



**History 2432G (570)**  
**Age Of Empire: Europe In The Early Modern World**  
**Fall/Winter 2025 - 2026**

Instructor: Dr. Oleksa Drachewych  
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**Course Information**

**Calendar Description:**

This course explores Europe's role in global networks of commercial, cultural, and biological exchange between 1450 and 1800. Topics include continental and overseas empire-building, imperial rivalries and wars, the rise of global capitalism, the slave trade, hardening concepts of racial difference, as well as the impact of non-Europeans within Europe.

**Prerequisite(s):**

**Antirequisite(s):** [History 2103](#), [History 2403E](#), [History 2450F/G](#), [History 2460F/G](#).

**Extra Information:** 2 lecture and 1 tutorial hour

**Course Weight:** 0.50

**Breadth:** Category A

**Subject Code:** History

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

**King's University College**  
**History 2432G – Age of Empire: Europe in the Early Modern World**  
**Winter Term 2026**

**Course information:**

Course Name, Number, Section: History 2432G 570

Instructor: Oleksa Drachewych

Contact Information: odrachew@uwo.ca

Office hours: Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon on Zoom or via appointment

**Course description:** This course explores Europe's role in global networks of commercial, cultural, and biological exchange between 1450 and 1800. Topics include continental and overseas empire-building, imperial rivalries and wars, the rise of global capitalism, the slave trade, hardening concepts of racial difference, as well as the impact of non-Europeans within Europe.

**Course learning outcomes:** Through this course, students will:

- Understand the events, themes, and general history of European interaction with the wider world
- Understand how European colonialism developed and the impact of European discovery on developing a global economy, including the expansion of the slave trade
- Reconsider how Europe is defined and view through the lens of multiple different nations and perspectives during the Early Modern Period
- Consider also how Europe interacts with the rest of the world from different perspectives
- Consider how imperialism and colonialism developed differently between different European powers and regions

**Mode of Instruction:** In person

**Course textbooks/materials:**

- The following books will be made available for purchase in the UWO Bookstore and will be required readings:
  - Charles H. Parker, *Global Interactions in the Early Modern Age, 1400-1800* (Cambridge University Press, 2010) \$40.75
    - It is also available digitally through King's Libraries at no cost.
  - Timothy Brook, *Vermeer's Hat: The Seventeenth Century and the Dawn of the Global World* (Bloomsbury, 2009) \$27.05

Bookstore Link: <https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=KC&term=W2025B&courses%5B0%5D=570> KC/HIS2432G

Alternate editions are suitable for this class. All other readings will be made available through King's Libraries or the Course Brightspace.

**Method of evaluation:**

- Tutorial Participation – 20%
- Book review – 20% (due February 6)
- Research Paper – 30% (due March 20)
- Final Exam - 30%

**Participation** will be determined by a student's quality contributions to in-person discussion held during tutorials and interaction during lecture and with the course generally. Students are expected to have read course readings and to be prepared to discuss them in class. Students who only attend class and never speak will see their participation mark capped at 50%.

The first assignment in this course will be a 750-1000 word **Book Review** of Timothy Brook's *Vermeer's Hat*. In this assignment, students will be tasked to evaluate the book and explain what it tells us about the increasing interconnectedness of the world. A guiding question will be offered to help keep assignments focused. The assignment is not solely an evaluation of the book, but instead a deeper analysis of how Brook explains the rise of globalization during the Early Modern Period. This assignment will be due on **February 6**.

The second assignment in this course will be a 2500 word (+/- 250 words) **Research Essay**. Using the resources in King's Library, students will have to complete an essay which will have an argument, engage in significant research (Students will be required to have 6 to 8 academic sources, two of which must be books), and develop an analysis on a topic related to the course. Students will be provided with a list of topics to start the course to help them in determining their topic. This assignment will be due **March 20**.

A **Final Exam** will take place during the April exam period, scheduled by the registrar's office. It will take place in person and be a mix of identification and essay questions which will be used to demonstrate mastery of course content.

**Information for all assignments:** Every assignment will be due at 11:59:59 pm ET on its due date, submitted electronically via OWL Brightspace.

Students are expected to use Chicago-style citations for **every written assignment**. Footnotes or endnotes are acceptable. In-text citations, unless otherwise stated, are not.

Academic sources are sources that have been published by a reputable source. This includes journal articles or monographs found via King's Library. Failure to use the required number of academic sources for an assignment will cap one's mark at a 68. If students are unsure about a source, they are encouraged to contact the professor.

