HIST 1302:
Introduction to European History
French Revolution to the Present

Spring 2020
M/W 1:10-2:25
304 Barnard Hall
Prof. Lisa Tiersten ltiersten@barnard.edu
Milstein 819
Office hours: Monday and Wednesday, 3-4, and by appointment

TAs:
Celine Camps cc4304@columbia.edu
Heath Rojas hmr2138@columbia.edu
Louis Wallen law2197@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 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. Paper topic due February 24; paper due April 1 (30% of grade).
4. In-class midterm examination on March 2 (25% of grade).
5. Final examination (30% of grade).

Course materials
All readings are posted on Canvas and are also on reserve at the Barnard Library. The following
books are available for purchase at Book Culture (112th St. between Broadway and Amsterdam):

Edward Berenson, Europe in the Modern World: A New Narrative History Since 1500.
Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol.
I. CRITIQUE AND CRISIS:
THE FRENCH REVOLUTION AND THE BIRTH OF MODERNITY
1789-1848

1. Weds., 1/22: Introduction to the Course


3. Weds., 1/29: Interpreting the Revolution


4. Mon., 2/3: Reaction and Restoration: Napoleon and Metternich


5. Weds., 2/5: Nationalism and Romanticism


II. INDUSTRIALIZATION AND THE “SPECTER HAUNTING EUROPE”
1815-1914

6. Mon., 2/10: Industrial Capitalism and Proletarianization

7. Weds., 2/12: The Social Question, 1815-1848


8. Mon., 2/17: Bohemian and Bourgeois: At the Center and the Margins of Urban Culture


9. Weds., 2/19: Fin-de-Siècle Cultures


10. Mon., 2/24: Class, Gender, and Mass Politics in the Late Nineteenth Century


11. Weds., 2/26: Midterm Review

12. Mon., 3/2: In-Class Midterm Examination
III. THE STRUGGLE FOR HEGEMONY WITHIN AND WITHOUT: NATIONALISM, IMPERIALISM, AND THE GREAT WAR 1848-1919

13. Weds., 3/4: Nationalism in the Late Nineteenth Century: Imagined Communities and Invented Traditions


15. Weds., 3/11: The Great War


*****3/14-3/22: SPRING BREAK*****
IV. BOURGEOIS EUROPE CHALLENGED: 1918-1945


Assignment: Isaac Babel, “My First Goose” in Red Cavalry (1926).
Vladimir Lenin, What is to be Done? (1902).
Berenson, 461-87.

17. Weds., 3/25:  The End of the War and the Rise of Fascism

Assignment: Griffín, ed., Fascism, 3-8.
Giovanni Gentile, “Fascism as a Total Conception of Life” (1925).
Benito Mussolini, “What is Fascism?” (1932).
“Manifesto of the Racist Scientists” (1939).
Berenson, 513-522.

18. Mon., 3/30:  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, Ch. 4, “The Daily Lives of Jewish Children and Youth in the ‘Third Reich.’”
Berenson, 523-550.


Assignment: Sheila Fitzpatrick, Everyday Stalinism, Ch. 3, “Palaces on Monday” and “Conclusion.”
Berenson, 487-502; 565-575.
Paper due (in class).
20. Mon., 4/6: World War II, the Holocaust, Hiroshima

Jan Gross, Neighbors, “Outline of the Story” and “Sources.”
Berenson, 575-606.

V. EUROPE IN THE POSTWAR ERA

21. Weds., 4/8: No Class


Berenson, 615-628.

23. Weds., 4/15: From Hot War to Cold War

Joseph Stalin’s response to Churchill’s speech (1946).
Proclamation by the Central Committee of the German Communist Party (June 11, 1945).
Berenson, 629-636; 647-650.

24. Mon., 4/20: The End of Empire

Berenson, 638-647.

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, 650-660; 680-683.

VI. CONTEMPORARY EUROPE

*****The Lives of Others, Thurs., 4/23, 7:00-9:20 pm, 304 Barnard Hall*****


Berenson, 683-695; 697-709.

27. Weds., 4/29: Rethinking Citizenship and Nationhood

Assignment: *Hate/La Haine* (dir. Mathieu Kassovitz, 1995) (stream on Canvas Library Reserves)
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, 695-696.
28. Mon., 5/4:  
**Europe Now**

**Assignment:** Watch the following speeches:

Jimmie Åkesson, speech, January 20, 2015:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xA3l8veCvdk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xA3l8veCvdk)

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

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

Emmanuel Macron response to Gilets Jaunes protests, December 10, 2018:  

Greta Thunberg, speech to the EU Parliament. April 16, 2019:  

Weds., 5/6:  
**Final Examination Review Session in 304 BAR (optional)**
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.