History 120: Europe and the Modern World, 1815-2010

This course introduces students to key themes in the social, political, and cultural history of Europe from the fall of Napoleon to the twenty first century. We will ask how and why Europe came to dominate the world in the nineteenth century and why it lost that dominance in the twentieth. Why did Europe give birth both to models of democracy and social equality but also to dictatorship and terror? Why has Europe been such a laboratory for nationalism and does the emergence of the European Union signal the end of this epoch? These are some of the many questions that we will address over the course of the semester.

Attendance and participation in weekly discussion sections is mandatory. You must complete all the assigned reading before your weekly section meeting. We expect students to come to section prepared for an in-depth and wide ranging discussion of the issues raised by the class readings. We are not looking for “right” answers but for original thinking on your part. Students are responsible for all the materials presented in lecture. The lectures are not based on the textbook and they offer perspectives and materials that are not available in the readings.

Objectives: This is an introductory course that requires no previous familiarity with the historical discipline or with Europe. In this class you will:

- Learn how to distinguish primary and secondary sources
- Learn how to make concise arguments (1 sentence; 1 page)
- Learn how to make arguments about the past
- Learn how to use different kinds of sources (primary sources; novels; secondary sources) in support of your arguments and interpretations
- Gain an in-depth understanding of the main themes in the political, cultural and social history of Europe from the fall of Napoleon to the twenty first century.

Requirements: There will be one in class midterm (October 21), one two-hour final examination, and a map quiz that will be given in section. In addition all students are
required to write three fifty word sentences in answer to a question, three one page response papers on documents, one map quiz, and two 6 page papers on assigned topics. Papers will be based on the readings and the lectures and require no outside research (papers based on outside research will not be accepted).

**Grading** will be based on the examinations, the papers, as well as your participation in the discussion sections. The exams count for 30% of the grade (midterm = 10%; final = 20%), the papers 40%, and discussion 30%. The discussion grade will be attributed by your TA and will be based on attendance, participation in discussion, the three one-page papers, the three fifty word sentences, and the map quiz. Students who miss more than one discussion section without a valid excuse will lose points on their section grades. Those who attend only a few section meetings during the semester place will fail this component of the class and place themselves at a high risk of failing the class altogether. So be forewarned!

**We expect you to hand in your own work** and not to borrow sentences or sentence fragments from books, articles, or the web. In other words, all your sentences should be of your own making (if you use more than three successive words from a book, you should put them in quotation marks). Students are urged to familiarize themselves with the rules and guidelines concerning plagiarism -- any cases of plagiarism or cheating will be dealt with severely. Downloading material from the web and claiming it as your own is a form of plagiarism. To learn more about quoting and paraphrasing check the Writing Center’s excellent tips at [http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/QuotingSources.html](http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/QuotingSources.html). Further information on the University’s policies on plagiarism can be found at [http://students.wisc.edu/saja/misconduct/misconduct.html](http://students.wisc.edu/saja/misconduct/misconduct.html). If you are unclear about what you should or should not be doing, please don’t hesitate to ask.

**Electronic devices.** Please turn your cell phones and pagers off during lectures. You may use a laptop to take notes, but we ask that you turn the wireless off and that you refrain from surfing the web, facebooking, and emailing your friends during class. The TAs will be sitting in various parts of the lecture hall and will be keeping an eye on your screens. If you absolutely have to text or email please stay home or go to the nearest coffee house.

**Office Hours:** I will hold office hours on Mondays between 1 and 3. You can also speak with me after class or send me an email to set up an alternative meeting time. If you misplace this syllabus, please download a new copy at [http://history.wisc.edu/Courses.htm](http://history.wisc.edu/Courses.htm) or on the class Learn@UW website.

The following books are **required** and can be purchased at the bookstore of your choice. They have also been placed on 3-hour reserve at Helen C. White Library (except for The Making of the West textbook).

- Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front* (Ballantine books)
Joseph Conrad, Heart of Darkness (Signet Classics)
Giuseppe di Lampedusa, The Leopard (Pantheon Books)
Arthur Koestler, Darkness at Noon (Scribner’s)
Christopher Browning, Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland (Harper Perennial)
Slavenka Drakulić, How we Survived Communism and Even Laughed (Harper Collins)

Unless otherwise noted readings can be found in Sources of The Making of the West.

