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# HISTORY 120

## EUROPE AND THE MODERN WORLD, 1789 TO THE PRESENT

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### DESCRIPTION:

This is a survey of European political, social and cultural history from the French Revolution to the present. Themes emphasized are: the idealistic, revolutionary movements of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries; the ascendancy of liberal politics and the liberal way of life with its uniquely modern methods of social control; the crisis of liberalism at the fin-de-siècle, including the impact of new technologies and urban commodity culture as well as challenges to liberal assumptions about human nature and gender norms; the catastrophic experiences of total war and depression in the 20<sup>th</sup> century; the rise of fascism and communism as alternatives to liberal politics, the decline of Europe in a post-1945 world dominated by superpower conflict and American economic, cultural dominance.

### BOOKS TO PURCHASE:

Friedrich Engels, *The Condition of the Working Class in England*  
Joseph Conrad, *The Heart of Darkness*  
Frantz Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks*  
Freud, *Three Essays on Sexuality*  
Louis Guilloux, *Ok, Joe*  
Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*  
John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*  
Florence Nightingale, *Cassandra*  
Eric Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*  
Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*  
Art Spiegelman, *Maus II*

**Reader:** available for purchase at L&S Copy Center, First Floor, Humanities Building

**OPTIONAL TEXT:** Lynn Hunt et al, *The Making of the West*

## REQUIRED WORK:

- Attendance and Active participation in Lecture and Section discussion (20%)
- Two 5-7 page papers, due **September 30** and **November 23**, topics to be assigned (first paper 15%, second 20%)
- One in-class midterm exam, **October 21** (20%)
- One final exam, **December 21** (25%)

## SCHEDULE OF CLASSES:

### I. THE AGE OF REVOLUTIONS

SEPTEMBER 2

F: Introduction: The Modern Prometheus

Reading:

Sections do not meet; begin reading Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*

SEPTEMBER 5-9

M: LABOR DAY – NO CLASS

W: The French Revolution

F: The Revolutionary Nation

Reading:

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*

### II. LIBERALISM ASCENDANT

SEPTEMBER 12-16

M: The Industrial Revolution

W: Dangerous Classes

F: The Socialist Response

Readings:

Friedrich Engels, *The Condition of the Working Class in England*, pp. 7-86

Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*

SEPTEMBER 19-23

M: Revolutions of 1848

W: Liberalism as Ideology

F: Public and Private in Liberal Culture

Readings:

John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*, Chapters 1,3,4

Florence Nightingale, *Cassandra*

SEPTEMBER 26-30

M: Nations and Nationalism

W: The Challenge of Science

F: Urbanism and the Birth of Hygiene

Readings:

G. Mazzini, *On the Duties of Man*, excerpt, Reader

Charles Darwin, "The Descent of Man," excerpt, Reader

Samuel Wilberforce, "On Darwin's *Origins of Species*" Reader

**FIRST PAPER DUE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**

**III. THE FIN-DE-SIÈCLE CRISIS OF LIBERALISM**

OCTOBER 3-7

M: The Colonial Project

W: Nationalism and Empire

F: New Technology, New World

Reading: Joseph Conrad, *The Heart of Darkness*

OCTOBER 10-14

M: The Rise of the New City

W: Freud and the Crisis of Liberalism

F: Politics I: New Forces on the Right

Reading:

Freud, *Three Essays on Sexuality*

OCTOBER 17-21

M: Politics II: New Forces on the Left

W: Review

F: **Midterm Exam**

Reading: Prepare for Exam

**IV. EUROPE IN TOTAL WAR**

OCTOBER 24-28

M: World War I

W: The Russian Revolution

M: In the Wake of War

Reading:

Eric Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*

OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 4

M: The Creation of New Faiths

W: Leni Riefenstahl and the Triumph of the Will

F: Memory, Diplomacy and the Coming of the War

Readings:

Arthur Koestler, *Arrow in the Blue*, Chapters 27-30, pp. 295-340

Benito Mussolini, *The Doctrine of Fascism*, excerpt, Reader

Lenin, "On Revolutionary Violence and Terror" and "A Great Beginning," Reader

NOVEMBER 7-11

M: The Onset of Total War: Britain and France

W: The Russian Campaign

F: The Holocaust

Reading:

Art Spiegelman, *Maus II*

#### IV. EUROPE IN A GLOBALIZING WORLD

NOVEMBER 14--18

M: The American "Rescue"

W: Recovering from the War

F: The Cold War

Readings:

Louis Guilloux, *Ok, Joe*

Winston Churchill, "The Iron Curtain Speech, March 5, 1946" Reader

Joseph Stalin: Reply to Churchill, 1946, Reader

NOVEMBER 21-23

M: Americanization and the European Response

W: **PAPER DUE NOVEMBER 23-- NO CLASS/SECTIONS**

F: NO CLASS -- THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

#### V. REVOLUTION REVISITED

NOVEMBER 28-DECEMBER 2

M: Decolonization

W: Existentialism

F: The Revolutions of 1968

Readings:

Frantz Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks*, Introduction, Chapters 1,3,5,8

Simone de Beauvoir, "Introduction" to *The Second Sex* (Reader)

WEEK FIFTEEN, DECEMBER 5-9

M: The Cultural Revolution of the 1960s and 1970s

W: The Revolutions of 1989

F: Immigration and the New Nation

Reading:

Vaclav Havel, "The Power of the Powerless" Reader

WEEK SIXTEEN, DECEMBER 12-14

M: Neo-Liberalism in a Global Age

W: Review

FINAL EXAM, DECEMBER 21