

HISTORY 120: MODERN EUROPE, 1815-1992

TR 9:30-10:45, 2650 Humanities.

Instructor, Prof. D. McDonald

3211 Humanities, Ph. 263-1807

Office Hours: W 1:30-3, F 1:30-4:30, or by appt.

SYLLABUS

Textbook:

Requirements:

This course introduces students to the main themes of European history, from the Congress of Vienna in 1815 until the end of the Cold War in 1991. Lectures and readings will acquaint students with developments in political, social, diplomatic, and intellectual-cultural history over this period. The course consists of three components: lectures; weekly discussion sections led by teaching assistants; and a set of written assignments. This syllabus outlines expectations for each element of the course, including reading assignments and due-dates for written assignments.

1. Lectures provide the chief overview of the themes, events, and developments shaping European history during the two centuries spanning two watersheds in European relations: the creation of a new continental order following the era of the French Revolution and Napoleonic wars, on one end, and the emergence of another “new” order in the wake of the Soviet Union’s gradual collapse in the late 1980’s and early 1990’s. Lectures offer a brief introduction to highly complex and dynamic historical questions, including drawing students’ attention to controversies among historians over the meaning or nature of specific events or changes. Lecture attendance is not mandatory—i. e. we do not take roll-call, but lectures should reinforce and integrate the assigned readings from the textbook. To get the most from lectures, students should complete the assigned textbook reading *before* the week’s classes.

2. Much of the course’s work takes place in your weekly discussion section. There, you meet with other section-members under the supervision of a teaching assistant. Your teaching assistants all specialize in the history of modern Europe, a necessary qualification for their employment. They also evaluate your performance in the course—including your participation in section and your written assignments. In section-meetings, you gather to discuss the weekly readings you find assigned below. These readings are often “primary sources”—reports, reflections, or other documents produced at the time of the events we examine. Like all such sources, they offer fragmentary perspectives on historical problems. As such, they are open to interpretation. You will discuss the importance and the utility of these sources, both in regard to the lecture materials, but also as a way to trace the development of certain themes across the two centuries covered in this class.

Discussion sections aim to elicit *discussion*. You should come prepared to answer questions, but also to offer your interpretation of the information contained in your readings. We seek to encourage discussion, which can only take place if each of you makes a contribution. Your ability to contribute depends almost entirely on your preparation.

Given the importance of this component in the course, it accounts for 20% of your final grade. For the same reason, we regard attendance and participation as *mandatory*.

3. Written assignments comprise the final component of this course. Since historians practice their profession through presenting written arguments, most often in narrative form, we place a great deal of emphasis on training you to present your thoughts and arguments clearly, using evidence responsibly. You will have two sorts of assignment, set-piece examinations and longer papers. The examinations consist of a mid-term, given during the class period on **Thursday, March 12**, and a two-hour final examination on **May 13**. Each will combine an essay question—or questions on the final—with brief identifications drawn from the lectures and assigned readings.

We also require you to write two term-papers. The first involves a three-page essay response to a question chosen from a list we will distribute in early February; it falls due on **Thursday, February 26**. This exercise should introduce you to historical writing and help you understand the instructors' expectations for organization, the use of notation, and the construction of argument based on clear evidence. Your second term-paper will be longer—approximately seven pages [1,750 words]. You will write on a topic of your own choosing, for which you must obtain your TA's approval. For this paper, you will also conduct research, consulting articles and books written about your topic, as the basis for a clear, well-documented argument. You will submit this paper in class on **Thursday, April 23**.

Historians take seriously the proper use of evidence and, especially, the proper attribution of evidence *and arguments* that they have found in the course of their research. They regard their own arguments and interpretations as their personal property, the product of their own work. Accordingly, they take plagiarism or inattentive attribution of sources *very* seriously. To help you understand how and when to acknowledge your sources, we will distribute a guide to the proper use of notation. You should also know that the university's disciplinary regulations deal harshly with academic misconduct. You can find these policies at this web-site: <http://www.wisc.edu/students/saja/misconduct/UWS14.html> If you have *any* questions about such issues, feel free to ask any of the course instructors for guidance or clarification.

IMPORTANT DATES AND GRADE BREAKDOWN:

Discussion Section—weekly—**20%** of final grade

First paper [due Feb. 26]—**15%**

Mid-term examination [March 12]—**20%**

Second paper [due April 23]—**25%**

Final examination [May 13]—**20%**

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

Below, you will find a schedule presenting the titles for each lecture, important dates, and the assigned readings for each week's classes and sections. Please note that the readings for lectures come from the textbook you purchased for the course. In the interests of your economic health, we have placed the section-readings on the course's Learn@UW page in the form of Word documents or pdf files. Section readings will lag approximately one week behind the treatment of their topic in class.

WEEK 1: (Jan. 20, 22): 1815-1830.

READING FOR LECTURE:

1. Introduction--Europe and Its History(ies) 1815 to the present. States, Societies, Economies.
2. Constructing a new order, the Congress of Vienna.

SECTION—INTRODUCTORY MEETING

WEEK 2: (Jan. 27, 29): Order and Change in post-Vienna Europe, 1815-1830.

