This course is an introduction to the political, social, economic, and cultural history of modern Europe, from the end of the Old Regime to the expansion 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 World Wars, fascism and Stalinism, the welfare state, and the emergence of new forms of identity and citizenship in post-industrial and post-colonial European society.

Course requirements
1. Regular attendance at lectures and discussion sections.
2. Informed participation in discussion section (15% of grade).
3. 5-7-page paper (assignment to be distributed). Paper topic due February 16; paper due March 30 (30% of grade).
4. Midterm exam on February 28 (25% of grade).
5. Final exam (30% of grade).
Course materials
Three books for the course can be purchased at Book Culture (112th St. between Broadway and Amsterdam). Except for these three books, all readings are posted on Courseworks and are also on reserve at the Barnard Library. Course films are streamable through Courseworks or CLIO.

Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*.
I. CRITIQUE AND CRISIS: 
THE FRENCH REVOLUTION AND THE BIRTH OF MODERNITY 
1789-1848

January 19: 1. Introduction to the Course

January 24: 2. The Origins of the French Revolution

Assignment: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, The Social Contract (1762), Book I, Chs. 1-2, 5-9; Book II, Chs. 1-4; Book IV, Ch. 8. 
Berenson, 160-166; 181-189; 196-203.

January 26: 3. Interpreting the Revolution

Berenson, 203-227.
Danton (dir. Andrzej Wajda, 1983) (stream via CLIO)

January 31: 4. Reaction and Restoration: Napoleon and Metternich

Assignment: Edmund Burke, “Reflections on the Revolution in France” (1790). 
Berenson, 227-238; 292-300.

February 2: 5. Nationalism and Romanticism

Johann Gottlieb Fichte, “Addresses to the German Nation” (1807-1808).
Guiseppie Mazzini, “The Duties of Man” (written 1844; published 1858).
Berenson, 299-309.
II. INDUSTRIALIZATION AND THE “SPECTER HAUNTING EUROPE”
1815-1914

February 7:  6. Industrial Capitalism and Proletarianization

Berenson, 245-284.

February 9:  7. The Social Question, 1815-1848

Berenson, 309-336.

February 14: 8. Bourgeois and Bohemian: At the Center and the Margins of Urban Culture


February 16: 9. Fin-de-Siècle Cultures

Assignment: Georg Simmel, “The Metropolis and Mental Life” (1903) in *On Individuality and Social Forms*, ed. Donald Levine.
Berenson, 343-351; 373-375; 388-394.

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

February 21: 10. Class, Gender, and Mass Politics in the Late Nineteenth Century

Emile Zola, *Germinal* (1885), Part 4, Ch. 2.
The Erfurt Program: Programme of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (1891).
Berenson, 368-373; 417-422.

February 23:  **Midterm Review Session**
III. THE STRUGGLE FOR HEGEMONY WITHIN AND WITHOUT: NATIONALISM, IMPERIALISM, AND THE GREAT WAR 1848-1919

February 28: Midterm Exam

March 2: 11. Nationalism in the Late Nineteenth Century: Imagined Communities and Invented Traditions


March 7: 12. Imperial Europe


March 9: 13. The Great War


March 14: Spring Break—no class

March 16: Spring Break—no class
IV. BOURGEOIS EUROPE CHALLENGED: 1918-1945

March 21: 14. The Russian Revolution

Assignment: Isaac Babel, “My First Goose” in Red Cavalry (1926).
Vladimir Lenin, What is to be Done? (1902).
Berenson, 485-512.

March 23: 15. The End of the War and the Rise of Fascism

Giovanni Gentile, “Fascism as a Total Conception of Life” (1925).
Benito Mussolini, “What is Fascism?” (1932).
“Manifesto of the Racist Scientists” (1939).
Berenson, 533-543.

March 28: 16. The Weimar Republic, the Depression, and the Nazi “Seizure” of Power

Assignment: Gertrud Scholtz-Klink, “To be German is to be Strong” (1936).
Marion Kaplan, Between Dignity and Despair: Jewish Life in Nazi Germany (1996), Ch. 4, “The Daily Lives of Jewish Children and Youth in the ‘Third Reich.’”
Berenson, 543-571.

March 30: 17. Interwar Politics and the Origins of World War II

Assignment: Sheila Fitzpatrick, Everyday Stalinism (1999), Ch. 3, “Palaces on Monday” and “Conclusion.”
Berenson, 512-526; 581-591.

Paper due.

April 4: 18. World War II and the Holocaust

Assignment: Christopher Browning, “Ordinary Men” (1992) in Donald Niewyk, ed., The Holocaust. (assignment continues on next page)
Berenson, 571-625.

**V. EUROPE IN THE POSTWAR ERA**

**April 6:**

**19. The Brutal Peace and the Cold War**

Joseph Stalin’s response to Churchill’s speech (1946).
Berenson, 633-645; 646-653.

**April 11:**

**20. The End of Empire**

**Assignment:** Frantz Fanon, “On Violence” in *Wretched of the Earth* (1961).
Berenson, 655-664.

**April 13:**

**21. The Welfare State and its Discontents**

Heike Sander, “The SDS (Socialist German Student League): An Overblown, Counterrevolutionary Ball of Yeast Dough” (1968).
Watch the following brief British government film clips: NHS (1948); Housing (1952)
Berenson, 667-677; 693-697.

**VI. CONTEMPORARY EUROPE**

**April 18:**

**No Class.**

**April 20:**

**22. The Collapse of Communism**

**Assignment:** *The Lives of Others* (dir. Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, 2006) (*assignment continues on next page*)

**April 25:**

23. **Rethinking Citizenship and Nationhood**

**Assignment:**

*Hate/La Haine* (dir. Mathieu Kassovitz, 1995) *(stream via CLIO)*

Enoch Powell, “Rivers of Blood” speech (1968)


**April 27:**

24. **Europe Now**

**Assignment:** Watch the following speeches:

Jimmie Åkesson, speech, January 20, 2015:  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xA3I8vcCvdk

Marine Le Pen addresses François Hollande and Angela Merkel at the European Parliament, October 8, 2015:  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XYmgDMcI1KU

Angela Merkel, New Year’s speech, January, 2016:  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lzESJ5HoVyM

Nigel Farage speech to European Parliament after Brexit vote, June 2016  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X7le5GPJpbE

François Hollande, speech on Islam in France, September 8, 2016:  

French Gilets Jaunes (Yellow Vests) Protests, November 24, 2018:  

*(assignment continues on next page)*
Emmanuel Macron response to Gilets Jaunes protests, December 10, 2018:

Italian Hipster Fascists Try to Bring Mussolini into the Mainstream, March 2, 2018:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l3xge4w46E&t=3s&ab_channel=Channel4News

Greta Thunberg, speech to the EU Parliament. April 16, 2019:
https://www.theguardian.com/environment/video/2019/apr/16/greta-thunbergs-emotional-speech-to-eu-leaders-video

May 2: Final Exam 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 social and cultural contexts inform the perspectives and actions of historical actors.
- Gain an awareness of the historical origins of contemporary conceptions of human rights.