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 15; paper due March 29 (30% of grade).
4. Midterm exam on February 27 (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 18:  1. Introduction to the Course

January 23:  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 25:  3. Interpreting the Revolution

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

January 30:  4. Reaction and Restoration: Napoleon and Metternich

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

February 1:  5. Nationalism and Romanticism

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

February 6:  6. Industrial Capitalism and Proletarianization
            Berenson, 245-284.

February 8:  7. The Social Question, 1815-1848
            Berenson, 309-336.

February 13: 8. Bourgeois and Bohemian: At the Center and the Margins of Urban Culture
Assignment: Guy de Maupassant, “The Diamond Necklace,” *Collected Short Stories*
            (1884).

February 15: 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 20: 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 22: Midterm Review Session
III. THE STRUGGLE FOR HEGEMONY WITHIN AND WITHOUT:
NATIONALISM, IMPERIALISM, AND THE GREAT WAR
1848-1919

February 27:  Midterm Exam

March 1:   11. Nationalism in the Late Nineteenth Century: Imagined Communities and Invented Traditions

Vladimir Lenin, “The Right of Nations to Self-Determination” (1914).
Berenson, 357-368.

March 6:   12. Imperial Europe

Assignment:  Imperialism documents: James Thompson, “Rule Britannia” (1740s),
Berenson, 400-413.

March 9:   13. The Great War

They Shall Not Grow Old (dir. Peter Jackson, 2018). (stream via CLIO up to 1:37)
Berenson, 422-430; 436-464.

March 13:  Spring Break—no class

March 15:  Spring Break—no class
IV. BOURGEOIS EUROPE CHALLENGED: 1918-1945

March 20:  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 22:  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 27:  16. The Weimar Republic, the Depression, and the Nazi “Seizure” of Power
Assignment:  Gertrud Scholtz-Klink, “To be German is to be Strong” (1936).
            the German People and its Territories.”
            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 29:  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 3:  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 5:**

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

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

**April 10:**

**20. The End of Empire**

**Assignment:**
Berenson, 655-664.

**April 12:**

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

**Assignment:**
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 17:**

**No Class.**

**April 19:**

**22. The Collapse of Communism**

**Assignment:**
*The Lives of Others* dir. Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, 2006) *(stream on Courseworks or rent on Amazon Prime)*
*(assignment continues on next page)*
Berenson, 697-708; 711-723.

April 24:  

23. Rethinking Citizenship and Nationhood

Assignment: *Hate/La Haine* (dir. Mathieu Kassovitz, 1995) (stream via CLIO)
Enoch Powell, “Rivers of Blood” speech (1968)
Jürgen Habermas and Jacques Derrida, “February 15, or, What Binds Europeans Together: Plea for a Common Foreign Policy, Beginning in Core Europe” (2003).
Berenson, 709-710.

April 26:  

24. Europe Now

Assignment: Watch the following speeches:

Jimmie Åkesson, speech, January 20, 2015:  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xA3l8vcCvdk

Marine Le Pen addresses François Hollande and Angela Merkel at the European Parliament, October 8, 2015:  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YXmgDMcl1KU

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 1: 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.