READING FOR LECTURE:

3. The Forces of Order, 1815-1830—Conservatism and the Holy Alliance.
4. The Power of Change: The Industrial Revolution.

READING FOR SECTION: Holy Alliance Treaty, Carlsbad Resolutions, and Metternich's "Confession"

WEEK 3: (Feb. 3, 5): Challenging the Vienna Order, 1830-1848.

READING FOR LECTURE:

5. Nationalism, Socialism, and Romanticism.
6. Domestic Ferment and the Coming of Revolution, 1830-1848.

READING FOR SECTION: Andrew Ure; Friedrich Engels; Women Miners; William Blake, "Jerusalem;" Wordsworth.

WEEK 4: (Feb. 10, 12): The Vienna Order Overthrown: Europe, 1848-1856.

READING FOR LECTURE:

7. Revolution and Its Domestication, Europe, 1848-1860.

8. Diplomatic revolution, Europe, the "Eastern Question" and the Collapse of the Vienna System, 1828-1856.

READING FOR SECTION: Fichte; Mazzini; Chartism; Fourier; Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels.

WEEK 5: (Feb. 17, 19): New States, Changing Societies 1848-1871.

READING FOR LECTURE:

9. The new Nation-States: Italy and Germany.

10. Reform and order in Europe, 1848-1871.

SECTION: The Industrial Revolution, conclusion: the Cry for Social Justice. Voices, Chartism, Cabet, Marx and Engels.

Week 6 (Feb. 23, 25): Confronting the New--European Thought, Social, and Sexual Politics, 1848-1890.

11. Liberalism and the "Darwinian Turn". *READING:* Chambers, pp. 943-954, 1017-1024.

12. The Rejection of Liberalism--Socialism, Anarchism, Ultramontanism, and Nihilism. *READING:* Chambers, pp. 1024-1035.

SECTION: Scientific Thought: Weber, readings from Comte, Wallace, Huxley, Stephen.

Week 7 (Mar. 2, 4): Diplomatic Imperialism, 1871-1907.

13. Nationalism, Imperialism, and Diplomatic Alignments, 1871-1907. *READING:* Chambers, pp. 1060-1071.

14. MID-TERM.

SECTION: Liberalism and Gender, J. S. Mill, The Subjection of Women.

Week 8: SPRING BREAK--RANDOM LEISURE PURSUITS.

Week 9 (Mar. 16, 18): The Breakdown of the Liberal Experiment, 1871-1914.

15. The Emergence of Mass Society. *READING:* Chambers, pp.

1005-1024.

16. La Belle Epoque? Social and Political Conflict, 1890-1914.

SECTION: The Rejection of Liberalism. Weber, excerpts from Nietzsche, Chamberlain.

Week 10 (Mar. 23, 25): The End of the Old Order and the "War to End All Wars." 1907-1918.

17. The Coming of the War, 1900-1914. READING: Chambers, pp. 1071-1081.

18. Total War and European Societies. READING: 1082-1097.

SECTION: The Language of Imperialism. Weber, "German Attitudes," "Anglo-Saxon Attitudes," Kipling, Vambery.

Week 11 (Mar. 30, Apr. 1): "From Out of the Deep": Collapse and Restoration, 1917-1925.

19. The Russian Revolutions and the Collapse of Central Europe. READING: Chambers, pp. 1097-1106, 1121-1126.

20. Another "new order", Making and Keeping the Peace from Versailles to Locarno, 1918-1925. READING: Chambers, pp. 1106-1117.

SECTION: Read Weber, sections entitled "War and Revolution," and "Russia."

Week 12 (Apr. 6, 8): The Aftermath, 1918-1933.

21. Memories of War and Politics in Europe, 1918-1933.

READING: Chambers, pp. 1126-1140.

22. Memories of War and European Culture. READING: 1140-1152.

SECTION: Freud, Civilization and Its Discontents.

Week 13 (Apr. 13, 15): "The Twenty Years' Crisis."

23. The Great Depression and Europe. READING: Chambers, pp. 1152-1158.

24. Stalinism, Nazism, and Fascism. READING: Chambers, pp. 1161-1191.

SECTION: Weber readings on Fascism, Nazism.

Week 14 (Apr. 20, 22): The Origins and Conduct of World War II, 1933-1945.

[Second paper due, April 22]

25. "This Dull Dishonest Decade"--Appeasement, Aggression, and the Coming of World War II, 1933-1939. READING: Chambers, 1191-1205; Weber on Appeasement.
27. War and Holocaust, 1939-1945. READING: Chambers, pp. 1205-1234; Weber, pp. 884-909.

SECTION: Woolf, Three Guineas.

Week 15 (Apr. 27, 29): Old and New Empires, 1945-?

28. Peace and Cold War. READING: Chambers, pp. 1234-1249.
29. Europe Divided at Home and Abroad, 1956-1968 . READING: Chambers, 1249-1264.

SECTION: Responsibility and Evil, A. Camus, The Fall.

Week 16 (May 4, 6): The Home Stretch.

31. Europa redux, 1968-1992.
32. The Collapse of the Pax Sovietica and Europe's Future.
SECTION: Review.