SYLLABUS

The purpose of this course is to familiarize you with various aspects of European culture in the late 19th and first half of the 20th centuries. The term "culture" will be used in two ways in this course: first, in an anthropological fashion to describe the "way of life" of various European social groups (e.g., the middle class or bourgeoisie, youth, women, the working class, etc.) and; second, in a more traditional sense to describe the most enduring intellectual and artistic achievements of Europeans during this period. This latter usage requires making more critical judgments than the former, especially in the more recent period, where mass media and mass culture have become significant.

The course will consist of three lectures each week from 1:20-2:10 in 1641 Humanities. The lectures will include slides and music and some time will be left for general discussion as well. If there is a TA for this course, changes in scheduling will be announced. There will be one hour examinations on Wednesday, March 2 and Friday, April 8, and a final examination at the time designated in the Timetable. Please plan accordingly.

A packet of readings will be available at Bob's Copy Shop in University Square while other paperbacks will be available at local bookstores. Please complete the assigned readings by the dates listed below. The readings have been selected to illustrate particular themes and because they are enjoyable to read.

We hope that this course will prove both educationally rewarding as well as very enjoyable.

COURSE THEMES AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

January 20–29

MIDDLE CLASS CULTURE AT ITS ZENITH: DOMINANCE AND DECAY

Reading: Selection from Stefan Zweig's The World of Yesterday (in packet).

February 1–5

THE DISCOVERY OF ADOLESCENCE AND THE GROWTH OF AN ADOLESCENT SUB-CULTURE

Reading: Frank Wedekind, "Spring's Awakening"
February 8-12  SEXISM AND EUROPEAN CULTURE
Reading: Virginia Woolf, A Room of One's Own

February 15-22  AND FREUD AND THEIR ASSAULT ON MIDDLE CLASS VALUES
Reading: Selections from Nietzsche in Walter Kaufmann, ed., Existentialism from Dostoevsky to Sartre, pp. 100-112, and Chapter 15 from G.L. Mosse's The Culture of Western Europe (in packet)

February 24-29  FIN DE SIECLE AND DECADENCE
Reading: André Gide, The Immoralist

March 2  HOUR EXAMINATION

March 4-11  THE GROWTH OF POPULAR AND WORKING CLASS CULTURES
Reading: H.G. Wells, The Time Machine and Chapter Sixteen in Mosse (in packet)

March 21-25  THE GROWTH OF THE AVANT-GARDE IN ART AND LIFE
Reading: Chapter 17 from Mosse and the "Futurist Manifesto" (in packet)

March 28-April 6  THE GREAT WAR AND EUROPEAN CULTURE
Reading: Eric Maria Remarque, All Quiet on the Western Front

April 8  HOUR EXAMINATION

April 11-20  THE DILEMMA OF THE INTELLECTUALS IN THE 1920's and 1930's
Reading: Bertold Brecht, "Saint Joan of the Stockyards," and Chapters Eighteen and Twenty-two in Mosse (in packet)

April 22-29  THE CULTURE OF TOTALITARIAN SOCIETIES

May 2-6  THE EXISTENTIAL DILEMMA
Reading: Sartre, "The Wall" and Camus, "The Myth of Sisyphus" in Kaufmann, Existentialism and Chapter Nineteen in Mosse (in packet)
HISTORY 514

EUROPEAN CULTURE

MOSSE

Required Texts: G. L. Mosse
The Culture of Western Europe (Westview Press)

Fontane
Jenny Treibel (Harper)

Oscar Wilde
The Picture of Dorian Gray (Dell)

Huysmans
Against Nature (Viking)

Wedekind
Springs Awakening (Riverrun Press, 1170 Broadway, NY, NY 10001)

Nietzsche
Zarathustra (Viking)

Freud
Civilization and Its Discontents

ON RESERVE:

Gustav Le Bon, The Crowd

Please read Culture of Western Europe, Chapters 1-11 as soon as possible, as the necessary background which will be assumed.

1. Bourgeois Europe
   Culture of Western Europe, Chapters 1, 13, 14
   Fontane, Jenny Treibel (entirely)

2. The Revolt: Decadence
   Oscar Wilde, The Picture of Dorian Gray (entirely)
   Huysmans, Against Nature (entirely)

3. The Revolt: Youth
   Wedekind, Springs Awakening (entirely)
   Walter Laqueur, Young Germany, Part I, Part II, Chapters 5, 7, 9
   (ON RESERVE)

4. Nietzsche
   Nietzsche, Zarathustra (first part entirely, rest to be assigned)

5. Freud
   Freud, Civilization and Its Discontents (entirely)
   Culture of Western Europe, Chapters 16, 17