**Week 1 (September 2) Introduction**

Organizational Meeting and Introductory Remarks

**Week 2 (September 5, 7, 9) Diplomacy and Order, 1815-1840**

History and Geography
The Legacy of the French Revolution and Napoleon
Europe in 1815: Diplomacy and the Balance of Power

Text: Chapters 19, 20

**Week 3 (September 12, 14, 16) Industrial, Social and Political Revolution**

Restoration and Reaction
The Industrial Revolution (I)
The Industrial Revolution (II)

Text: Chapter 21
Section: Metternich, “Results of the Congress at Laybach” (129-132); Peter Kakhovksky, “The Decembrist Insurrection in Russia,” (132-135); “Factory Rules in Berlin” (143-46);

50 word sentence due in section
Week 4 (September 19, 21, 23)  Social History and Ideologies

The Revolutions of 1848
Socialism
The Working Class

Section: Marx, *The Communist Manifesto* (Read the entire Manifesto of the
Communist Party); “Draft of a Communist Confession of Faith” (150-55).

*** 1 page paper on documents due in section ***

Week 5 (September 26, 28, 30)  Politics and the Nation State

The Birth of Modern Italy
Unification of Germany
Peasant Society

Text: Chapter 22
Section: Giuseppe di Lampedusa, *The Leopard*

Week 6 (October 3, 5, 7)  Private Life

Liberalism and Conservatism
Private Life: Consumption and Culture
Private Life: Religion

Section: Rudolf von Ihering, “Two Letters” (165-67); Camillo di Cavour “Letter
to King Victor Emmanuel,” (163-65) Otto von Bismarck, “Reflections and
Reminiscences” (e-reserves); J. S. Mill, “On Liberty” (e-reserves);

Week 7 (October 10, 12, 14)  Imperialism and Modernism

*** 6 page paper due October 10 in class ***

Women and Society, 1815-1914
Imperialism and the Colonial Empires
Dictatorships and Autocracies

In class map quiz, October 14 (15 minutes): Study maps in textbook pp. 628,
637, 657, 698, 700.

Text: Chapter 23
Section: Margaret Bonfield, “A Life’s Work” (185-87); Emmeline Pankhurst,
“Speech from the Dock” (203-06); Sarah Stickney Ellis, “Characteristics of the Women of England” (146-49)

**Week 8** (October 17, 19, 21). The Great War

Modernism
Review
Midterm

Text: Chapter 24

**Week 9** (October 24, 26, 28) Revolutions of Left and Right

The Origins of World War I
The Great War
The Russian Revolution. A Modern Revolution?

Text: Chapter 25.
Section: Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*

*** 1 page paper on documents due in section ***

**Week 10.** (October 31; November 2, 4). Fascism and Communism

Italian Fascism
Hitler and National Socialism
Stalinism

Text: Chapter 26
Benito Mussolini, “The Doctrine of Fascism” (218-223); Adolph Hitler, “Mein Kampf,” (223-225); Joseph Goebbels, “Nazi Propaganda Pamphlet” (227-30)

50 word sentence due in section

**Week 11.** November 7, 9, 11. Democracy in Crisis

The Crisis of European Democracy
The Spanish Civil War
Appeasement and the Coming of World War II

Arthur Koestler, *Darkness at Noon*
Week 12 (November 14, 16, 18)  The Second World War

World War II
The Holocaust: the Destruction of European Jewry
Europe Divided: The Cold War

Christopher Browning, Ordinary Men, 1-113

*** 1 page paper on documents due in section ***

Week 13 (November 21)  From the Holocaust to the Cold War
(NOTE: sections do not meet this week; there is no class on Wed. Nov 23)

Decolonization
6 page paper is due in your TA’s box November 23 at noon

Thanksgiving

***6 page paper due November 23 ***

Text: Chapter 27

Week 14 (November 28, 30; December 2).  The New Western Europe.

The European Economic Community
The Welfare State and its Critics
German Reunification

Text: Chapter 28.

Browning, Ordinary Men, 115-223

50 word sentence due in section

Week 15 (December 5, 7, 9)  The Collapse of Communism

The End of the “Popular Democracies”
The Collapse of the Soviet Empire
A Continent of Immigrants? Immigration and European Identity

Text: Chapter 29
Section: Slavenka Drakulić, How we Survived Communism and Even Laughed
(Harper Collins), pp. 1-112
Week 16 (December 12, 14) The Rebirth of Nationalism and the Future of Europe

From the Rebirth of Nationalism to the Crisis of the European Union
What Future for Europe?

Section: Slavenka Drakulić, How we Survived Communism and Even Laughed, pp. 113-197

Final Exam: Monday December 19, 10:05 AM