

# HIST 1302

## Introduction to European History

### French Revolution to the Present

Spring 2019  
M/W 1:10-2:25  
304 Barnard Hall  
Prof. Luca Falciola lf2568@columbia.edu

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 (112<sup>th</sup> St. between Broadway and Amsterdam):

Edward Berenson, *Europe in the Modern World: A New Narrative History Since 1500*, New York-Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017

## 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**

Assignment:            Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract* (1762), Book I, chs. III–VI, 158–164  
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: Samuel Smiles, *Self-Help* (1859), 21–27  
Friedrich Engels, *The Condition of the Working-Class in England in 1844*  
(1892), 1–4, 44–53  
Berenson, 211–249

### 7. February 13      **1830–1848: Revolutionary Bonfires**

Assignment: Alexis de Tocqueville, *Recollections* (1893), ch. IX, “The Days of June,” 187–  
214  
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  
Edmondo De Amicis, *The Heart of a Boy* (1886), chs. “The Calabrian Boy,” 35–  
37; “Charcoal Man and the Gentleman,” 52–55; “The Sardinian Drummer Boy,”  
111–122; “King Umberto,” 190–196  
Berenson, 327–339

### 9. February 20      **Bourgeois and Urban Cultures**

Assignment: David Harvey, *Paris, Capital of Modernity*, ch. XII, “Consumerism, Spectacle,  
and Leisure,” 209–224  
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: Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto* (1848), chs. I–II,  
73–92  
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**

12. March 4                    **In-Class Midterm Examination**

**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  
Siegfried Sassoon, *Memoirs of an Infantry Officer* (1930), ch. VIII, “The Second Battalion,” 141–185  
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  
Vladimir I. Lenin, *State and Revolution* (1917), ch. I, “Class Society and the State,” 41–58  
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**
- Assignment:                    Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf* (1925), ch. XIV, 642–646, 651–655, 659–664  
 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**
- Assignment:                    Vasily Grossman, *Everything Flows* (1970), ch. XIV, 115–138  
 Sheila Fitzpatrick, *Everyday Stalinism*, ch. III, “Palaces on Monday,” 67–88  
 Berenson, 509–513, 543–550, 487–502
- 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  
 Primo Levi, *The Drowned and the Saved* (1986), ch. II, “The Gray Zone,” 36–69  
*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>  
Victoria de Grazia, *Irresistible Empire*, ch. VII, “The Consumer-Citizen,” 336–375  
Berenson, 615–628
- 22. April 17**                    **From Hot War to Cold War**
- Assignment:                Proclamation by the Central Committee of the German Communist Party (1945):  
[http://ghdi.ghi-dc.org/sub\\_document.cfm?document\\_id=2992](http://ghdi.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=2992)  
Winston Churchill, “Iron Curtain Speech” (1946):  
<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**
- Assignment:                Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth* (1961), ch. I, “On Violence,” 1–52  
Berenson, 638–647
- 24. April 24**                    **1968: Democracy and its Discontents**
- Assignment:                Herbert Marcuse, *One Dimensional Man* (1964), ch. I, “The New Forms of Control,” 1–12  
“Why We Are Fighting” (1968), 365–368  
Nanni Balestrini, *We Want Everything* (1971), ch. V, 79–96  
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**
- Assignment:                      Václav Havel, *The Power of the Powerless* (1978), chs. I–VII, 23–41  
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**
- Assignment:                      Nigel Farage on the European crisis (2010):  
<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=twmUTMw6IdY>  
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.