Introduction

Welcome to the History of Modern Europe! During this course we will be examining European history from the French Revolution (1789) to the present. We will spend much of our time discussing events and ideas which emanated from England, France, Germany, and Spain, but we will also spend some time talking about eastern Europe. We will use primary sources (documents written in the period under discussion) to examine the development of social, political, and cultural elements in modern western society. As you examine these documents, you should always ask yourself, “What makes this a ‘modern’ idea or event, and what relevance does it have (or not) to my life?”

In order to make good oral and written evaluations of the sources we will read, you must always consider the biases, both positive and negative, of the author of the source and the nature of the source itself. All historical sources are not created equal; you’ll need to make informed judgments about each of them. Since this is a history course, the topics of our discussions will be roughly chronological (beginning with the events and ideas of the French Revolution and concluding as close to the present day as possible), but we will be more concerned with analytical methods than with strict chronology. In other words, you will spend more time in this class reading and analyzing primary source materials than you will spend memorizing names and dates.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course you will be able to

- construct an analytical essay using related primary source material as evidence to support an argument in answer to a specific historical question.
- explain the significance of terms (people, events, places, dates) in relation to the development of the social, political, and cultural elements of modern western society.
- evaluate historians’ analyses of historical events, paying special attention to the strength of their arguments.

Required Texts


**For Your Information**

Attendance: After you have missed four class periods for any reason, your final average for the course will be reduced by one percentage point (i.e. from 84 to 83) for each additional absence.

Honor code: Any violation of the honor code (such as plagiarism or cheating) will be dealt with according to UNCG’s academic integrity policy. I am particularly concerned about plagiarism from the web. I do not want you to use websites for any of the writing assignments unless a particular website is specifically included as part of the assignment. The primary sources and the lectures will provide you with sufficient information to complete the assignments. For specific explanations about UNCG’s academic integrity policy, see the Student Affairs website at [http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/](http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/).

**Reading Advice**

Because most of these documents will be totally unfamiliar to you, I recommend taking notes on them as you read. It is also useful to write a brief summary (2-3 sentences) of each document so that you can remember the contents of each text for class discussion. Taking notes on the longer primary sources is especially important. Finally, I recommend reading each of the shorter documents more than once. Sometimes it will take two (or even three) readings for something to make sense to you. Because the amount of reading for our course is fairly small, you’ll have plenty of time for re-reading.

**Supplemental Reading**

I will occasionally use on-line sources as supplemental materials. Many of the links will be to the Internet Modern History Sourcebook ([http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook.html](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook.html)). The links to these texts will be available on the course’s Blackboard site.

**Blackboard**

Be sure to check on Blackboard ([https://blackboard.uncg.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp](https://blackboard.uncg.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp)) for course announcements, assignments, and links to important websites.

**Adverse Weather Conditions**

If you think that the university might be closed due to weather, either call the UNCG Adverse Weather Line at (336) 334-4400 or check the university’s website ([www.uncg.edu](http://www.uncg.edu)). If the university is open, I will hold class.

**Grade Breakdown**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Midterm</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Midterm</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Article Review</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Discussion Preparation and Written Assignments

Discussion: To participate actively in the class discussions, you will need to read the materials assigned for each lecture before the day of that lecture. Your discussion grade will be based not only on the quantity but also on the quality of your comments. Remember that asking a question about something you didn’t understand in the readings is a good way of participating in the discussion.

Midterms and Final: All three of these exams will be take-home assignments. Each of them will consist of two parts: short identification essays explaining the significance of a particular term (person, event, place, date, etc.) and a longer essay based on primary source material.

Article Review: For this assignment, you will read an article from an academic journal. (I will give you a list of journal possibilities.) To analyze the article, you will identify its thesis and decide whether or not the author was able to prove it with the primary source evidence he or she used.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings:

Monday, August 20 – Introductions: What is "Modern Europe"?

Wednesday, August 22 – The Enlightenment at Home and Abroad

Friday, August 24 – Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Monday, August 27 – The Peasants: Economic Woes in Late 18\textsuperscript{th} century France

Wednesday, August 29 – The Bourgeoisie: July 14, 1789

Friday, August 31 – The Terror
    Supplemental Readings

Monday, September 3 – Labor Day – no class

Wednesday, September 5 – Napoleon
    Supplemental Readings

Friday, September 7 – Industrial Revolution I

Monday, September 10 – Industrial Revolution II: Josiah Wedgwood
    Supplemental Readings

Wednesday, September 12 – Conservatism – preservation of the status quo
Supplemental Readings

Friday, September 14 – Liberalism & Nationalism

Monday, September 17 – The Revolutions of 1848
Supplemental Readings

Wednesday, September 19 – the Romantics in Art, Music, & Poetry
Supplemental Readings

Friday, September 21 – Napoleon III

Monday, September 24 – Response to the Industrial Revolution – Marx & Engels

Wednesday, September 26 – Darwin & Evolution
Supplemental Readings

Friday, September 28 – Cultural Darwinism in Europe and Asia

Monday, October 1 – National Unification – Italy
Supplemental Readings
Primary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 625-630.

Wednesday, October 3 – National Unification – Germany
*First Midterm Due*
Supplemental Readings

Friday, October 5 – A Second Industrial Revolution

Monday, October 8 – Social Issues: The Working Classes
Supplemental Readings

Wednesday, October 10 – Social Issues: Women’s Suffrage

Friday, October 12 – Crisis in the Balkans

Monday, October 15 – Fall Break – no class

Wednesday, October 17 – the Great War
Primary Source Readings: Graves, Goodbye to All That. 9-139.

Friday, October 19 – Literary Responses to World War I
Primary Source Readings: Graves, Goodbye to All That. 139-282.

Monday, October 22 – The Russian Revolution
Supplemental Readings

Wednesday, October 24 – The Interwar Period: Depression
Supplemental Readings
Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 751-753.

Friday, October 26 – no class

Monday, October 29 – Versailles & the Rise of the Fascists
Supplemental Readings
Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 744-748 and 754-772.

Wednesday, October 31 – Kristallnacht – 1939

Friday, November 2 – World War II: the Blitz
Second Midterm Due
Supplemental Readings

Monday, November 5 – World War II: the “Final Solution”
Supplemental Readings
Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, 797-802.

Wednesday, November 7 – World War II: D-Day to VE Day

Friday, November 9 – The Cold War

Monday, November 12 – The Fifties – Population Growth and Economic Expansion
Wednesday, November 14 – The Escalation of the Cold War  
Supplemental Readings  

Friday, November 16 – The Sixties – Social Unrest & Social Change  

Monday, November 19 – Decolonization I: Asia  
Supplemental Readings  

Wednesday, November 21 – Thanksgiving Holiday – no class

Friday, November 23 – Thanksgiving Holiday – no class

Monday, November 26 – Decolonization II: Africa  
Supplemental Readings

Wednesday, November 28 – the European Union – Europe as a “World Power”  
Article Review Due  

Friday, November 30 – The 1980’s: Europe right or left?

Monday, December 3 – Muslims in England, France, and Germany  

Wednesday, December 5 – 1989 – Collapse of the Soviet Union & the Eastern Bloc  

Friday, December 7 – Growing Pains: the Reunification of Germany

Monday, December 10 – Living in a Post-Modern World

Wednesday, December 12 – Final Due in my office by 3 pm for both 9:00 and 1:00 sections