

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

Spring 2018

M/W 1:10-2:25

304 Barnard Hall

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Office hours: Lefrak 216, Wednesdays 2:30-4:00 and by appointment

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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 19; paper due March 28 (30% of grade).
4. In-class midterm examination on February 26 (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 books are 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*.

Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*.

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*.

**I. CRITIQUE AND CRISIS:  
THE FRENCH REVOLUTION AND THE BIRTH OF MODERNITY  
1789-1848**

**1. Weds., 1/17: Introduction to the Course**

**2. Mon., 1/22: The Origins of the French Revolution**

Assignment: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract*. Book I, chs. 1-2, 5-9; Book II, chs. 1-4; Book IV, ch. 8.  
Olympe de Gouges, "Declaration of the Rights of Women."  
Berenson, 122-127; 142-150; 160-167.

**3. Weds., 1/24: Interpreting the Revolution**

Assignment: Abbé Sieyès, "What is the Third Estate?"  
Berenson, 167-192.  
*Danton* (dir. Andrzej Wajda, 1983) (stream on E-Reserves)

**4. Mon., 1/29 Reaction and Restoration: Napoleon and Metternich**

Assignment: Edmund Burke, "Reflections on the Revolution in France."  
Berenson, 192-202; 262-269.

**5. Weds., 1/31: Nationalism and Romanticism**

Assignment: Johann Gottfried von Herder, "Reflections on the Philosophy of the History of Mankind."  
Johann Gottlieb Fichte, "Addresses to the German Nation."  
Guiseppe Mazzini, "The Duties of Man."  
Berenson, 269-277.

**II. INDUSTRIALIZATION AND THE "SPECTER HAUNTING EUROPE"  
1815-1914**

**6. Mon., 2/5: Industrial Capitalism and Proletarianization**

Assignment: Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*.  
Berenson, 211-249.

**7. Weds., 2/7: 1848**

Assignment: Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*.  
Berenson, 278-301.

**8. Mon., 2/12: Bohemian and Bourgeois: At the Center and the Margins of Urban Culture**

Assignment: Guy de Maupassant, "The Diamond Necklace," *Collected Short Stories*.

**9. Weds., 2/14: Fin-de-Siècle Cultures**

Assignment: Georg Simmel, "The Metropolis and Mental Life." in *On Individuality and Social Forms*, ed. Donald Levine.  
Gustave Le Bon, *The Crowd*, "The Sentiment and Morality of Crowds."  
Berenson, 313-321; 343-5; 363-368.

**10. Mon., 2/19: Class, Gender, and Mass Politics in the Late Nineteenth Century**

Assignment: Sarah Grand, "The New Aspect of the Woman Question" (1894).  
Emile Zola, *Germinal*, Part 4, Ch. 2 (1885).  
The Erfurt Program: Programme of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (1891).  
Berenson, 339-343; 390-395.  
**Paper topic due** (in an email to me and your section leader/no attachments)

**11. Weds., 2/21: Midterm Review****12. Mon., 2/26: In-Class Midterm Examination**

**III. THE STRUGGLE FOR HEGEMONY WITHIN AND WITHOUT:  
NATIONALISM, IMPERIALISM, AND THE GREAT WAR  
1848-1919**

**13. Weds., 2/28: Nationalism in the Late Nineteenth Century: Imagined Communities and Invented Traditions**

Assignment: Theodor Herzl, "A Jewish State."  
Vladimir Lenin, "The Right of Nations to Self-Determination."  
Rosa Luxemburg, "The National Question and Autonomy."  
Sun Yat-Sen, "Three Principles of the People."  
Berenson, 327-339.

**14. Mon., 3/5: Imperial Europe**

Assignment: Imperialism documents: James Thompson, "Rule Britannia" (1740s), Rudyard Kipling, "The White Man's Burden" (1899), Josiah Strong, "Our Country" (1885), Jules Ferry, "On Colonial Expansion" (Speech Before the French Chamber of Deputies, 1884), Program of the Pan-German League (1890-98), Typical African Blank Treaty (1880s).  
Berenson, 374-387.

