

History 223 & IGS 233B (GHP, GMO, GL)

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Introduction

Welcome to the History of Modern Europe! During this course we will be examining European history from the French Revolution (1789) to the present. We will spend much of our time discussing events and ideas which emanated from England, France, Germany, and Spain, but we will also spend some time talking about eastern Europe. We will use primary sources (documents written in the period under discussion) to examine the development of social, political, and cultural elements in modern western society. As you examine these documents, you should always ask yourself, “What makes this a ‘modern’ idea or event, and what relevance does it have (or not) to my life?”

In order to make good oral and written evaluations of the sources we will read, you must always consider the biases, both positive and negative, of the author of the source and the nature of the source itself. All historical sources are not created equal; you’ll need to make informed judgments about each of them. Since this is a history course, the topics of our discussions will be roughly chronological (beginning with the events and ideas of the French Revolution and concluding as close to the present day as possible), but we will be more concerned with analytical methods than with strict chronology. In other words, you will spend more time in this class reading and analyzing primary source materials than you will spend memorizing names and dates.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course you will be able to

- construct an analytical essay using related primary source material as evidence to support an argument in answer to a specific historical question.
- explain the significance of terms (people, events, places, dates) in relation to the development of the social, political, and cultural elements of modern western society.
- evaluate historians’ analyses of historical events, paying special attention to the strength of their arguments.

Required Texts

Rousseau, Jean-Jacques. *The Social Contract*. Penguin. ISBN 0143037498.

Graves, Robert. *Goodbye to All That*. Penguin. ISBN 0141184593.

Marx, Karl & Friedrich Engels. *The Communist Manifesto*. Penguin. ISBN 0140447571.

Ash, Timothy Garton. *The Magic Lantern. The Revolution of '89 as Witnessed in Warsaw, Budapest, Berlin, & Prague*. Vintage. ISBN 0679740481.

Wiesner, Merry. *Discovering the Western Past. A Look at the Evidence. Since 1500*. Houghton Mifflin. 5th edition. ISBN 0618312935.

Spielvogel, Jackson. *Western Civilization. Volume C. Since 1789*. Wadsworth. 6th edition. ISBN 0534646077.

For Your Information

Attendance: After you have missed four class periods for any reason, your final average for the course will be reduced by one percentage point (i.e. from 84 to 83) for each additional absence.

Honor code: Any violation of the honor code (such as plagiarism or cheating) will be dealt with according to UNCG's academic integrity policy. I am particularly concerned about plagiarism from the web. I do not want you to use websites for any of the writing assignments unless a particular website is specifically included as part of the assignment. The primary sources and the lectures will provide you with sufficient information to complete the assignments. For specific explanations about UNCG's academic integrity policy, see the Student Affairs website at <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/>.

Reading Advice

Because most of these documents will be totally unfamiliar to you, I recommend taking notes on them as you read. It is also useful to write a brief summary (2-3 sentences) of each document so that you can remember the contents of each text for class discussion. Taking notes on the longer primary sources is especially important. Finally, I recommend reading each of the shorter documents more than once. Sometimes it will take two (or even three) readings for something to make sense to you. Because the amount of reading for our course is fairly small, you'll have plenty of time for re-reading.

Supplemental Reading

I will occasionally use on-line sources as supplemental materials. Many of the links will be to the Internet Modern History Sourcebook (<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook.html>). The links to these texts will be available on the course's Blackboard site.

Blackboard

Be sure to check on Blackboard (<https://blackboard.uncg.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>) for course announcements, assignments, and links to important websites.

Adverse Weather Conditions

If you think that the university might be closed due to weather, either call the UNCG Adverse Weather Line at (336) 334-4400 or check the university's website (www.uncg.edu). If the university is open, I will hold class.

Grade Breakdown

Discussion	10%
First Midterm	20%
Second Midterm	20%
Article Review	20%
Final	30%

Discussion Preparation and Written Assignments

Discussion: To participate actively in the class discussions, you will need to read the materials assigned for each lecture before the day of that lecture. Your discussion grade will be based not only on the quantity but also on the quality of your comments. Remember that asking a question about something you didn't understand in the readings is a good way of participating in the discussion.

Midterms and Final: All three of these exams will be take-home assignments. Each of them will consist of two parts: short identification essays explaining the significance of a particular term (person, event, place, date, etc.) and a longer essay based on primary source material.

Article Review: For this assignment, you will read an article from an academic journal. (I will give you a list of journal possibilities.) To analyze the article, you will identify its thesis and decide whether or not the author was able to prove it with the primary source evidence he or she used.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings:

Monday, August 20 – Introductions: What is "Modern Europe"?

Wednesday, August 22 – The Enlightenment at Home and Abroad
Primary Source Readings: Rousseau. *The Social Contract*. 1-63.

Friday, August 24 – Jean-Jacques Rousseau
Primary Source Readings: Rousseau. *The Social Contract*. 64-168.

Monday, August 27 – The Peasants: Economic Woes in Late 18th century France
Primary Source Readings: Wiesner, chapter 4, "A Statistical View of European Rural Life, 1600-1800." 95-115.

