

University of Wisconsin-Madison
 Department of History
 Semester II, 2009-2010

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History 891: Proseminar in Modern European History

This course focuses on key themes and recent scholarship in twentieth century European history. We will examine classic problems (such as the Great War) as well as more recent historiographical approaches.

Requirements: Two short (5-7 pages) review essays and one long paper (15-20 pages) on a topic to be agreed upon with the instructor. If possible one of your review essays should assess a foreign language book. Longer papers should be in a field/country outside your specialty (i.e., if your specialty is modern Italy you will be urged to write about another country or to write a comparative essay). Students will also be responsible for leading two or more discussions. Attendance is essential.

Starred books can be purchased at the bookstore of your choice. All books are on 3 hour reserve in Helen C. White Library. Articles are available online via the UW Library.

Week 1. January 22. Introduction

Week 2. January 29. Napoleon

*David Bell, The First Total War: Napoleon's Europe and the Birth of Warfare as We Know It (Houghton Mifflin, 2007), 1-20; 154-317.

Peter Paret, The Cognitive Challenge of War: Prussia 1806 (Princeton UP, 2009), 1-32, 104-43.

Week 3. February 5. The Napoleonic Myth

Sudhir Hazareesingh, The Legend of Napoleon (Granta, 2005), 1-14 ; 40-99; 123-50 ; 184-233; 260-268

Sudhir Hazareesingh, The Saint-Napoleon (Harvard, 2004), 220-235

*Alain Corbin, The Village of Cannibals: Rage and Murder in France, 1870 (Harvard, 1992)

Week 4. February 12. 1848 Revolutions

*Jonathan Sperber, The European Revolutions, 1848-1851 (Cambridge UP, 1994), 105-259

Axel Körner ed., 1848 – A European Revolution: International Ideas and National Memories of 1848 (MacMillan, 2000): 31-49, 209-221.

Dieter Dowe et al., Europe in 1848: Revolution and Reform (Berghahn books, 2001), 25-54, 916-935

Helge Berger and Mark Spoerer, “Economic Crises and the European Revolutions of 1848,” The Journal of Economic History, Vol. 61, No. 2 (Jun., 2001), pp. 293-326

Maurice Agulhon, The Republican Experiment, 1848-1852 (Cambridge, 1983): 187-95.

Week 5. February 19. Central and Eastern Europe in the Nineteenth Century

Ivan T. Berend, History Derailed. Central and Eastern Europe in the Long Nineteenth-Century (Berkeley, 2003): preface, 1-40, 134-284.

Week 6. February 26. Italy and the Southern Question

Jane Schneider, ed., Italy’s “Southern Question”. Orientalism in One Country (Berg, 1998): 1-50; 205-241.

Nelson Moe, The View from Vesuvius: Italian Culture and the Southern Question (Berkeley, 2002), 1-81, 156-83, 224-49, 297-99

John A. Davis, Naples and Napoleon. Southern Italy and the European Revolutions, 1780-1860 (Oxford, 2006), 1-12, 295-330.

Week 7. March 5. Nationalism

Pieter M. Judson, Guardians of the Nation. Activists on the Language Frontiers of Imperial Austria (Cambridge., Mass: Harvard University Press, 2006), 1-65, 219-57.

Maria Todorova, Imagining the Balkans (Oxford, new ed 2009),

Tara Zahra, Kidnapped Souls. National Indifference and the Battle for Children in the Bohemian Lands, 1900-1948 (Cornell, 2008), 1-48, 106-76, 203-30, 253-73.

Ernest Renan, “What is a nation?” in Geoff Eley and Ronald Grigor Suny,

Becoming National: A Reader (Oxford, 1996), 42-55. [You can also read the French original entitled "*Qu'est-ce qu'une nation?*" available in multiple editions in Memorial Library]

Week 8. March 12. Empire

Mark Mazower, No Enchanted Palace. The End of Empire and the Ideological Origins of the United Nations (Princeton UP, 2009)

Susan Peterson "Back to the League of Nations: Review Essay," American Historical Review, 112: 4 (Oct. 2007), pp. 1091-1117.

Eric Weitz, "From the Vienna System to the Paris System: International Politics and the Entangled Histories of Human Rights, Forced Deportations, and Civilizing Missions," American Historical Review 113 (December 2008): 1313-1343.

Week 9. March 19. The Russian Revolution

Peter Holquist, Making War, Forging Revolution. Russia's Continuum of Crisis, 1914-1921 (Harvard, 2002), pp. 1-11; 110-112, 141-42, 143-288 .

Richard Pipes, The Formation of the Soviet Union (rev. ed., 1991), Chapter 6

Martin Malia, The Soviet Tragedy. A History of Socialism in Russia, 1917-1991 (Free Press, 1994), pp. 109-138

Week 10. March 26. The Great War

*Jay Winter and Antoine Prost, The Great War in History. Debates and Controversies, 1914 to the Present (Cambridge, 2005), pp. 1-57, 82-125, 152-172; 192-213

*Stéphane Audoin Rouzeau and Annette Becker, 14-18. Understanding the Great War (Hill and Wang, 2002), 1-69, 94-171

Week 11. April 2. Spring Break

Week 12. April 9. Nazism

Ian Kershaw, The Nazi Dictatorship. Problems and Perspectives of Interpretation, 4th ed (2000), 1-19, 69-133.

*Peter Fritzsche, Life and Death in the Third Reich (Harvard UP, 2008), 1-224.

Michael Burleigh, The Third Reich: A New History (New York, 2000), 1-23, 219-77.

Week 13. April 16. Modern Dictatorships

* Richard Overy, The Dictators: Hitler's Germany and Stalin's Russia (Penguin, 2004), pp. xxxi-xl; 54-217; 540-651

Robert Gellately, Lenin, Stalin and Hitler: The Age of Social Catastrophe (Vintage, 2007): 3-18, 227-341; 579-94.

Emilio Gentile, "The Sacrilisation of Politics: Definitions, Interpretations and Reflections on the Question of Secular Religion and Totalitarianism," Totalitarian Movements and Political Religions 1 (2000): 18-55.

David D. Roberts, "'Political Religion' and the Totalitarian Departures of Inter-war Europe: On the Uses and Disadvantages of an Analytical Category," Contemporary European History 18, 4 (2009), pp. 381-414

Week 14. April 23. Consumerism

*Victoria De Grazia, Irresistible Empire. America's Advance through Twentieth-Century Europe (Harvard, 2005), pp. 1-14, 75-183, 226-283, 336-415; 458-480

Richard Kuisel, Seducing the French. The Dilemma of Americanization (Berkeley, 1993), 35-69.

Week 15. April 30. European Union

*John Gillingham, European Integration, 1950-2003: Superstate or New Market Economy? (Cambridge, 2003), preface, 1-77, 144-46, 149-208, 228-37, 294-99, 410-502

Alan Milward, The European Rescue of the Nation State (Berkeley, 1992), pp. 1-45, 318-344.

William Wallace, "Rescue or Retreat? The Nation State in Western Europe, 1945-1993," Political Studies 42 (1994): 57-76.

Ann-Christina L. Knudsen, Farmers on Welfare. The Making of Europe's Common Agricultural Policy (Cornell, 2009), 1-19, 23-89, 266-317

Week 15. May 7. Islam

John Bowen, Can Islam be French? Pluralism and Pragmatism in a Secularist State (Princeton, 2010)

Joan Scott, The Politics of the Veil (Princeton, 2007), 1-20, 91-183.