**15. Weds., 3/7: The Great War**

Assignment: Siegfried Sassoon, *Memoirs of an Infantry Officer*, Part 8, "The Second Battalion."  
Christopher Clark, *The Sleepwalkers: How Europe Went to War in 1914*, "Conclusion."  
*Gallipoli* (dir. Peter Weir, 1981). (stream on E-Reserves)  
Berenson, 395-402; 411-438.

\*\*\*\*\*3/10-3/18: SPRING BREAK\*\*\*\*\*

#### IV. BOURGEOIS EUROPE CHALLENGED: 1918-1945

##### 16. Mon., 3/19: The Russian Revolution

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

##### 17. Weds., 3/21: The Rise of Fascism

Assignment: Griffin, 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., 3/26: The Weimar Republic, the Depression, and the Nazi "Seizure" of Power

Assignment: Gertrud Scholtz-Klink, "To be German is to be Strong" (1936).  
Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf*, "On the Eastern Orientation" (1925).  
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.

##### 19. Weds., 3/28: Interwar Politics and the Origins of World War II

Assignment: Sheila Fitzpatrick, *Everyday Stalinism*, Ch. 3, "Palaces on Monday" and "Conclusion."  
Chamberlain's Radio Broadcast, 27 September 1938.  
Berenson, 487-502; 565-575.  
**Paper due (in class).**

##### 20. Mon., 4/2: World War II, the Holocaust, Hiroshima

Assignment: Christopher Browning, "Ordinary Men" in Donald Niewyk, ed., *The Holocaust*.  
Jan Gross, *Neighbors*, "Outline of the Story" and "Sources."  
Primo Levi, *The Drowned and the Saved*, "The Gray Zone."  
Berenson, 575-606.

## V. EUROPE IN THE POSTWAR ERA

**21. Weds., 4/4: No Class**

**22. Mon., 4/9: The Brutal Peace and the Reconstruction of Europe**

Assignment: Victoria De Grazia, *Irresistible Empire*, Chapter 7, “The Consumer-Citizen.”  
Speech Delivered by General George Marshall at Harvard University on June 5, 1947.  
Berenson, 615-628.

**23. Weds., 4/11: From Hot War to Cold War**

Assignment: Winston Churchill, “The Sinews of Peace.”  
Joseph Stalin’s response to Churchill’s speech.  
Proclamation by the Central Committee of the German Communist Party (June 11, 1945).  
Berenson, 629-636; 647-650.

**24. Mon., 4/16: The End of Empire**

Assignment: Frantz Fanon, *Wretched of the Earth*, “On Violence.”  
Berenson, 638-647.

**25. Weds., 4/18: The Welfare State and its Discontents**

Assignment: Herbert Marcuse, *One Dimensional Man*, Ch. 1, “The New Forms of Control,” 3-14.  
Watch the following brief British government film clips: [NHS](#); [Housing](#)  
Berenson, 650-660; 680-683.

## VI. CONTEMPORARY EUROPE

\*\*\*\*\**The Lives of Others*, Thurs., 4/19, 6:00-8:20 pm, 202 Altschul Hall\*\*\*\*\*

**26. Mon., 4/23:           The Collapse of Communism**

Assignment:           *The Lives of Others* (dir. Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, 2006)  
Svetlana Alexievich, *Secondhand Time*, “On the Beauty of Dictatorship and the Mystery of Butterflies Crushed Against the Pavement,” 41-77.  
Berenson, 683-695; 697-709.

**27. Weds., 4/25:           Rethinking Citizenship and Nationhood**

Assignment:           *La Haine* (dir. Mathieu Kassovitz, 1995) (**stream on E-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.”  
Berenson, 695-696;

**28. Mon., 4/30:           Europe Now**

Assignment:           Watch the following speeches:

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

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

Francois Hollande, speech on Islam in France, September 8, 2016:  
<https://www.theguardian.com/global/video/2016/sep/08/francois-hollande-islam-can-co-exist-with-a-french-secular-state-video>

Le Pen and Merkel at the European Parliament, October 10, 2015:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cz4AigPwPvk&index=4&list=PLw7pUsXzmnK8MLMh1BPza5dNPCxDHcZMq>

**Weds., 5/2:               Final Examination Review Session in 304 BAR**

**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.