Rationale: The nineteenth century was the moment when, as the Italian philosopher Benedetto Croce wrote, the “religion of liberty” took hold in Europe. By this Croce meant not only that people were demanding more political and civil liberties; Europeans also adopted what we now regard as a modern and liberal vision of humankind characterized by new relations between idea and reality, between past and present, between reason and will, between the individual and the community, and between God and world. This vision gave rise to great optimism but also, as we will see, to deep pessimism about the future. This course looks at the “short nineteenth century,” the period between roughly the end of the French Revolution and the beginning of the age of high nationalism, as the period when the religion of liberty achieved its greatest prominence. We focus on the history of ideas in their cultural contexts, and we cover a broad spectrum of thinkers: philosophers, novelists, artists, theologians, scientists, and political and social theorists. Our goal is twofold: to trace the main lines of development in the history of thought, and to discuss the numerous antinomies to which the new vision of modern liberality gave rise.

Writing and Exams: This is a writing-intensive course designed to help students improve their critical and writing skills. To that end, students will write often during the semester, although the total required writing (outside midterm and final) amounts to no more than 15 pages. Writing assignments include four one-page response papers and two essays of five pages each, one of which will include the option of a rewrite. Students will get more information on these assignments early in the semester. In addition, students will have a number of required ungraded writing assignments (single-sentence challenges) in discussion sections. There are two exams: a midterm (Oct. 19) and cumulative final (Dec. 20).

Assignments and Grading:
Discussion/attendance (including 4 response papers & sentences) =25%
Two essays (5 pages each) =30%
Midterm (1 essay; 3 short answer IDs) =20%
Cumulative Final Exam (2 essays; 5 IDs) =25%

A Note on Attendance: Attendance in discussion sections is required. More than one unexcused absence in discussion section lowers your discussion grade by one gradation (e.g., from B to BC). I will take attendance periodically in lecture, partly to familiarize myself with names. Absences in lecture will be noted, and they will play a role in the determination of a student’s final grade, especially in “borderline” cases.

Required books:
These are available for purchase at Underground Textbook Exchange and also on reserve at College Library.
Soren Kierkegaard, *Fear and Trembling* (Penguin, 2006 [1843]).
Gustave Flaubert, *Madame Bovary* (Bantam, 2005 [1857]).

**Required Course Reader:**
*Selections from the reader are marked with an asterisk in the course schedule. The course reader may be purchased at Humanities Copy Center, 1st floor Mosse Humanities. There are two copies available at College reserve.


**Highly Recommended Course Text:**
Roland N. Stromberg, *European Intellectual History since 1789* (Prentice-Hall) 6th ed., which is available for purchase at Underground; also at College reserve.

**Course Schedule:**
9/5    Introduction
9/7    Contexts: God, History, and Reason

9/12   French Revolution of 1789
9/14   Revolution in Philosophy: Immanuel Kant
        Reading: Stromberg, 14-34; *Kant

9/19   Post-Kantians
9/21   Origins of Romanticism
        Reading: Stromberg, 34-41; *Schleiermacher

9/26   Varieties of Romanticism

9/28   Varieties of Romanticism (cont.)
        Reading: Stromberg, 41-52; Shelley

10/3   Conservatism
10/5   Liberalism
        Reading: Stromberg, 53-68; Muller

9/26   **RESPONSE #1 DUE**
10/10  Political Economy

10/10  **RESPONSE #2 DUE**

10/12  Pre-1848 Socialism
     Reading: Stromberg, 68-80; *Saint-Simon

10/17  Hegel: The Last Christian Philosopher?

10/19  **MIDTERM**
     Reading: Stromberg, 80-90

10/24  Young Hegelians

10/26  Karl Marx and Communism
     Reading: Stromberg, 90-97; 141-73; Marx

10/31  Soren Kierkegaard as “Proto-Existentialist”

10/31  **RESPONSE #3 DUE**

11/2  Soren Kierkegaard’s Christianity
     Reading: Kierkegaard

11/7  John Stuart Mill and Mid-Victorian Thought

11/9  August Comte and Positivism

11/9  **ESSAY #1 DUE**
     Reading: Stromberg, 98-114; start Mill

11/14  Science and Religion before Darwin

11/16  Charles Darwin and His Impact
     Reading: Stromberg, 116-32; finish Mill; *Darwin

11/21  “Social Darwinism”
     Reading: Stromberg, 132-40; start Flaubert

11/23-11/26  **Thanksgiving Recess**

11/28  Literary Realism: Gustav Flaubert

11/30  Historicism: Whence and Whither, ca. 1870?
     Reading: Stromberg, 115-16, 173-6; finish Flaubert

12/5  Religion and Modernity before the Fin-de-Siècle

12/5  **ESSAY #2 DUE**

12/7  Fyodor Dostoevskii’s Christianity
     Reading: *Dostoevskii

12/12  Friedrich Nietzsche’s Attack on God, Reason, and History

12/12  **RESPONSE #4 DUE**

12/14  Conclusion
     Reading: Stromberg, 184-91

12/20  **FINAL EXAM, 10:05am-12:05pm**