

History 223  
Fall 2001

## **The HISTORY of MODERN EUROPE**

([www.uncg.edu/~jwjones/moderneurope](http://www.uncg.edu/~jwjones/moderneurope))

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Office Hours: M 10-10:50; T 1-1:50; W 1-1:50

Europe's impact on the world in the modern period has been profound, and Europe today remains a vitally important region. The primary goal of this course is to introduce students to the issues and debates raised in modern European history (since about 1700). We will examine Europe's past, as much as possible, from the point of view of those living through it, trying to understand events through their eyes.

An underlying theme in the study of history is the importance of the past in shaping the way people see the world today. We all have a conceptualization of "Europe" and an understanding as to how and why it became what it is today. This course introduces students to alternative ways of interpreting modern European history by weighing the evidence and the merits of differing points of view.

The course is divided into three sections: Europe in Revolution; Europe in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century; and War and Remembrance in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. We will approach the subject material from several perspectives, including political, social, economic, and cultural, with a number of themes in mind: war and peace; ideology/religion; family/gender; social class; and technology.

By the end of the course students will understand, firstly, that history is not just the memorization of dates and facts, but rather the interpretation of the past; and, secondly, that we tend to see modern Europe and the world through a number of basic assumptions that are not always accurate. Students will take from the class the skills to critically appraise varying historical arguments and to clearly express their own interpretations.

### **Readings:**

Lynn Hunt, *The Family Romance of the French Revolution*

Charles Dickens, *Hard Times*

Anne Frank, *The Diary of Anne Frank*

Slavenka Drakulic, *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed*

Reserve articles and online material designated below

**Course Web Page:** The course web page is at [www.uncg.edu/~jwjones/moderneurope](http://www.uncg.edu/~jwjones/moderneurope)  
The page has course readings, summaries of the notes, links to Internet Resources, and other features relevant to the course.

**Assignments:**

Participation	25 %
2 Midterm Exams	15 % each
Book or Film Review	20 %
Final Exam	25 %

**Participation:** Your 25 % class participation grade consists of several worksheets to be turned in at the beginning of the class periods designated below; several random and announced in-class quizzes; and several Reaction Pieces, 1-2 pages double-spaced. These are intended to be your *reaction to* or *opinion of* the assigned readings designated below, *not* a summary of the reading material. The total sum of these assignments is 50 points, which will be divided by two for the final participation grade. Students who miss an in-class quiz can *only* make it up with a legitimate reason. Inform me beforehand if you know you have to miss a quiz and we will schedule a make-up.

**Exams:** There are two midterm exams (worth 15 % each) and a final (worth 25 %). Each of the exams covers *only* the part of the course for which they are designated (1<sup>st</sup>: Europe in Revolution; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Europe in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century; Final: War and Remembrance in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century), so they are *not cumulative*. However, the final exam will include a comprehensive essay question (worth 10 % of the overall grade) that draws on broad themes dealt with all semester.

**Book or Film Review:** Students will review a book or film (worth 20%)

- **Book Review:** Choose a title from the course web page bibliography or from another source; make sure that the book is available either at the library or elsewhere; find a published review of the book and turn in a copy by Friday, November 9. Finally, write a review of the book *and the review*, **due Monday, November 26**. Your review should be double-spaced, 12-pt. font, and 500-1,000 words (2-4 pages) in length. Briefly summarize the main points of the author's thesis and assess the strengths and weaknesses of the book. Consider the following questions: What is the author's thesis? What sources/evidence does the author rely on? How convincing do you find the author's interpretation of these sources and the book's overall argument? How does the review assess the book? What points if any does the reviewer criticize? On issues of contention who do you agree with, the author of the book or the reviewer, and why? [Note: If the book itself is a primary source, what can it tell us about the author and the period in which it was written?]
- **Film Review:** Choose a film of interest dealing with the history of Modern Europe and make sure it is available; find a review of the film and turn in a copy by Friday, November 9. Finally, write a review of the film *and the review*, **due Monday, November 26**. Your review of the film and the review should be double-spaced, 12-pt. font, and 500-1,000 words (2-4 pages) in length. **Do not summarize the plot of the film.** Rather, address issues of historical significance raised by the film. Use specific evidence from the film to elaborate and clarify historical meaning. Consider the following questions: As an historical source, what can the film tell us about European society and attitudes during the period in which it was produced? What if anything can you say about the director's political perspective? Does the film itself

have an explicit (or hidden) political message? How does the film portray life (or history) in Europe? How does the review assess the film? What points if any does the reviewer criticize? On issues of contention who do you agree with, the director of the film or the reviewer, and why? What if anything is the film's lasting historical significance? You can also compare and contrast the film you focus on with other films discussed or shown in the class.

**Grading:** Grades are compiled on a point system. For example, if you make 80 on the 1<sup>st</sup> midterm (12/15) + 87 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> midterm (13/15) + 88 on the book review (17.6/20) + 84 on the final exam (21.3/25) + 88 on participation (22/25) your final grade = **86** or B. Keep up with your grades on the chart at the end of the syllabus to know what your grade is going into the Final Exam.

### **Class Schedule**

Monday, August 20. Introduction: The Study of History

Wednesday, August 22. Pre-Modern Europe

### **Part I: Europe in the Age of Revolution**

Friday, August 24. Early Modern Europe

- Reading for next class: *e-reserve article* by Robert Darnton, "Peasants Tell Tales: The Meaning of Moother Goose"
- Reaction Piece to this reading due in class Monday

Monday, August 27. Early Modern Europe (cont'd): Discussion of Reading  
BEGIN READING: Lynn Hunt, *The Family Romance of the French Revolution*. The preface, chapters 1-2 & 5-6 are required; chapters 3-4 & the epilogue are optional. Remember to do Worksheet 1 on the book as you read.

