

MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY
Petty 306
MWF 10:00-10:50

Michael Kennedy
mkennedy16@triad.rr.com

TEXTS:

John Merriman, *A History of Modern Europe Volume 2*, Second Edition (Required)

Simon J. Ball, *The Cold War: An International History, 1947-1991* (Required)

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto* (Required)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Modern European History is a broad survey of the political, social, cultural and economic development of Western Europe from the era of the French Revolution through the mid-20th century. Topics will include the scientific and industrial revolutions, nation-building, imperialism, social theory, and the two world wars.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students are expected to keep up with the readings and to attend all classes. Final grades will be calculated based on three in-class written examinations, two written book critiques, and class participation.

Examinations: Each written examination will be worth a total of 28 (twenty-eight) points. The exams will be made up of two parts. The first part will be the identification of 3 (three) terms which have been covered in class and can be persons, events, legislation, etc. A proper answer for each term will include the factual identification of the term, an example with a complete explanation, and a conclusion which shows the historical significance of the term. In order to do a good job on these answers, typically 8 to 10 sentences (each) of pertinent information is required. Each term will be worth 5 points.

The second part of each exam will be a major essay. It will cover one of the themes discussed in class and will be made up of three inter-related questions. A complete answer to each of these questions including explanations will be required to complete the essay. Typically an essay will cover approximately three to four pages in an examination book. The major essay will be worth 13 points.

Each exam will cover approximately one-third of the course material. There is no cumulative final exam.

EXAMINATION BOOKS (blue books) will be required for each exam.

Book Critiques: Students will write two (2) 3 to 5 page critiques of Ball's *The Cold War* and Marx and Engels' *The Communist Manifesto*. A critique requires an examination of the author's thesis (why he or she is writing the book and what they

are trying to prove) a **BRIEF** overview of the subject matter of the book (what it is about), and an analysis of the effectiveness of the author's presentation (has the author proved his or her point to your satisfaction). The book critiques will be worth 8 (eight) points each, and are due on **FRIDAY, MARCH 3** and **FRIDAY, APRIL 21**.

Class Participation: Occasionally questions will be asked in class, and students are encouraged to answer questions, ask questions, and make **PERTINENT** comments. Those students who participate can receive a **MAXIMUM** of 3 (three) points **EXTRA CREDIT** for the course. In other words, students who participate regularly can expect 3 points and those who participate occasionally can expect 2 points. Those who participate only once or twice in the term will get 1 point, and those who never participate will receive 0 points extra credit.

Some students are uncomfortable with speaking in class, and as an alternative, a **THIRD** 3 to 5 page book critique can be written to achieve extra credit. Any student who writes a **THIRD** book critique will receive 1 point. Whether the student gets 2 or 3 points will depend on the quality of the critique. The book chosen for a **THIRD** critique must be approved by the professor.

WARNING: 3 Points extra credit is the **MAXIMUM** anyone will receive, so students who participate should not waste their time writing additional critiques **AND** only **ONE** additional critique will be accepted.

ATTENDANCE:

I do not take daily attendance, but be warned: All exams will be based on material covered in class. There will be a daily outline on the board from which the terms which appear on the exams will be taken. Students who do not attend classes will not have access to those outlines or terms. **THERE WILL BE NO STUDY GUIDES** handed out.

There will be, however, a review session in class prior to each exam, so that students who have questions on any particular term or topic can ask them and have things cleared up before the exam.

PLAGIARISM:

Any student found turning in either a paper or an examination that has been copied from another student or another source will receive a grade of zero. In writing the critical reviews, any quotes or portions of the book that are used in the paper **MUST** be cited.

READINGS:

- 1/9: INTRODUCTION**
- 1/11-1/14: THE FRENCH REVOLUTION (Part One): Merriman, 467-487.**
- 1/16: NO CLASS.**
- 1/18-1/20: THE FRENCH REVOLUTION (Part Two): Merriman, 487-509.**
- 1/23-1/25: THE FRENCH REVOLUTION (Part Three): Merriman, 509-524.**
- 1/27-2/3: NAPOLEONIC EUROPE: Merriman, 524-552.**
- 2/6-2/10: INDUSTRIALIZATION AND SOCIAL CHANGE: Merriman, 553-597.**
- 2/13: EXAM #1. REMEMBER TO BRING BLUE BOOKS.**
- 2/15-2/17: CULTURE, DISRUPTION AND UPHEAVAL: THE REVOLUTION OF 1830: Merriman, 598-669.**
- 2/20-2/24: THE REVOLUTION OF 1848: Merriman, 670-701; Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*.**
- 2/27-3/3: THE NATIONAL UNIFICATION OF ITALY AND GERMANY: Merriman, 707-745.**
- 3/3: CRITIQUE OF *THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO* DUE. LATE PAPERS WILL BE MARKED DOWN.**
- 3/6-3/10: SPRING BREAK.**
- 3/13-3/17: VICTORIAN ERA: Merriman, 746-813.**
- 3/20-3/24: THE SECOND INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION: Merriman, 814-857.**
- 3/27: EXAM #2. REMEMBER TO BRING BLUE BOOKS.**
- 3/29-3/31: IMPERIALISM: Merriman, 898-939.**
- 4/3-4/7: BACKGROUND TO WORLD WAR I: Merriman, 943-964; Ball, *The Cold War*.**

- 4/10-4/14: WORLD WAR I: Merriman, 964-1016.**
- 4/17-4/19: THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION(s): Merriman, 1017-1055.**
- 4/21: CRITIQUE OF *THE COLD WAR* DUE.
LATE PAPERS WILL BE MARKED DOWN.**
- 4/21-4/24: INSTABILITY, DEPRESSION AND THE RISE OF FASCISM:
Merriman, 1056-1156.**
- 4/26-4/28: WORLD WAR II: Merriman, 1157-1206.**
- 5/2: REVIEW.**
- FINAL EXAM DATE TBA.**