

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
Department of History  
Spring Semester, 1991

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
514	European Cultural History 1870-1950	Fishman

OFFICE HOURS

11-Noon on Tuesdays in 201 Education  
1:30-2:30 on Thursdays in 4126 Humanities

BOOKS

All students should purchase the following paperbacks:

Bertold Brecht, "St. Joan of the Stockyards"  
Richard Crossman, ed., The God That Failed  
Andre Gide, The Immoralist  
Walter Kaufmann, ed., Existentialism from Dostoevsky to Sartre  
Erich Maria Remarque, All Quiet on the Western Front  
Roland Stromberg, Makers of Modern Culture  
Frank Wedekind, "Spring Awakening"  
H. G. Wells, The Time Machine  
Virginia Woolf, A Room of One's Own  
Stefan Zweig, The World of Yesterday

SYLLABUS

The purpose of this course is to familiarize you with various dimensions of European culture in the late 19th and first half of the 20th centuries. The term "culture" will be used in two ways: first, as a means of describing the "texture of life" of various social groups (e.g., the middle class, youth, women, the working class, etc.) and; second, as a means of examining the most enduring intellectual and artistic achievements of Europeans during this period.

The course will meet on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:55 to 10:45 in 1131 Humanities. In general, the Monday and Wednesday classes will be devoted to lectures while Fridays will be reserved for discussions of the assigned readings. The readings have been selected to illustrate the major themes of the course (and also because they are good reading). Please complete all readings prior to the discussions dates listed below.

There will be one hour examinations on Wednesday, March 2, and Friday, April 8, and a comprehensive final examination at 2:45 pm on May 13.

Two additional notes, hopefully unnecessary. First, please arrive in class promptly -- we begin at 9:55. Second, please take any newspapers, cans or other trash with you when you leave. This is helpful to students using the class later in the day and the janitorial staff at day's end. Thanks. And now for the course topics and reading assignments.

COURSE TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

- January 22-31 BOURGEOIS CULTURE AT ITS ZENITH: DOMINANCE AND DECAY  
Reading: Stefan Zweig, The World of Yesterday,  
Preface and pp. 1-91.
- February 3-7 THE DISCOVERY OF ADOLESCENCE AND THE GROWTH OF AN  
ADOLESCENT SUB-CULTURE  
Frank Wedekind, "Spring Awakening"
- February 10-14 SEXISM AND EUROPEAN CULTURE  
Virginia Woolf, A Room of One's Own.
- February 17-21 FREUD AND NIETZSCHE AND THEIR CHALLENGE TO MIDDLE  
CLASS VALUES  
"Freud" in Roland Stromberg, Makers of Modern  
Culture and selections from Nietzsche in Walter  
Kaufmann, ed., Existentialism from Dostoevsky to  
Sartre, pp. 100-112.
- February 24-28 FIN DE SIECLE AND DECADENCE  
Andre Gide, The Immoralist.
- March 2 HOUR EXAMINATION
- March 4-20 THE GROWTH OF POPULAR AND WORKING CLASS CULTURES  
H. G. Wells, The Time Machine.
- March 23-27 THE AVANT-GARDE IN ART AND LIFE  
"Wittgenstein" and "Joyce" in Stromberg's Makers  
of Modern Culture
- March 30-  
April 3 THE GREAT WAR AND EUROPEAN CULTURE  
Erich Maria Remarque, All Quiet on the Western  
Front.

April 6-15      THE DILEMMA OF THE INTELLECTUALS IN THE 1920s AND 1930s  
  
Bertold Brecht, "St. Joan of the Stockyards" and "Einstein" in Makers of Modern Culture.

April 17      HOUR EXAMINATION

April 20-29    TOTALITARIANISM AND CULTURE  
  
Selections from Ignazio Silone and Arthur Koestler in Richard Crossman, ed., The God That Failed.

May 1-8      THE EXISTENTIAL DILEMMA  
  
"Sartre" and "Conclusion" in Makers of Modern Culture. Also Jean-Paul Sartre, "The Wall" and Albert Camus, "The Myth of Sisyphus," in Kaufmann, Existentialism.

May 13,  
2:45 pm      FINAL COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION