

History 223
Fall 2002

The HISTORY of MODERN EUROPE

(www.uncg.edu/~jwjones/moderneurope)

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Office Hours: M 10-10:50; W 1-1:50; F 2-2:50; and by appointment

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 19th Century; and War & Remembrance in the 20th Century. We will approach the subject material from several perspectives, including political, social, economic, and cultural, with several themes in mind: war & 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 historical arguments and to clearly express their own interpretations.

Readings:

Voltaire, *Candide*

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. The page has course readings, summaries of the notes, links to Internet Resources, and other features relevant to the course.

Assignments:

Participation	30 %
2 Midterm Exams	20 % each
Final Exam	30 %

Participation: Your 30% class participation grade consists of a worksheet, 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 60 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 20 % each) and a final (worth 30 %). Each of the exams covers *only* the part of the course for which they are designated (1st: Europe in Revolution; 2nd: Europe in the 19th Century; Final: War & Remembrance in the 20th Century), so they are not cumulative. However, the final exam includes a comprehensive essay question (worth 10 % of the overall grade) that draws on broad themes dealt with all semester.

Grading: Grades are compiled on a point system. For example, if you make 80 on the 1st midterm (16/20) + 87 on the 2nd midterm (17.4/20) + 84 on the final exam (25.2/30) + 88 on participation (26.4/30) your final grade = **85** or B. Keep up with your grades on the chart at the end of the syllabus to know what grade you have going into the Final Exam.

Class Schedule

Monday, August 19. Introduction to the Course

?? Reading for Friday: “Peasants Tell Tales: The Meaning of Mother Goose” by Robert Darnton and Social Conditions in 17th Century France (**Reaction Piece to this material due in class)

?? Optional: listen to the NPR Report “Little Red Riding Hood Uncloaked” (51:20)

?? Reading for next Monday: **Backgrounder 1**—Enlightened Thinkers & Enlightened Despots + *Candide* by Voltaire (**Reaction Piece due in class)

Wednesday, August 21. Pre-Modern Europe

Part I: Europe in the Age of Revolution

Friday, August 23. Early Modern Europe: Discussion of Reading

Monday, August 26. The Enlightenment: Discussion of *Candide*

Wednesday, August 28. Prelude to the French Revolution

?? Reading for next class: “An Early Information Society: News and the Media in Eighteenth-Century Paris” by Robert Darnton (**Reaction Piece due in class)

Friday, August 30. Prelude to the French Revolution: Discussion of Reading

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

Wednesday, September 4. The Early Stages of the French Revolution

Friday, September 6. The French Revolution (cont'd)

?? Reading for next class: **Backgrounder 2**—Leaders of the French Revolution + Declaration of the Rights of Woman and Citizen and excerpt from *Women in the French Revolution* by L. Kelly, pp. 10-38 (Chapters 2-4)

Monday, September 9. The French Revolution (cont'd)

Wednesday, September 11. The French Revolution (cont'd)

Friday, September 13. The French Revolution: Order Restored

Monday, September 16. Bonapartism and the Napoleonic Wars

?? Reading for next class: 1812 Burial site discovered in Lithuania

Wednesday, September 18. Napoleon's Fall From Power

Friday, September 20. **FIRST MIDTERM EXAM**

Part II: Europe in the 19th Century

Monday, September 23. The Origins of the Industrial Revolution

?? Reading for next class: "Sleep We Have Lost" by Roger Ekirch (**Reaction Piece due in class)

BEGIN READING: *Hard Times* by Charles Dickens; remember to do **Worksheet 1**

Wednesday, September 25. The Industrial Revolution

Friday, September 27. The Rise of Marxism

Monday, September 30. Marx's Critique of Capitalism

?? Reading for next class: **Backgrounder 3**—A Brief History of Pre-Modern Ireland + "A Modest Proposal" by Jonathan Swift (**Reaction Piece due in class)