Wednesday, August 29 – The Bourgeoisie: July 14, 1789
Primary Source Readings: Wiesner, chapter 5, "A Day in the French Revolution: July 14, 1789." 116-142.
Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 532-551.

Friday, August 31 – The Terror
Supplemental Readings

Monday, September 3 – Labor Day – no class

Wednesday, September 5 – Napoleon
Supplemental Readings
Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 552-561.

Friday, September 7 – Industrial Revolution I
Primary Source Readings: Wiesner, chapter 6, "Labor Old and New: The Impact of the Industrial Revolution." 143-177.
Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 562-575.

Monday, September 10 – Industrial Revolution II: Josiah Wedgwood
Supplemental Readings

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 576-588.

Wednesday, September 12 – Conservatism – preservation of the status quo

Supplemental Readings

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 589-597.

Friday, September 14 – Liberalism & Nationalism

Primary Source Readings: Wiesner, chapter 7, “Two Programs for Social and Political Change: Liberalism and Socialism.” 178-209.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 598-604.

Monday, September 17 – The Revolutions of 1848

Supplemental Readings

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 605-609.

Wednesday, September 19 – the Romantics in Art, Music, & Poetry

Supplemental Readings

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 613-618.

Friday, September 21 – Napoleon III

Primary Source Readings: Marx & Engels. *The Communist Manifesto*. 191-233.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 621-624.

Monday, September 24 – Response to the Industrial Revolution – Marx & Engels

Primary Source Readings: Marx & Engels. *The Communist Manifesto*. 234-275.

Wednesday, September 26 – Darwin & Evolution

Supplemental Readings

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 641-650.

Friday, September 28 – Cultural Darwinism in Europe and Asia

Primary Source Readings: Wiesner, chapter 9, “Expansion and Public Opinion: Advocates of The ‘New Imperialism.’” 247-268.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 701-715.

Monday, October 1 – National Unification – Italy

Supplemental Readings

Primary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 625-630.

Wednesday, October 3 – National Unification – Germany

First Midterm Due

Supplemental Readings

Friday, October 5 – A Second Industrial Revolution

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 652-659.

Monday, October 8 – Social Issues: The Working Classes

Supplemental Readings

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 660-672.

Wednesday, October 10 – Social Issues: Women’s Suffrage

Primary Source Readings: Wiesner, chapter 10, "Citizenship and Suffrage for Women." 269-297.

Friday, October 12 – Crisis in the Balkans

Primary Source Readings: Wiesner, chapter 11, "World War I: Total War." 298-334.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 717-721.

Monday, October 15 – Fall Break – no class

Wednesday, October 17 – the Great War

Primary Source Readings: Graves, *Goodbye to All That*. 9-139.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 722-735.

Friday, October 19 – Literary Responses to World War I

Primary Source Readings: Graves, *Goodbye to All That*. 139-282.

Monday, October 22 – The Russian Revolution

Supplemental Readings

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 736-743.

Wednesday, October 24 – The Interwar Period: Depression

Supplemental Readings

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 751-753.

Friday, October 26 – no class

Monday, October 29 – Versailles & the Rise of the Fascists

Supplemental Readings

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 744-748 and 754-772.

Wednesday, October 31 – Kristalnacht – 1939

Primary Source Readings: Wiesner, chapter 12, "Selling a Totalitarian System." 335-364.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 783-789.

Friday, November 2 – World War II: the Blitz

Second Midterm Due

Supplemental Readings

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 790-796 and 803-807.

Monday, November 5 – World War II: the "Final Solution"

Supplemental Readings

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 797-802.

Wednesday, November 7 – World War II: D-Day to VE Day

Friday, November 9 – The Cold War

Primary Source Readings: Wiesner, chapter 13, "Berlin: the Crux of the Cold War, 1945-1990." 365-402.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 808-820.

Monday, November 12 – The Fifties – Population Growth and Economic Expansion

Wednesday, November 14 – The Escalation of the Cold War

Supplemental Readings

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 814-817.

Friday, November 16 – The Sixties – Social Unrest & Social Change

Primary Source Readings: Wiesner, chapter 14, “The Perils of Prosperity: the Unrest of Youth in the 1960s.” 403-434.

Monday, November 19 – Decolonization I: Asia

Supplemental Readings

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 821-827.

Wednesday, November 21 – Thanksgiving Holiday – no class

Friday, November 23 – Thanksgiving Holiday – no class

Monday, November 26 – Decolonization II: Africa

Supplemental Readings

Wednesday, November 28 – the European Union – Europe as a “World Power”

Article Review Due

Primary Source Readings: Wiesner, chapter 15, “Beyond the Nation-State: the European Union.” 435-463.

Friday, November 30 – The 1980’s: Europe right or left?

Monday, December 3 – Muslims in England, France, and Germany

Primary Source Readings: Ash, *The Magic Lantern*. 11-77.

Wednesday, December 5 – 1989 – Collapse of the Soviet Union & the Eastern Bloc

Primary Source Readings: Ash, *The Magic Lantern*. 78-167.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 851-867.

Friday, December 7 – Growing Pains: the Reunification of Germany

Monday, December 10 – Living in a Post-Modern World

Wednesday, December 12 – *Final Due in my office by 3 pm for both 9:00 and 1:00 sections*