

History 514: European Culture, 1870 to Present
Spring 2007
MWF 2:25-3:15, 1641 Humanities

Instructor: R.J. Koshar
Office hrs.: 4101 Humanities
M 3:30-4:30; W 1:15-2:15

An audacious historian once said that Europe's twentieth century began with the Death of God and ended with the Death of Man. This course considers possible responses to that statement by discussing main trends in literature, religious thought, philosophy, political theory, and psychoanalysis in late modern Europe. In doing so, it also aims to develop students' writing and critical skills.

Required Reading

(All books available at Underground Textbook, or on reserve at Helen C. White)
Roland Stromberg, *European Intellectual History Since 1789*, 6th ed. (Prentice Hall)
Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Notes from Underground* (Vintage Classics)
Gustave Flaubert, *Three Tales* (Penguin)
G.K. Chesterton, *Orthodoxy* (Image Books/Doubleday)
Hermann Hesse, *Demian* (HarperCollins)
Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents* (Norton)
Jose Ortega y Gasset, *Revolt of the Masses* (Norton)
George Bernanos, *The Diary of a Country Priest* (Carroll & Graf)
Karl Jaspers, *The Question of German Guilt* (Fordham University Press)
Albert Camus, *The Myth of Sisyphus and Other Essays* (Vintage)

Assignments*

Discussion /Attendance/ Sentences	=20% of total grade
Two six-page papers#	=40%
Take-home Midterm (max. 8 pages)	=20%
Cumulative Final	=20%

*Assignments lose one gradation for every day late.

Students may revise the first paper, with instructor's approval; re-writes are due one week after paper is returned in class.

Course Schedule

1/22-1/26	Introduction: The Confusions of Modernity Reading: Stromberg, 132-187
1/29-2/2	Discontent with the Modern: Dostoevskii, Burckhardt, Nietzsche, Weber Reading: Dostoevskii
2/5-2/9	Realism and Anti-Realism in Literature Reading: Flaubert
2/12-2/16	Political Theologies at the Turn of the Century Reading: Chesterton
2/19-2/23	Storm of Steel: World War I Reading: Stromberg, 188-221

- 2/23 **Paper Due**
- 2/26-3/2 The Aftermath of War in Literature, Film, Art
Reading: Hesse
- 3/5-3/9 Karl Barth, "Crisis Theologies," and Liberal Culture
Reading: Stromberg, 222-48
- 3/9 **Take-home Midterm Due**
- 3/12-3/16 Friends/Enemies, Eros/Thanatos: Carl Schmitt & Sigmund Freud
Reading: Freud
- 3/19-3/22 Democracy, Fascism, Communism
Reading: Ortega y Gasset
- 3/26-3/30 Hope in a Desperate Culture: Bernanos, Bonhoeffer, C.S. Lewis
Reading: Bernanos
- 3/31-4/8 **Spring Recess**
- 4/9-4/13 WWII, the Holocaust, and Resistance
Reading: Stromberg, 249-75
- 4/13 **Paper Due**
- 4/16-4/20 Memory and Guilt
Reading: Jaspers
- 4/23-4/27 Existentialisms
Reading: Camus
- 4/30-5/4 Tears of Rage: Toward the Postmodern?
Reading: Stromberg, 276-340
- 5/7-5/11 "Concluding Unscientific Postscript"
- 5/15 **Final Exam, 12:25-2:25**