

"Colloquium in European History Since 1789"

This discussion seminar comprises the second half of the Department of History's Graduate Colloquium in European History and is designed to introduce students to the major scholarly issues involving Europe since the French Revolution. In this course, students will explore several of the main themes underscoring the recent historiography of nineteenth- and twentieth-century Europe: the creation of new ways of defining "community" (class, nation, empire, and race), the meaning and usefulness of the concept of "modernity," the politics of identity, novel methods of conceptualizing revolutions, and the origins and legacies of conflict and genocide. Particular attention will be paid to the ways in which the intellectual paradigms (*Annales*, Marxist, cultural, et al) historians have employed to examine European history since 1789 have shifted in response to forces both internal and external to the profession.

The basic format of this course will consist of intensive group discussions of classic and soon-to-become classic texts drawn from the work of leading (and, occasionally, notorious) scholars of modern Europe. Students will be expected to participate *extensively* in the weekly discussions and give oral presentations contextualizing the assigned reading. Written assignments will consist of several short analytical essays based on the texts and a longer historiographical paper.

This seminar is intended for first-year M.A. students in European History, but second-years and Americanists are very welcome to participate. While students aren't required to have had any previous coursework specifically focusing on Europe prior to taking this course, they will find it very useful to have a basic working knowledge of European history from the late eighteenth through the twentieth centuries. For students unfamiliar with the major schools of modern European historiography, Peter Burke's *New Perspectives on Historical Writing* provides a concise overview of several of those approaches.

Required Readings

The following books are required for this course and are available for purchase at the UNCG Bookstore in Elliot University Center and Addams Bookstore. Copies of the books will also be placed on reserve in Jackson Library.

Browning, *Ordinary Men* (Penguin, New Edition).
Hunt, *The Family Romance of the French Revolution* (Univ. of California Press).
Rabinowitch, *The Bolsheviks Come to Power* (Pluto Press, New Edition).
Rappaport, *Shopping for Pleasure* (Princeton Univ. Press).
Thompson, *The Making of the English Working Class* (Vintage).
Weber, *Peasants Into Frenchmen* (Stanford Univ. Press).

Other short readings for this course (e.g. journal articles) will be available via Electronic Reserve through Jackson Library. Xerox copies of excerpts from longer secondary sources will be passed out in class.

Grading

Grades for this course will be assigned according to the following scheme:

- 25% -- Participation and Presentations (includes attendance)
- 20% -- Analytical Paper 1
- 20% -- Analytical Paper 2
- 35% -- Historiographical Paper

Participation and Presentations

As a graduate colloquium, this course is essentially a reading group, and thus all students are expected to have completed the reading and *actively* participate in each week's discussion. During each class session, selected students will open the discussion with an approximately 5-minute, informal synopsis of each text's author's methodological stance, scholarly influences, interlocutors, and major publications. Students giving presentations are also required to prepare a one-page handout for their classmates and instructors that summarizes the information in their talk. Each student will give two (2) presentations during the course of the semester.

Papers

There will be three major written assignments in this course: two short (5-7 pages) analytical essays based upon the discussion questions for each week and a 12-15 page historiographical paper on a topic of the student's choice. While the analytical papers do not require any extra research beyond the assigned texts, students will be expected to consult multiple additional monographs and journal articles in preparing the historiographical essay. **Analytical Paper 1** will be due on **Monday, February 19th**, and **Analytical Paper 2** will be due on **Monday, April 2nd**. The **Historiographical Paper** will be due on **Thursday, May 3rd**. All papers will be submitted electronically; details will be forthcoming.

Weather Information

On days when the weather looks “iffy,” please be sure to call the UNCG Adverse Weather Line **(336) 334-4000** or look on the UNCG home page (**www.uncg.edu**) for updates. I will also post notices regarding class scheduling on the course Blackboard site. If there is a delayed opening of campus that runs into our normal class time, please come to class **as soon as** the delay is over; our class meetings will run through the end of the regularly scheduled period.

Plagiarism Policy

UNCG takes the Academic Integrity Policy extremely seriously, as do I. Any work submitted that is found to contain plagiarized material will immediately receive a failing grade, and disciplinary action will be taken forthwith in accordance with the University’s policies.

Syllabus

- January 11: Introduction: The Paradoxes of "Modern" European Historiography
- January 18: Vive la France! Vive la Revolution! Or, Why 1789 Still Matters Today
- Reading:** Furet, "The French Revolution is Over." In *Interpreting the French Revolution* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981): 1-79. (Xerox)
Hobsbawm, "The Making of a 'Bourgeois Revolution'." In *The French Revolution and the Birth of Modernity*, ed. Ferenc Feher (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990): 30-48. (Xerox)
Hunt, *The Family Romance of the French Revolution*. Preface, Chaps. 1, 2, 3, and Epilogue.
- January 25: Making "Class" in the Early Nineteenth Century
- Reading:** Thompson, *The Making of the English Working Class*. Preface, Chaps. 1, 2, 5, 6, 11, and 16 (parts i. and v. only).
Scott, "Women in *The Making of the English Working Class*." In *Gender and the Politics of History, Revised Edition* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1999): 68-90. (E-Reserve)
- February 1: Imagining Communities, Creating "Nations"
- Reading:** Anderson, *Imagined Communities*. Introduction, Chaps. 3 and 5. (Xerox)
Weber, *Peasants into Frenchmen*. Introduction, Chaps. 1-3, 6, 7, 12, 18, 20, 27-29.
- February 8: A "Special Path"?: German Historiography and the *Sonderweg* Debate
- Reading:** Sheehan, "What is German History? Reflections on the Role of the Nation in German History and Historiography." *Journal of Modern History* 53:1 (March 1981): 1-23. (E-Reserve)
Kocka, "German History Before Hitler: The Debate about the German *Sonderweg*." *Journal of Contemporary History* 23:1 (January 1988): 3-16. (E-Reserve)
Blackbourn, "The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie: Reappraising German History in the Nineteenth Century." In *The Peculiarities of German History*, ed. David Blackbourn and Geoff Eley. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992): 159-205, 238-292. (Xerox)
- February 15: "La Belle Epoque": Urban Bourgeois Culture at the Fin-de-Siecle
- Reading:** Rappaport, *Shopping for Pleasure*. Introduction, Chaps. 1, 3 (pp. 75-85), 4 (pp. 108-111, 132-141), 6 and Epilogue.