**Late Policy:** As per the King's University College Department of History guidelines – a penalty of five marks will be assessed for essays submitted the first day after deadline, followed by a penalty of one mark per day including weekends.

**Contact and Email Policy:** Students are welcome to speak to the professor during office hours or by appointment, either in person or via Zoom. The professor will also do his best to be available immediately following class when possible or be available for alternate meeting times to answer any questions regarding the course or its content. Regarding email, he will aim to respond within 24 hours. One exception to this rule will be weekends where he will aim to respond within 48 hours.

### **Academic Integrity / Remote Proctoring:**

*Western Scholastic Discipline policy:*

[https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

*AI Policy:* King's is committed to fostering a culture of professionalism, honesty, and academic integrity, and all members of our community—faculty, staff, and students—have a role to play in promoting an ethical learning environment. Furthermore, through the work they submit for academic evaluation, students develop important habits of critical thinking, independent inquiry, and creativity. Thus, it is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor.

*Turnitin:* This class will use Turnitin on all submitted written assignments to check for plagiarism.

### **Schedule of Classes, Readings, Assessments:**

*Weekly topics to be found below; Reading list to be posted before the first class on Brightspace.*

Week 1: Introduction and welcome

*January 5 – LECTURE*

*January 6 – TUTORIAL – NO CLASS*

Week 2: Europe and the World in 1450; The Age of Discovery

*January 12 – LECTURE*

*January 13 – TUTORIAL*

Week 3: Europe engages with “New World”

*January 19 – LECTURE*

*January 20 – TUTORIAL*

Week 4: The Development of Global Economies; the Rise of the Silver Trade

*January 26 – LECTURE*

*January 27 – TUTORIAL*

Week 5: Voluntary and Involuntary Migration in the Early Modern World; The Slave Trade

*February 2 – LECTURE*

*February 3 – TUTORIAL*

*Book review of Vermeer's Hat due February 6*

Week 6: Shifting Perspectives: Central & Eastern Europe in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries

*February 9 – LECTURE*

*February 10 – TUTORIAL*

READING WEEK: February 14-22

Week 7: The Columbian Exchange: Ecological and Biological Exchanges in the Early Modern World

*February 23 – LECTURE*

*February 24 – TUTORIAL*

Week 8: The Decline of Spain, the Rise of Britain, and the Crises of Continental Europe

*March 2 – LECTURE*

*March 3 – TUTORIAL*

Week 9: Life under Empire and the Evolution of Global Trade in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries

*March 9 – LECTURE*

*March 10 – TUTORIAL*

Week 10: Shifting Strength in the European Imperial System  
*March 16 – LECTURE*

*March 17 – TUTORIAL – NO CLASS – Work on your papers*

*Research Essay due March 20*

Week 11: Imperial Rivalry in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries; Globalizing Conflict  
*March 23 – LECTURE*

*March 24 – TUTORIAL*

Week 12: Imperial Rivalry in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, continued, and the Turn to Revolution?  
*March 30 – LECTURE*

*March 31 – TUTORIAL*

Week 13: The Age of Transatlantic Revolutions; To the Modern World?  
*April 6 – LECTURE*

*April 7 – TUTORIAL – NO CLASS*

KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE  
GENERAL COURSE POLICIES  
2025-2026

**1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences**

**Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)**

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

**Academic Consideration for Student Absence**

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at [https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses\\_enrollment/exams\\_and\\_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf](https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses_enrollment/exams_and_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf).

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course.

Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

For further information, please see:

[https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/academic\\_consideration\\_Sep24.pdf](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf)

Friday Make-Up Exams may only be written with the instructor's consent.

**Absences from Final Examinations**

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

### **Religious Accommodation**

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

## **2. Support Services**

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King's University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help:

[https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/](https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/)

Academic Support Services at King's University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

### **GBSV Support:**

King's is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find

information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at:  
<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing [Care@kings.uwo.ca](mailto:Care@kings.uwo.ca) or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by [email](#) or by calling 519-661-3568.

Further supports can be found on this website: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

See also [https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html)

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

### **3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices**

**Use of Electronic Devices:** Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

**Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom:** King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

### **4. Statement on Academic Offences**

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with your instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system; see [https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality\\_Reports - TurnItIn.html](https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality_Reports - TurnItIn.html).

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

## **5. Copyright of Course Material**

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

## **6. Use of Recordings**

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

## **7. Policy on Attendance**

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.