

University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Department of History  
Semester I, 2011-12

Laird Boswell  
Office: 5127 Humanities  
Office hours: M 1-3 pm  
lboswell@wisc.edu

Teaching Assistants: Charles Cahill  
Terry Peterson  
Lane Sunwall

**History 120: Europe and the Modern World, 1815-2010**

This course introduces students to key themes in the social, political, and cultural history of Europe from the fall of Napoleon to the twenty first century. We will ask how and why Europe came to dominate the world in the nineteenth century and why it lost that dominance in the twentieth. Why did Europe give birth both to models of democracy and social equality but also to dictatorship and terror? Why has Europe been such a laboratory for nationalism and does the emergence of the European Union signal the end of this epoch? These are some of the many questions that we will address over the course of the semester.

**Attendance and participation** in weekly discussion sections is **mandatory**. You must complete all the assigned reading **before your weekly section meeting**. We expect students to come to section prepared for an in-depth and wide ranging discussion of the issues raised by the class readings. We are not looking for “right” answers but for original thinking on your part. Students are responsible for all the materials presented in lecture. The lectures are not based on the textbook and they offer perspectives and materials that are not available in the readings.

**Objectives:** This is an introductory course that requires no previous familiarity with the historical discipline or with Europe. In this class you will:

- Learn how to distinguish primary and secondary sources
- Learn how to make concise arguments (1 sentence; 1 page)
- Learn how to make arguments about the past
- Learn how to use different kinds of sources (primary sources; novels; secondary sources) in support of your arguments and interpretations
- Gain an in-depth understanding of the main themes in the political, cultural and social history of Europe from the fall of Napoleon to the twenty first century.

**Requirements:** There will be one in class midterm (October 21), one two-hour final examination, and a map quiz that will be given in section. In addition all students are

required to write **three** fifty word sentences in answer to a question, **three** one page response papers on documents, one map quiz, and **two** 6 page papers on assigned topics. Papers will be based on the readings and the lectures and require no outside research (papers based on outside research will not be accepted).

**Grading** will be based on the examinations, the papers, as well as your participation in the discussion sections. The exams count for 30% of the grade (midterm = 10%; final = 20%), the papers 40%, and discussion 30%. The discussion grade will be attributed by your TA and will be based on attendance, participation in discussion, the three one-page papers, the three fifty word sentences, and the map quiz. Students who miss more than one discussion section without a valid excuse will lose points on their section grades. Those who attend only a few section meetings during the semester place will fail this component of the class and place themselves at a high risk of failing the class altogether. So be forewarned!

**We expect you to hand in your own work** and not to borrow sentences or sentence fragments from books, articles, or the web. In other words, all your sentences should be of your own making (if you use more than three successive words from a book, you should put them in quotation marks). Students are urged to familiarize themselves with the rules and guidelines concerning plagiarism -- any cases of plagiarism or cheating will be dealt with severely. Downloading material from the web and claiming it as your own is a form of plagiarism. To learn more about quoting and paraphrasing check the Writing Center's excellent tips at <http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/QuotingSources.html> Further information on the University's policies on plagiarism can be found at <http://students.wisc.edu/saja/misconduct/misconduct.html> . If you are unclear about what you should or should not be doing, please don't hesitate to ask.

**Electronic devices.** Please turn your cell phones and pagers off during lectures. You may use a laptop to take notes, but we ask that you turn the wireless off and that you refrain from surfing the web, facebooking, and emailing your friends during class. The TAs will be sitting in various parts of the lecture hall and will be keeping an eye on your screens. If you absolutely have to text or email please stay home or go to the nearest coffee house.

**Office Hours:** I will hold office hours on Mondays between 1 and 3. You can also speak with me after class or send me an email to set up an alternative meeting time. If you misplace this syllabus, please download a new copy at <http://history.wisc.edu/Courses.htm> or on the class Learn@UW website.

The following books are **required** and can be purchased at the bookstore of your choice. They have also been placed on 3-hour reserve at Helen C. White Library (except for The Making of the West textbook).

Karl Marx, The Communist Manifesto (Penguin Books)

Erich Maria Remarque, All Quiet on the Western Front (Ballantine books)

Joseph Conrad, Heart of Darkness (Signet Classics)  
 Giuseppe di Lampedusa, The Leopard (Pantheon Books)  
 Arthur Koestler, Darkness at Noon (Scribner's)  
 Christopher Browning, Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland (Harper Perennial)  
 Slavenka Drakulić, How we Survived Communism and Even Laughed (Harper Collins)  
 Lynn Hunt, Thomas Martin, Barbara Rosenwein, R. Po-Chia Hsia, Bonnie Smith, The Making of the West: Peoples and Cultures. Third Edition Vol C: Since 1740 (Bedford/St. Martin's, 2009) (**Text**)  
 Sources of The Making of the West: Peoples and Cultures. Vol II: Since 1500 (Third Edition, 2009)

Unless otherwise noted readings can be found in Sources of the Making of the West.

