This course is an introduction to the political, social, and cultural history of modern Europe, from the end of the Old Regime to the crisis of the European Union in the twenty-first century. Topics include the French Revolution, industrialization, the emergence of the modern metropolis, nationalism and empire building, the Russian revolution, fascism and totalitarianism, the World Wars, decolonization, the critique of democracy and affluent society, the political and monetary integration, and the recent conflicts over identity and citizenship.

**Course requirements**
1. Regular attendance at lectures and discussion sections.
2. Informed participation in discussion section (15% of grade).
3. 5-7-page paper. Paper topic due February 25; paper due April 8 (30% of grade).
4. In-class midterm examination on March 4 (25% of grade).
5. Final examination (30% of grade).

**Course materials**
All readings are posted on Canvas/Courseworks2 and are also on reserve at the Barnard Library. The following book is available for purchase at Book Culture (112th St. between Broadway and Amsterdam):
I. THE FRENCH REVOLUTION AND THE BIRTH OF MODERNITY
1789–1848

1. January 23  Introduction to the Course

2. January 28  The Origins of the French Revolution

Emmanuel Joseph Sieyès, What is the Third Estate? (1789), chs. I–II, 43–53
Berenson, 122–127, 137–148, 160–169

** January 29  Film screening: Danton, 6-9 pm, BAR 304

3. January 30  The Revolution

Assignment: “The Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen” (1789), 74–76
Olympe de Gouges, “The Declaration of the Rights of Woman” (1791), 115–120
Danton, dir. Andrzej Wajda, 1983
Berenson, 169–192

4. February 4  Reaction and Restoration: Napoleon and Metternich

Assignment: Edmund Burke, Reflections on the Revolution in France (1790), 77–79, 85–87
Georg W. F. Hegel, “Great Historical Individuals” (1837), 152–154
Stendhal, “The New Successor to Alexander and Caesar” (1839), 149–152
Berenson, 192–201, 262–270

5. February 6  Nationalism and Romanticism

Assignment: Johann G. Fichte, “Addresses to the German Nation” (1808), 62–70
Johann W. Goethe, “Oh, You Rationalists!” (1774), 465–468
Jean-Jacques Rousseau, “An Island Paradise” (1782), 388–393
François R. de Chateaubriand, “Those Venerable Cathedrals” (1802), 340–342
Berenson, 270–277
II. INDUSTRIALIZATION AND THE “SPECTER HAUNTING EUROPE”  
1815–1914

6. February 11  Industrial Capitalism and Proletarianization

Assignment:  
Berenson, 211–249

7. February 13  1830–1848: Revolutionary Bonfires

Assignment:  
Berenson, 278–301

8. February 18  National Unifications

Assignments:  
Otto von Bismarck *et al.*, “Road to War with France…” (1870); “To ‘Defend Its Honor and Its Injured Interests’” (1870), 184–190
Berenson, 327–339

9. February 20  Bourgeois and Urban Cultures

Assignment:  
Georg Simmel, “The Metropolis and Mental Life” (1903), 324–339
Berenson, 313–321, 343–6, 365–366

10. February 25  Class, Gender, and Mass Politics

Assignment:  
Emmeline Pankhurst, “Suffrage Speech at the Old Bailey” (1912), 192–198
Berenson, 339–343, 390–395

Paper topic due (in an email to me and your section leader/no attachments)

11. February 27  Midterm Review
III. THE STRUGGLE FOR HEGEMONY
1848–1919

13. March 11
Imperial Europe

Assignment: Imperialism documents: James Thompson, “Rule Britannia” (1740); Rudyard Kipling, “The White Man’s Burden” (1899); Josiah Strong, “Our Country” (1885); Jules Ferry, “On Colonial Expansion” (1884); Program of the Pan-German League (1890-98); Typical African Blank Treaty (1880s)
Berenson, 374–387

14. March 13
The Great War

Assignment: Stéphane Audoin-Rouzeau and Annette Becker, 14–18. Understanding the Great War, 94–104, 113–119
Berenson, 395–402, 411–438

