

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History
Spring Semester, 1988

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
514	European Cultural History, 1870-1950	Fishman

OFFICE HOURS:

2:15-3:15 on Mondays in 4126 Humanities
11:00-12:00 on Fridays in 4126 Humanities

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	<u>MIDDLE CLASS CULTURE AT ITS ZENITH: DOMINANCE AND DECAY</u> Reading: Selection from Stefan Zweig's <u>The World of Yesterday</u> (in packet).
February 1-5	<u>THE DISCOVERY OF ADOLESCENCE AND THE GROWTH OF AN ADOLESCENT SUB-CULTURE</u> Reading: Frank Wedekind, "Spring's Awakening"

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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

HOOR 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

HOOR 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

Reading: Selections from Ignazio Silone and Arthur Koestler in The God that Failed. Chapters 20 and 21 from Mosse (in packet).

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)

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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