**Week 1** (September 2) Introduction

Organizational Meeting and Introductory Remarks

**Week 2** (September 5, 7, 9) Diplomacy and Order, 1815-1840

History and Geography

The Legacy of the French Revolution and Napoleon

Europe in 1815: Diplomacy and the Balance of Power

Text: Chapters 19, 20

Section: Abbé Siéyès, "What is the Third Estate?" (107-11); French National Assembly, "The Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen" (113-15); Maximilien Robespierre, "Report on the Principles of Political Moralism" (115-119); Olympe de Gouges, "Letters on the Trial" (119-122); Abd al-Rahman al-Jabartî, "Napoleon in Egypt" (126-29).

**Week 3** (September 12, 14, 16) Industrial, Social and Political Revolution

Restoration and Reaction

The Industrial Revolution (I)

The Industrial Revolution (II)

Text: Chapter 21

Section: Metternich, "Results of the Congress at Laybach" (129-132); Peter Kakhovsky, "The Decembrist Insurrection in Russia," (132-135); "Factory Rules in Berlin" (143-46);

**50 word sentence due in section**

**Week 4** (September 19, 21, 23) Social History and Ideologies

The Revolutions of 1848  
Socialism  
The Working Class

Section: Marx, The Communist Manifesto (Read the entire Manifesto of the Communist Party); “Draft of a Communist Confession of Faith” (150-55).

**\*\*\* 1 page paper on documents due in section \*\*\***

**Week 5** (September 26, 28, 30) Politics and the Nation State

The Birth of Modern Italy  
Unification of Germany  
Peasant Society

Text: Chapter 22  
Section: Giuseppe di Lampedusa, The Leopard

**Week 6** (October 3, 5, 7) Private Life

Liberalism and Conservatism  
Private Life: Consumption and Culture  
Private Life: Religion

Section: Rudolf von Ihering, “Two Letters” (165-67); Camillo di Cavour “Letter to King Victor Emmanuel,” (163-65) Otto von Bismarck, “Reflections and Reminiscences” (e-reserves); J. S. Mill, “On Liberty” (e-reserves);

**Week 7** (October 10, 12, 14) Imperialism and Modernism

**\*\*\* 6 page paper due October 10 in class \*\*\***

Women and Society, 1815-1914  
Imperialism and the Colonial Empires  
Dictatorships and Autocracies

**In class map quiz, October 14 (15 minutes): Study maps in textbook pp. 628, 637, 657, 698, 700.**

Text: Chapter 23  
Section: Margaret Bonfield, “A Life’s Work” (185-87); Emmeline Pankhurst,

“Speech from the Dock” (203-06); Sarah Stickney Ellis, “Characteristics of the Women of England” (146-49)

**Week 8** (October 17, 19, 21). The Great War

Modernism

Review

**Midterm**

Text: Chapter 24

Joseph Conrad, Heart of Darkness; Chinua Achebe, “An Image of Africa,” Research in African Literatures 9 (1978), 1-15 (Learn@UW).

**Week 9** (October 24, 26, 28) Revolutions of Left and Right

The Origins of World War I

The Great War

The Russian Revolution. A Modern Revolution?

Text: Chapter 25.

Section: Erich Maria Remarque, All Quiet on the Western Front

**\*\*\* 1 page paper on documents due in section \*\*\***

**Week 10.** (October 31; November 2, 4). Fascism and Communism

Italian Fascism

Hitler and National Socialism

Stalinism

Text: Chapter 26

Benito Mussolini, “The Doctrine of Fascism” (218-223); Adolph Hitler, “Mein Kampf,” (223-225); Joseph Goebbels, “Nazi Propaganda Pamphlet” (227-30)

**50 word sentence due in section**

**Week 11.** November 7, 9, 11. Democracy in Crisis

The Crisis of European Democracy

The Spanish Civil War

Appeasement and the Coming of World War II

Arthur Koestler, Darkness at Noon

**Week 12** (November 14, 16, 18) The Second World War

World War II  
The Holocaust: the Destruction of European Jewry  
Europe Divided: The Cold War

Christopher Browning, Ordinary Men, 1-113

**\*\*\* 1 page paper on documents due in section \*\*\***

**Week 13** (November 21) From the Holocaust to the Cold War

(NOTE: sections do not meet this week; there is no class on Wed. Nov 23)

Decolonization  
6 page paper is due in your TA's box November 23 at noon  
**Thanksgiving**

**\*\*\*6 page paper due November 23 \*\*\***

Text: Chapter 27

**Week 14** (November 28, 30; December 2). The New Western Europe.

The European Economic Community  
The Welfare State and its Critics  
German Reunification

Text: Chapter 28.

Browning, Ordinary Men, 115-223

**50 word sentence due in section**

**Week 15** (December 5, 7, 9) The Collapse of Communism

The End of the "Popular Democracies"  
The Collapse of the Soviet Empire  
A Continent of Immigrants? Immigration and European Identity

Text: Chapter 29

Section: Slavenka Drakulić, How we Survived Communism and Even Laughed  
(Harper Collins), pp. 1-112

**Week 16** (December 12, 14) The Rebirth of Nationalism and the Future of Europe

From the Rebirth of Nationalism to the Crisis of the European Union  
What Future for Europe?

Section: Slavenka Drakulić, How we Survived Communism and Even Laughed,  
pp. 113-197

**Final Exam: Monday December 19, 10:05 AM**