**SPRING BREAK**

IV. BOURGEOIS EUROPE CHALLENGED
1917–1945

15. March 25
The Russian Revolution

Assignment: Alexandra Kollontai, “The Social Basis of the Woman Question” (1909), 175–181
Berenson, 461–87
16. March 27  Origins and Ideology of Fascism in Italy
Assignment: Filippo T. Marinetti, “The Founding and Manifesto of Futurism” (1909), 49–53
Benito Mussolini, “The War as a Revolutionary Event,” (1914), 26–28
Benito Mussolini and Giovanni Gentile, “Foundations and Doctrine of Fascism” (1932), 46–50
Berenson, 513–522

17. April 1  The Weimar Republic and the Rise of National Socialism in Germany
Richard W. Darré, “Marriage Laws and the Principles of Breeding” (1930), 133–137
Ernst Jünger, “On Danger” (1931), 369–372
Berenson, 523–543

18. April 3  The Logic of Totalitarianism

19. April 8  World War II: Invasion and Occupation
Assignment: Timothy Snyder, Bloodlands: Europe between Hitler and Stalin, ch. IV, “Molotov-Ribbentrop Europe,” 119–148
Berenson, 565–581
** Paper due (in class) **

** April 9  Film screening: L’uomo che verrà [The Man Who Will Come], 6-9 pm, BAR 304

20. April 10  World War II: Genocide and Resistance
Assignment: Christopher Browning, “Ordinary Men,” 149–183
L’uomo che verrà [The Man Who Will Come], dir. Giorgio Diritti, 2009
Berenson, 581–606
V. EUROPE IN THE POSTWAR ERA

21. April 15  The Brutal Peace and the Reconstruction of Europe
Assignment: George Marshall, Speech at Harvard University (1947):
http://www.oecd.org/general/themarshallplanspeechatharvarduniversity5june1947.htm
Berenson, 615–628

22. April 17  From Hot War to Cold War
Assignment: Proclamation by the Central Committee of the German Communist Party (1945):
https://www.nationalchurchillmuseum.org/sinews-of-peace-iron-curtain-speech.html
Joseph Stalin’s response to Churchill’s speech on *Pravda* (1946).
http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1947-2/cold-war/cold-war-texts/stalin-on-churchills-iron-curtain-speech/
Berenson, 629–636, 647–650

23. April 22  The End of Empire
Berenson, 638–647

“Why We Are Fighting” (1968), 365–368
Berenson, 650–660, 680–683
VI. CONTEMPORARY EUROPE

** April 25  
Film screening: *Das Leben der Anderen* [The Lives of Others], 6-9 pm, BAR 304

25. April 29  
**The Collapse of Communism**

Mikhail Gorbachev, Speech to the United Nations (1988): 
http://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/116224
*Das Leben der Anderen* [The Lives of Others], dir. Florian H. von Donnersmarck, 2006 
Berenson, 683–695, 697–709

26. May 1  
**From Euro-optimism to Crisis**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2gm9q8uabTs
Guy Verhofstadt on the Greek crisis (2015): 
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P84tN0z4jqM
Marine Le Pen on Islamism (2016): 
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EeSEE5qsAs8
Viktor Orban on EU’s “abuse of power” (2018): 
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=twmUTMw61dY
Berenson, 695–696, 720–730

27. May 6  
**Populism in Historical Context**

Assignment: Federico Finchelstein, *From Fascism to Populism in History*, “Introduction,” 1–30

** May 13  
**Final Examination Review Session**

** COURSE OUTCOMES**

Students who complete the course will be able to:

- Evaluate primary source materials through critical reading and interpretation.
- Understand how historians interpret evidence to construct historical narrative.
- Evaluate divergent perspectives in the understanding of the same event.
- Analyze how particular economic, social, and cultural contexts inform the perspectives and actions of historical actors.
- Gain an awareness of the historical origins of contemporary phenomena.