

History 866

Seminar in the Social History of Modern Europe: Technologies and Cultures

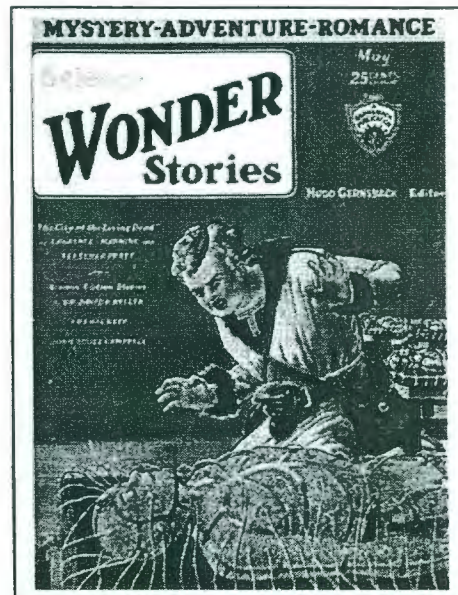
Semester I, 2003-04

Instructor: Rudy Koshar

The **rationale** for this seminar is to study how technologies were experienced, used, and represented in thought and practice in several important instances in late modern European history. Not the internal history of specific technologies but the sociocultural effects, mediations, and determinants of technological change constitute the core of the present inquiry. Although there is a thriving cultural-historical scholarship on technology, as reflected in the important journal *Technology and Culture*, the history of technology still too often remains marginal to the concerns of “mainstream” social and political history. Why? Part of our purpose is to discuss possible answers and/or solutions.

Assignments include required readings, class discussion, class presentations, and a final research paper. All students are expected to complete all required readings and are advised to acquaint themselves with as much of the supplementary reading as possible. Each week two or three students will make a brief presentation of the key concepts and questions of the required reading and pre-circulate by e-mail several discussion questions. In the last weeks of the semester, each student will make a short oral presentation based on a research topic chosen in consultation with the instructor. A research paper of 20-25 pages is due on the last class day (December 10). The paper will be worth about 50 percent of the total grade.

Required and supplementary reading are listed below. In addition to the books by Smith & Marx, Rabinbach, Schivelbusch, Headrick, Herf, and Fritzsche, there will be a required course packet with 9 selections, marked below with an *. There is also a single required selection (the Adas excerpt, on 9/17) that students can access through the Electronic Library on Madcat. All required books are available for purchase at the Underground Textbook Exchange; the course packet is available for purchase at the Humanities Copy Center. The required books and packet will also be available at College Library reserves. Some supplementary reading selections are on reserve (marked with #) or identified as electronic resources.



#Martin J. Wiener, *English Culture and the Decline of the Industrial Spirit* (Cambridge, 1981)

9/24 Nature, Technology, Society

Required:

Anson Rabinbach, *The Human Motor: Energy, Fatigue, and the Origins of Modernity* (California, 1992)

Supplementary:

#Michel Foucault, *The Birth of the Clinic* (London, 1976)

Laura Levine Frader, "From Muscles to Nerves: Gender, Race and the Body at Work in France, 1919-1939," *International Review of Social History* 44, Supplement 7 (1999): 123-47.

Eric J. Leed, *No Man's Land: Combat & Identity in World War I* (Cambridge, 1979), 150-62

Mark Seltzer, *Bodies and Machines* (New York, 1992)

10/1 Industrialization of Space and Time

Required:

Wolfg. Schivelbusch, *The Railway Journey: The Industrialization of Space and Time in the 19th Century* (California, 1986)

Supplementary:

#Marshall Berman, *All That is Solid Melts into Air: The Experience of Modernity* (Penguin, 1982)

#Stephen Kern, *The Culture of Time and Space, 1880-1918* (Harvard, 1983)

#Eric J. Leed, *The Mind of the Traveler from Gilgamesh to Global Tourism* (Basic, 1991), 53-82.

Dolf Sternberger, *Panorama of the Nineteenth Century* (New York, 1977)

10/8 Imperialism and Technology

Required:

Daniel Headrick, *The Tools of Empire: Technology and European Imperialism in the Nineteenth Century* (Oxford, 1981)

Supplementary:

#Daniel Headrick, *The Tentacles of Progress: Technology Transfer in the Age of Imperialism, 1850-1940* (Oxford, 1988)

Patricia M.E. Lorcin, "Imperialism, Race, and Colonial Identity in Algeria, 1830-1870: The French Medical Corps," *Isis* 90, 4 (1999): 653-79. J-STOR.

John Mackenzie, ed., *Imperialism and the Natural World* (Manchester, 1990)

10/15 Reactionary Modernism

Required:

Jeffrey Herf, *Reactionary Modernism: Technology, Culture, and Politics in Weimar and the Third Reich* (Cambridge, 1984)

#Peter S. Fisher, *Fantasy and Politics: Visions of the Future in the Weimar Republic* (Wisconsin, 1991), 104-156.

Mary Nolan *Visions of Modernity: American Business and the Modernization of Germany* (Oxford, 1994), 30-57. ACLS History E-Book.

11/5 Technology under Communism

Required:

*Raymond Stokes, *Constructing Socialism: Technology and Change in East Germany 1945-1990* (2000), 57-79

*Raymond Stokes, "In Search of the Socialist Artifact: Technology and Ideology in East Germany, 1945-1962," *German History* 15, 2 (1997): 221-39.

Supplementary:

#Charles Maier, *Dissolution: The Crisis of Communism and the End of East Germany* (Princeton, 1997)

Corey Ross, *The East German Dictatorship: Problems and Perspectives in the Interpretation of the GDR* (Arnold, 2002), 69-96.

Jonathan R. Zatlin, "The Vehicle of Desire: The Trabant, the Wartburg, and the End of the GDR," *German History* 15, 3 (1997): 358-80.

11/12 No class: reading/research week

11/19, 11/26, 12/3, 12/10 Student presentations