Development of Europe II: 1700 to Present
“Modern History Through Art and Music”

Course Description

The task of this course is to introduce students to the history of modern Europe. This is a daunting task to accomplish in only 6 weeks and, as such, some topics will have to be left by the wayside. Nonetheless, in this course I will introduce the overarching themes that have shaped the modern history of Europe and, through ideas, industry, colonialism, and conflicts, the rest of the world as well.

Some themes we will focus on and analyze include: the rise of the bureaucratic State, the growth of secular culture, changing gender roles and the struggle for gender equality, the globalization of economics and culture, democratization, the dynamics of colonialism and decolonization, and the push towards European unification. In short, this class seeks to tackle the meaning of modernity, its triumphs, vicissitudes, and blind-spots, and its spread from the European core to all ends of the Earth.

As a cultural and intellectual historian, in my own work I am interested in visual art, music, and film. The class will thus not solely concern itself with economics and politics, though these will, of course, be important. Together, as a class, we will explore some of the great cultural artifacts of European modernity, and attempt to ask how these works help to illuminate the forces at large in European history.

Course Structure

Due to the verities of the summer schedule, we meet four days a week – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday – from 10:00 AM to 11:50 AM. This structure lends itself well to a mix of lecture, film, slides, and class discussion. Most of the readings will be short primary texts that I will distribute by CD-ROM at the beginning of the course. Also on these CD-ROMs will be mp3s of music and images of art that will be pertinent to each lecture. You should have listened to, and viewed, these resources prior to the class period for which they are listed. Additionally, there are several longer works that are available at the bookstore.

Grading and Assignments

The following work will comprise your grade for this course. No makeup work will be accepted. If you have to be absent for any of the assignments, you must notify me in advance. Questions regarding grades will not be answered via e-mail; students must make an appointment with the instructor to discuss such topics.
- 4 Weekly Papers – 25%
- Midterm – 25%
- Final – 40%
- Attendance/Participation – 10%

Books – These books are available at the bookstore. It is likely that the Marx and Césaire are available online, if you do not wish to buy them. If you follow the online route, **you must print out these texts and bring them to class.**

- Karl Marx – *The Communist Manifesto*
- Virginia Woolf – *A Room of One’s Own*
- Aimé Césaire – *Discourse on Colonialism*
- Eric Hobsbawm – *Interesting Times: A 20th Century Life*

Finally, I reserve the right to change the syllabus as I see fit.

SYLLABUS

WEEK ONE

7 July --- Course Introduction; Daily Life in 1700

- **Music:** Traditional folk songs, church music.
- **Images:** 16th and 17th century paintings and images of daily life.

8 July --- Absolutism

- **Readings:** Hobbes – Excerpt from *Leviathan*.
- **Music:** Jean-Baptiste Lully; Friedrich Handel – *The Water Music*
- **Images:** Pictures of Versailles; Restoration/Baroque paintings.

9 July --- The Enlightenment

- **Readings:** Immanuel Kant – *What is Enlightenment*; Jean-Jacques Rousseau – Excerpt from *Discourse on Inequality*.
- **Music:** Mozart – *Marriage of Figaro*.
- **Images:** Images from Diderot and d’Alembert’s *Encyclopedia*.

10 July --- The Democratic Revolutions

- **Readings:** *Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen*; Olympe de Gouges; Toussaint l’Ouverture
- **Music:** *La Marseillaise*; *Star-Spangled Banner*.
- **Images:** David paintings/pageant plans; cartoons.
WEEK TWO

14 July --- Reaction and Romanticism

- **Readings:** Burke – Excerpt from *The Revolution in France*; Wordsworth – *Poem on French Revolution*; Blake – *New Jerusalem*.
- **Music:** Beethoven *Eroica*.
- **Images:** Goya – *the Black Paintings and Disasters of War*; Friedrich – *Wanderer Among the Clouds*; JMW Turner – *The Slave Ship* and *Rain, Steam and Speed*

15 July --- Nationalism and the Rise of Democracy

- **Readings:** Herder – *On Nationalism*; Renan – *What is a Nation*.
- **Music:** Wagner - *Siegfried*; Chopin – *Polish Dances*; Verdi - *Nabucco*
- **Images:**

16 July --- Second Industrial Revolution and Consumerism

- **Readings:** Karl Marx – *The Communist Manifesto*.
- **Music:** Offenbach - TBA
- **Images:** Crystal Palace, Passages, Wax Museums, Department Stores; Manet

17 July --- MOVIE: *Germinal*

WEEK THREE

21 July --- The New Imperialism

- **Readings:** Joseph Conrad – *Congo Diary*; Rudyard Kipling – *White Man’s Burden*.
- **Music:** Verdi - *Aida*
- **Images:** French Orientalist Art.

22 July --- La Belle Epoque

- **Readings:** T.H. Huxley; Charles Baudelaire – Excerpts from *Paris Spleen*.
- **Music:**
- **Images:** Seurat, Toulouse-Latrec, Signac.

23 July --- Intellectual and Cultural Pessimism

- **Readings:** Sigmund Freud – excerpts from *Totem & Taboo*
- **Music:** Debussy – *La Mer*.
- **Images**: Redon – *L’OEil*; Böcklin – *L’Ile de morts*; Munch – *Vampire*; Klimt – *Judith*; *Water Serpents*; Schiele – *Self-portraits*

24 July --- MOVIE: *A Passage to India*.

**WEEK FOUR**

28 July --- MIDTERM

29 July --- The First World War, Peace, Trauma

- **Readings**: Virginia Woolf – *A Room of One’s Own*
- **Music**: Schoenberg
- **Images**: Dada and Surrealist painting

30 July --- The Interwar Years

- **Music**: Brecht/Weill – *Threepenny Opera*; Glenn Miller; Count Basie
- **Images**: Soviet and German propaganda posters

31 July --- MOVIE: *Night and Fog*  

**WEEK FIVE**

4 August --- Second World War, Holocaust, and the UN

- **Music**: Messiaen – *Quartet for the End of Time*.
- **Images**:

5 August --- Decolonization

- **Readings**: Aimé Césaire – *Discourse on Colonialism*.
- **MUSIC**: Don Cherry, Archie Shepp, Sunny Murray
- **Images**: Che Image,

6 August --- Postwar Boom, Youth, Feminism, 1968

- **Readings**: On the Poverty of Student Life; Sarraute – essay from *Express*
- **Music**: 1950’s/1960’s rock and pop
- **Images**: Pop Art

7 August --- MOVIE: *Goodbye Lenin*
WEEK SIX

11 August --- 1989 and the Promise of a New Europe

- **Readings:** Foucault – *What is Enlightenment*
- **Music:** Beethoven – 9th Symphony.
- **Images:** Chris Ofili, Nikki de Saint-Phale,

12 August --- Wither Europe

- **Readings:** No reading – **Study! Bring in questions!**
- **Music:** MIA – *Arular*; MC Solaar; the Clash; the Slits

13 August --- FINAL EXAM