Open Veins of Latin America (Monthly Review)
Hobsbawm, E. The Age of Revolution 1789-1848 (Penguin)
Hobsbawm, E. Age of Extremes (Penguin)
Freedman, E., B. No Turning Back: History of Feminism (Ballantine)
Marx, K. Engels, F. Kapital – Manga II (Yordam)
Roebuck, J. The Shaping of Urban Society (Charles Scribner’s Son)
Schedule of Classes

February 26-27: Geographical Discoveries and Colonialism
Levack, B., et. al.  
*The West*  
Chap.: 12

Galeano, E.  
*Open Veins of Latin America*  
Chap.: 1

March 4-5: Feudalism and Absolutism
Levack, B., et. al.  
*The West*  
Chap.: 15

Anderson, P.  
*Passages from Antiquity to Feudalism*  
Chap.: 1

March 11-12: Origin of Capitalism
Beaud, M.  
*A History of Capitalism*  
Chap.: 1

Discussion Group and 1st Reflection Paper:  
Due Date: March 15
Readings:
Mun, T.  
*England’s Treasure by Foreign Trade*

March 18-19: Age of Reason
Levack, B., et. al.  
*The West*  
Chap.: 18

March 25-26: Age of Industry
Levack, B., et. al.  
*The West*  
Chap.: 20

Hobsbawm, E.  
*The Age of Revolution*  
Chap.: 2

Discussion Group and 2nd Reflection Paper:  
Due Date: March 29
Readings:
Kant, I.  
“What is Enlightenment?”

Engels, F.  
*The Condition of the Working Class in England*

April 1-2: Class and Revolution
Levack, B., et. al.  
*The West*  
Chap.: 19

Hobsbawm, E.  
*The Age of Revolution*  
Chap.: 6

April 8-9: Emergence of Metropolis
Roebuck, J.  
*The Shaping of Urban Society*  
Chap.: 5

Discussion Group and 3rd Reflection Paper:  
Due Date: April 12
Readings:
Marx, K. Engels, F.  
*Kapital – Manga II*

Marx, K. Engels, F.  
*The Communist Manifesto*

April 15-16: Nationalism and Nation States
Levack, B., et. al.  
*The West*  
Chap.: 21

Hobsbawm, E.  
*The Age of Revolution*  
Chap.: 7
April 22-23: Gender
Freedman, E., B.  
*No Turning Back*  
Chap.: 1

**Discussion Group and 4th Reflection Paper:**  
Due Date: April 26

Readings:
Alexis, S.  
“Modern Housewife”
Pankhurst, S. E.  
*History of the Suffrage Movement*

April 29-30: Imperialism and War
Levack, B., et. al.  
*The West*  
Chap: 23-24

May 6-7: Crisis and War
Levack, B., et. al.  
*The West*  
Chap: 26
Hobsbawm, E.  
*Age of Extremes*  
Chap.: 3

**Discussion Group and 5th Reflection Paper:**  
Due Date: May 10

Readings:
Lenin, V. I.  
*Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism*
Keynes, J. M.  
*The Economic Consequences of the Peace*

May 13-14: Decolonization and The Third World
Levack, B., et. al.  
*The West*  
Chap:27
Hobsbawm, E.  
*Age of Extremes*  
Chap.: 12

May 20-21: End of a Century
Levack, B., et. al.  
*The West*  
Chap:28

**Discussion Group and 6th Reflection Paper:**  
Due Date: May 24

Readings:
Fukuyama, F.  
“The End of History?”
Gorbachev, M.  
“Perestroika”

May 27-28: Concluding Remarks