

History 513: Cultural History of Europe, 1815-1870 Fall 2006
Instructor: Dr. Koshar (rjkoshar@wisc.edu) TR 2:30-3:45
Office hours: 4101 Humanities, TR 4-5, & by appt. 1641 Humanities
Sections: T 4pm; W 3:30 & 4:35pm; R 9:55 & 11am
Teaching Assistant: Jared Buss

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.

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (Oxford, 1998 [1818]).
Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto* (Penguin, 2006 [1848]).
Soren Kierkegaard, *Fear and Trembling* (Penguin, 2006 [1843]).
John Stuart Mill. *Autobiography* (Penguin, 1989 [1873]).
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.

Immanuel Kant, "Answer to the Question: What is Enlightenment? [1784]" in *Basic Writings of Kant*, ed. Allen W. Wood (Modern Library, 2001), 133-41.
Friedrich Schleiermacher, *On Religion* (Cambridge, 1996 [1799]), 18-54.
Jerry Z. Muller, ed., *Conservatism: An Anthology of Social and Political Thought from David Hume to the Present* (Princeton, 1997), 78-145.
Henri Comte de Saint-Simon, *Selected Writings 1760-1825*, ed. F.M.H Markham (Macmillan, 1952), 76-116.
Charles Darwin, *The Origin of Species by Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life* (Penguin Classics, 1985 [1859]), 114-72.
Fyodor Dostoevskii, *The Brothers Karamazov* (Penguin Classics, 1993 [1880]), 322-44, 367-420.

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
9/26 RESPONSE #1 DUE
9/28 Varieties of Romanticism (cont.)
Reading: Stromberg, 41-52; Shelley

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

- 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