Schorske, *Fin-de-Siecle Vienna: Politics and Culture* (New York: Vintage Books, 1981). Introduction, Chaps. 1, 5, and 7. (Xerox)

February 19: **Analytical Paper 1 Due by 5 p.m.! (Electronic Submissions)**
(Note: This is a Monday!)

February 22: "The Sun Never Sets...": Europeans and the "New" Imperialism

Reading: Metcalf, *Ideologies of the Raj* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994). Chap. 3 (Xerox)
Stoler, "Between Metropole and Colony: Rethinking a Research Agenda." In *Tensions of Empire*, ed. Frederick Cooper and Ann Stoler (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997): 1-18. (E-Reserve)
Thorne, "The Conversion of Englishmen and the Conversion of the World Inseparable: Missionary Imperialism and the Language of Class in Early Industrial Britain." In *Tensions of Empire*: 238-262. (E-Reserve)
Cannadine, *Ornamentalism: How the British Saw Their Empire* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001). Chaps. 1-4, 7, 9, and 10. (Xerox)

March 1: Kaarin's at a conference! No Class!

March 8: Spring Break! No Class! :)

March 15: "Goodbye to All That": Europeans and the Great War

Reading: Gullace, *The Blood of Our Sons: Men, Women, and the Renegotiation of British Citizenship During the Great War* (New York: Palgrave, 2002). Chap. 2 (Xerox)
Winter, *Sites of Memory, Sites of Mourning* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995). Introduction, Chap. 4, Conclusion. (Xerox)
Fussell, *The Great War and Modern Memory* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000). Chaps. 1, 2, 5, and 9. (Xerox)

March 22: The Revolution in Russia

Reading: Hemenway, "Nicholas in Hell: Rewriting the Tsarist Narrative in the Revolutionary *Skazki* of 1917." *The Russian Review* 60 (April 2001): 185-204. (E-Reserve)
Rabinowitch, *The Bolsheviks Come to Power*. Introduction and Chaps. 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 14, 15, and Epilogue.

March 29: Re-Constructing Politics and Gender in the Interwar Years

Reading: de Grazia, *How Fascism Ruled Women: Italy, 1922-1945* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1992). Chaps. 1-3, 8, and 9. (Xerox)
Roberts, *Civilization Without Sexes: Reconstructing Gender in Postwar*

France, 1917-1927 (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1994).
Introduction, Chaps. 3, 5, and Conclusion. (Xerox)

April 2: **Analytical Paper 2 Due by 5 p.m.! (Electronic Submissions)**
(Note: This is a Monday!)

April 5: Interpreting the Rise of Nazism in Europe

Reading: Kershaw, *The Nazi Dictatorship: Problems & Perspectives of Interpretation*
(Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000). Chaps. 1, 2, 7, and 10.
(Xerox)
Fritzsche, *Germans Into Nazis* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1998).
Chaps. 3 and 4. (Xerox)

April 12: Perpetrators, Victims, Bystanders: Writing the History of the Holocaust

Reading: Browning, *Ordinary Men*. Preface, Chaps. 1-5, 7, 8, 14, 15, 18, and Afterword.
Goldhagen, *Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust*
(New York: Knopf, 1996). Introduction, Chaps. 7, 8, and 16. (Xerox)

Special Event: "Holocaust Perpetrators Reconsidered: Fifteen Years After *Ordinary Men*," a
talk by Prof. Christopher Browning. 7:30 p.m., 225 Curry Auditorium.
Book signing to follow; bring your copies!

April 19: "Their Finest Hour"?: World War II and National Identity

Reading: Churchill, *Memoirs of the Second World War* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin,
1987): 356-380. (E-Reserve)
Rose, *Which People's War?: National Identity and Citizenship in Wartime
Britain* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003). Introduction and
Chapter 1. (Xerox)
Calder, *The Myth of the Blitz* (London: Jonathan Cape, 1991). Chaps. 1, 3,
5, and 6. (Xerox)

April 26: The Empire Comes Home: Post-Colonial Encounters

Reading: Webster, *Englishness and Empire, 1939-1965* (Oxford: Oxford University
Press, 2005). Chap. 3 (Xerox)
Waters, "Dark Strangers in Our Midst: Discourses of Race and Nation in
Britain, 1947-1963." *Journal of British Studies* 36 (April 1997):
207-238. (E-Reserve)

May 3: **Historiography Papers Due by 5 p.m.! (Electronic Submissions)**