Wednesday, August 29. Absolutism and Enlightened Despotism

Friday, August 31. Prelude to the French Revolution

- Reading for next class: *online article* by Robert Darnton, "An Early Information Society: News and the Media in Eighteenth-Century Paris"

Wednesday, September 5. Prelude to the French Revolution: Discussion of Reading

Friday, September 7. The Early Stages of the French Revolution

- Reading for next class: Declaration of the Rights of Man

Monday, September 10. The French Revolution: The Liberal Phase

- Reading for next class: Declaration of the Rights of Woman and Citizen

Wednesday, September 12. The French Revolution: The Radical Phase

Friday, September 14. The French Revolution: Discussion of *The Family Romance*

- **Worksheet 1** due at the beginning of class

Monday, September 17. Bonapartism and the Napoleonic Wars

Wednesday, September 19. Napoleon's Fall From Power

Friday, September 21. TBA

### **Monday, September 24. FIRST MIDTERM EXAM**

#### **Part II: Europe in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century**

Wednesday, September 26. The Origins of the Industrial Revolution

- Reading for next class: "Sleep We Have Lost" by A. Roger Ekirch  
BEGIN READING: Charles Dickens, *Hard Times*. Remember to do **Worksheet 2**.

Friday, September 28. The Industrial Revolution

Monday, October 1. The Rise of Marxism

- Reading for next class: online Excerpts from *Das Kapital*

Wednesday, October 3. Marx's Critique of Capitalism: Discussion of Reading

- Reading for next class: "A Modest Proposal" by Jonathan Swift
- Reaction Piece to this reading due in class Friday

Friday, October 5. Origins of Conflict in Ireland: Discussion of Reading

Wednesday, October 10. Hardship and Conflict in Ireland

Friday, October 12. Discussion of *Hard Times*

- **Worksheet 2** due at the beginning of class

Monday, October 15. The Rise of Nationalism

- Reading for next Monday: *online excerpts* from the pamphlet by V. I. Lenin "Imperialism, The Highest Stage of Capitalism"

Wednesday, October 17. Emerging Nation States

Friday, October 19. The Beginning of "Globalization": European Colonialism

Monday, October 22. European Colonialism: Discussion of Reading

Wednesday, October 24. TBA

### **Friday, October 26. SECOND MIDTERM EXAM**

### **Part III: War and Remembrance in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

Monday, October 29. Europe at the Turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

Wednesday, October 31. Origins of World War I

Friday, November 2. World War I: “The War to End All Wars” (in class viewing: “The Killing Fields, 1914”)

Monday, November 5. World War I and its Aftermath

Wednesday, November 7. The Rise of Fascism in Europe

Friday, November 9. Fascism in Europe

**\*\*Note: a copy of a published book or film review for the assignment is due today**

Monday, November 12. The Origins of the Second World War

BEGIN READING Anne Frank, *The Diary of Anne Frank*

- Reaction Piece to this reading due Wednesday, November 28

Wednesday, November 14. World War II

Friday, November 16. In-class Film: “The Wonderful, Horrible Life of Leni Riefenstahl”

Monday, November 19. “The Wonderful, Horrible Life of Leni Riefenstahl” (Part 2)

**\*\*NOTE: Your book or film review is due in one week on Monday, November 26**

Monday, November 26. Anti-Semitism in Europe and the Origins of the Holocaust

- Reading for next class: *e-reserve* reviews of “Schindler’s List”

**BOOK or FILM REVIEW due today**

Wednesday, November 28. The Holocaust: Discussion of Readings

BEGIN READING: Slavenka Drakulic, *How We Survived Communism*

- Reaction Piece to this reading due Friday, December 7

Friday, November 30. Post-War Europe

Monday, December 3. The Rise of the Cold War

Wednesday, December 5. Caught In the Middle of the Cold War: Yugoslavia

Friday, December 7. War in Yugoslavia: Discussion of Drakulic

Monday, December 10. Europe Today

**Final Exam: Monday, December 17 8:00-11:00 AM**

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**GRADE RECORD**

Participation Grade (WS = Worksheet; RP = Reaction Piece; Q= Quiz)  
{Note: All Worksheets, Reaction Pieces & Quizzes are worth 5 pts.}

Add your scores on these assignments:

WS 1 \_\_\_\_\_

RP 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Q 1 \_\_\_\_\_

WS 2 \_\_\_\_\_

RP 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Q 2 \_\_\_\_\_

RP 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Q 3 \_\_\_\_\_

RP 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Q 4 \_\_\_\_\_

$$\begin{array}{r} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \quad + \quad = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \quad + \quad = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \quad = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} / 2 = \boxed{\hspace{1cm}} \\ \hspace{10cm} + \end{array}$$

1st Midterm (15 pts.)

(letter grade) \_\_\_\_\_ x .15 =

+

2nd Midterm (15 pts.)

(letter grade) \_\_\_\_\_ x .15 =

+

Book/Film Review (20 pts.)

(letter grade) \_\_\_\_\_ x .20 =

= \_\_\_\_\_ \*

\*\*This is your numerical grade for the course going into the Final Exam, which covers the remaining 25 % of the grade, including a Take Home Essay Question worth 10 % of the overall course grade. To convert the number to a letter grade, divide it by 75, which is the total number of points possible prior to the Final Exam.