

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
Department of History  
Spring Semester, 1993

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

OFFICE HOURS

11-Noon on Wednesdays in 4126 Humanities  
1:15-2:15 on Thursdays in 201 Education

BOOKS

All students should purchase the following paperbacks:

Bertolt Brecht, "Threepenny Opera"  
Richard Crossman, ed., The God That Failed  
Sigmund Freud, The Sexual Enlightenment of Children  
Andre Gide, The Immoralist  
Walter Kaufmann, ed., Existentialism from Dostoevsky to Sartre  
Erich Maria Remarque, All Quiet on the Western Front  
Roland Stromberg, Makers of Modern Culture  
Frank Wedekind, "Spring Awakening"  
H. G. Wells, The Time Machine  
Virginia Woolf, A Room of One's Own  
Stefan Zweig, The World of Yesterday

SYLLABUS

The purpose of this course is to familiarize you with various dimensions of European culture in the late 19th and first half of the 20th centuries. The term "culture" will be used in two ways: first, as a means of describing the "texture of life" of various social groups (e.g., the middle class, youth, women, the working class, etc.) and; second, as a means of examining a variety of significant intellectual and artistic achievements of Europeans during this period.

Classes will meet on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:55 to 10:45 in 1131 Humanities. In general, the Monday and Wednesday classes will be devoted to lectures while Fridays will be reserved for discussions of the assigned readings. The readings have been selected to illustrate the major themes of the course (and also because they are good reading). It is important that you complete all readings prior to the discussions dates listed below.

There will be one hour examinations on Wednesday, March 1, and Friday, April 16, and a comprehensive final examination at 2:45 pm

on Thursday, May 13. In addition, students taking this course for Honors and graduate students will be expected to complete a research paper (details to be arranged) by Friday, April 30.

Two additional notes, hopefully unnecessary. First, arrive in class promptly -- we begin at 9:55. Second, take any newspapers, cans or other trash with you when you leave. This is helpful to students using the class later in the day and the janitorial staff at day's end. Thanks. And now for the course topics and reading assignments.

#### COURSE TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

January 20-29 BOURGEOIS CULTURE AT ITS ZENITH: DOMINANCE AND DECAY

Reading: Stefan Zweig, The World of Yesterday,  
Preface and pp. 1-91. (discussion on Jan. 29)

February 1-5 THE DISCOVERY OF ADOLESCENCE AND THE GROWTH OF AN ADOLESCENT SUB-CULTURE

Frank Wedekind, "Spring Awakening"

February 8-12 SEXISM AND EUROPEAN CULTURE

Virginia Woolf, A Room of One's Own.

February 15-19 FREUD AND NIETZSCHE AND THEIR CHALLENGE TO MIDDLE CLASS VALUES

"Freud" in Roland Stromberg, Makers of Modern Culture and essays I,II, and III in Sigmund Freud, The Sexual Enligtenment of Children. Also selections from Nietzsche in Walter Kaufmann, ed., Existentialism from Dostoevsky to Sartre, pp. 100-112.

February 22-26 FIN DE SIECLE AND DECADENCE

Andre Gide, The Immoralist.

March 1 HOUR EXAMINATION

March 3-19 THE GROWTH OF POPULAR AND WORKING CLASS CULTURES

H. G. Wells, The Time Machine.

March 22-26 THE AVANT-GARDE IN ART AND LIFE

"Wittgenstein" and "Joyce" in Stromberg's Makers of Modern Culture

March 29- THE GREAT WAR AND EUROPEAN CULTURE  
April 2  
Erich Maria Remarque, All Quiet on the Western Front.

April 5-14 THE DILEMMA OF THE INTELLECTUALS IN THE 1920s AND 1930s  
Bertolt Brecht, "Threepenny Opera" and "Einstein" in Makers of Modern Culture.

April 16 HOUR EXAMINATION

April 19-28 TOTALITARIANISM AND CULTURE  
Selections from Ignazio Silone and Arthur Koestler in Richard Crossman, ed., The God That Failed.

April 30- THE EXISTENTIAL DILEMMA  
May 7  
"Sartre" and "Conclusion" in Makers of Modern Culture. Also Jean-Paul Sartre, "The Wall" and Albert Camus, "The Myth of Sisyphus," in Kaufmann, Existentialism.

May 13, FINAL COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION  
2:45 pm