?? Out-of-class Film: "Everlasting Piece", 3:30 Jarrell Hall

Wednesday, October 2. Origins of Conflict in Ireland: Discussion of Reading

?? Reading for next class: "From Famine to Five Points" by Tyler Anbinder

Friday, October 4. Hardship and Conflict in Ireland

Monday, October 7. Discussion of Film & *Hard Times*

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

Wednesday, October 9. The Rise of Nationalism

Friday, October 11. Emerging Nation States

Wednesday, October 16. The Unification of Germany and European Colonialism
?? Reading for next class: excerpt from the pamphlet by V. I. Lenin “Imperialism, The Highest Stage of Capitalism”

Friday, October 18. European Colonialism: Discussion of Reading

Monday, October 21. **SECOND MIDTERM EXAM**

?? Reading for next class: “The Affair—the Case of Alfred Dreyfus” and “A Little Russian Girl in the Jewish *Pale*, 1890”

Part III: War and Remembrance in the 20th Century

Wednesday, October 23. Europe at the Turn of the 20th Century

?? Reading for next class: **Backgrounder 4**—The Assassination of Archduke Ferdinand + An Eyewitness Account of the Assassination

Friday, October 25. Origins of World War I

Monday, October 28. World War I: “The War to End All Wars” (in class viewing: excerpt from “The Killing Fields, 1916”)

?? Reading for next class: “The Proletarian Revolution & the Renegade Kautsky” by V. I. Lenin

Wednesday, October 30. World War I and its Aftermath

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

?? Reaction Piece to this reading due Monday, November 18

Friday, November 1. The Rise of Fascism in Europe

NOTE: students should view the film “Schindler’s List” *before* our class discussion on Friday, November 15

Monday, November 4. Fascism in Europe (in class viewing: excerpt from “Master Race”)

Wednesday, November 6. The Origins of the Second World War

Friday, November 8. Europe Engulfed: World War II

?? Reading for next class: The Fire-bombing of Dresden

Monday, November 11. World War II (in class viewing: excerpt from “Total War”)

?? Out-of-class Film: “Nasty Girl”, 3:30 Jarrell Hall

Wednesday, November 13. World War II (cont’d)

?? Reading for next class: **Backgrounder 5**—The Roots of anti-Semitism + e-reserve excerpt from *The Memoirs of Gluckel of Hameln* and Reviews of “Schindler’s List”

Friday, November 15. The Holocaust: Discussion of “Nasty Girl”, “Schindler’s List” and the Reviews of “Schindler’s List”

Monday, November 18. The Holocaust (cont’d): Discussion of *The Diary of Anne Frank*
BEGIN READING: Slavenka Drakulic, *How We Survived Communism*
?? Reaction Piece to this reading due Friday, December 6

Wednesday, November 20. Post-War Europe: “Reconstruction”

Friday, November 22. TBA

Monday, November 25. The Origins of the Cold War

Monday, December 2. Caught In the Middle: Cold War Europe

Wednesday, December 4. The Roots of Conflict in Yugoslavia

Friday, December 6. War in Yugoslavia: Discussion of Drakulic

Monday, December 9. Europe Today

Final Exam: Monday, December 16 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 3-5 pts.}

Add your scores on these assignments:

	RP 1 _____	Q 1 _____
	RP 2 _____	Q 2 _____
	RP 3 _____	Q 3 _____
WS 1 _____	RP 4 _____	Q 4 _____
	RP 5 _____	Q 5 _____
	RP 6 _____	
	RP 7 _____	

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1st Midterm (20 pts.)

$$\text{(number grade)} \quad \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \quad \times .20 = \boxed{\hspace{1cm}}$$

+

2nd Midterm (20 pts.)

$$\text{(number grade)} \quad \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \quad \times .20 = \boxed{\hspace{1cm}}$$

+

$$= \underline{\hspace{2cm}} *$$

**This is your numerical grade for the course going into the Final Exam, which covers the remaining 30 % 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 70, which is the total number of points possible prior to the Final Exam.