

HIS 223/IGS 233B – Modern Europe
Fall 2008 (25 August 2008 – 8 December 2008)

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Office Hours: MW 8-10 a.m.

I am only on campus on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The best way to contact me is by email. With the exception of holidays, I plan to check my email at least once everyday, usually in the early mornings. Please be patient as it may be 24 hours before I can respond to inquiries.

Course Description

"If history is educational . . . it must be an education in thinking and not merely in remembering."
~ C. V. Wedgwood

This course covers historical periods from about 1789 (the French Revolution) up to the present. Since we will be looking at over 200 years of history, we will touch on the most significant historical events and developments. We will spend much of our time discussing events and ideas that emanated from England, France, Germany, and Spain, but we will also spend some time talking about eastern Europe.

Everything we examine in this course will focus on at least one of the following questions:

- What is the story of modern European history?
- How do we construct and evaluate history?
- Why study history?

We will utilize primary sources (documents written in the period under discussion) in an attempt to answer these questions. 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 source. All historical sources are not created equally; you will need to make informed judgments about each of them.

The topics of our discussions will be roughly chronological—beginning with the events and ideas leading up to 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, students will spend more time in this class reading and analyzing primary source materials than they will memorizing dates and names.

Learning Outcomes

"Have the courage to use your own intelligence!"
~ Immanuel Kant

Students who spend appropriate time each day completing all reading assignments, who actively engage in the material, and are *thinking* about and *reflecting* on what they are reading and writing will be able to:

- A. trace the development of key themes in modern Europe and interpret their historical significance.
- B. construct an analytical essay using related primary source material as evidence to support an argument in answer to a specific historical question.

- C. explain the significance of primary sources in relation to the development of the social, political, and cultural elements of modern western society.
- D. evaluate individuals' analyses of historical events, paying special attention to the strengths and weaknesses of their arguments.

Required Texts:

Primary Sources (in chronological order)

Rousseau, Jean-Jacques. *The Social Contract*. Penguin, 2006. ISBN 9780143037491.

Marx, Karl & Friedrich Engels. *The Communist Manifesto*. Penguin, 2002. ISBN 9780140447576.

Levi, Primo. *Survival in Auschwitz*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996. ISBN 9780684826806.

Ash, Timothy Garton. *The Magic Lantern: The Revolution of '89 Witnessed in Warsaw, Budapest, Berlin, and Prague*. New York: Vintage Books, 1999. ISBN 9780679740483.

Perry, Marvin et al. *Sources of the Western Tradition, Volume II: From the Renaissance to the Present*, 7th ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2008. ISBN 9780547081946.

Secondary Source

Spielvogel, Jackson. *Western Civilization, Volume C: Since 1789*, 6th ed. Thomson Wadsworth, 2006. ISBN 9780534646073.

Rules & Procedures

Attendance

Be here every day on time. If you are habitually tardy, you will be counted absent. If unfortunate circumstances, such as illness or death in the family, prevent you from attending class, then that is an excused absence. You may miss up to 3 classes throughout the semester without penalty. After 3, your final grade will drop. Especially truant students will fail the course.

Late Work

No late work will be accepted, and there are no appeals. All the deadlines are listed on the syllabus. If you have special circumstances preventing you from turning in an assignment on time, then you must communicate that to me ASAP, preferably before the assignment is due. Failure to turn in work on time will result in a grade of zero (0).

Cell phones & Laptops

Please turn off your cell phone before class begins. Please use your laptops only to take notes. Students who abuse technology in the classroom risk earning a failing grade for participation/attendance and being removed from the course.

Academic Integrity

All students are expected to abide by the UNCG Honor Code. Please visit the following link: Academic Integrity Policy: <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete/>. Depending on the severity of the offense, students risk receiving a final grade of F for the course or being expelled from the university.

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). If the university is open, I will hold class.

Grading Policies

Although I am responsible for recording your UNCG grade, students must realize that they receive the grade they earn. I do not arbitrarily assign grades. Students should also keep in mind that a letter grade of A stands for "Excellent," whereas a B is "Above Average," a C "Average," a D "Below Average," and an F "Unsatisfactory."

Regarding final grades for the course, only those who fail to complete or turn in the work earn an F. Students who simply do all the work, but do not apply themselves, cannot receive anything higher than a D. Students who do all the work and demonstrate they are at least trying earn a C. Letter grades of B are reserved for those students whose work and contributions to the class community are clearly above average. Only the truly exceptional earn a grade of A.

Grading Scale (by total points)

A+ 1000 – 970	B+ 890 – 870	C+ 790 – 770	D+ 690 – 670	F 590 and below
A 960 – 930	B 860 – 830	C 760 – 730	D 660 – 630	
A- 920 – 900	B- 820 – 800	C- 720 – 700	D- 620 – 600	

Grade Breakdown

- Participation/Attendance 350 points total (35%)
- Midterm Exam 1 150 points total (15%)
- Midterm Exam 2 200 points total (20%)
- Final Exam 300 points total (30%)

Assignments

"History is an argument without end."
~ Peter Geyl

Class Meetings and Discussions

Each class will be more enjoyable if students come to class prepared and with questions. To participate actively in the class discussions, students will need to be reading the materials assigned for each unit. Participation grades will be based not only on the quantity but also on the quality of student comments. Asking questions about something you don't understand in the readings is a good way of participating in the discussion.

There will also be several discussion days throughout the course, each one covering assigned primary sources. In order to prepare for these discussion days, students will be required to write a 1 to 2-page

reaction paper to the readings. These assignments should be composed in a word processor, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12-point font, 1" margins all around. Students will not be admitted to class without their reaction papers. Any student who does not turn in a reaction paper on a discussion day will receive a zero for that day's participation grade, and that student will be counted absent.

Quizzes

There will be periodic reading quizzes given at random throughout the course, so students should stay on top of the readings. These quizzes count toward your participation grade.

Exams

There will be two midterms and one final exam. All three of these exams will be take-home assignments requiring students to answer one essay question. Students must construct an analytical essay with a thesis statement and an argument. Responses to the question may include information from the textbook, but they must be based on the primary sources that we have looked at in this course. Students will be required to cite primary sources in their exam essays, and they should only cite sources that I have assigned. Students should not cite any readings that have not been assigned for the course, especially websites.

Exam essays must be composed using a word processor. Documents should be at least 750 words in length, double-spaced and formatted with 1" margins on all sides using Times New Roman 12-point font.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings:

Monday, August 25 – Introduction: What is History? Why Study History?

Wednesday, August 27 – Introduction: Can We Trust Historical Knowledge? What is the Story of Modern European History?

Monday, September 1 – NO CLASS, Labor Day holiday

UNIT 1 – European Society and Culture in the 18th Century

Primary Source Readings:

Perry, Chapter 3, 50-71.

Rousseau, *The Social Contract*

Secondary Source Readings:

N/A

Wednesday, September 3 – The Enlightenment at Home and Abroad, part I

Monday, September 8 – The Enlightenment..., part II

Wednesday, September 10 – **DISCUSSION: *The Social Contract***

UNIT 2 – The French Revolution and the Birth of Modernity, 1789-1815

Primary Source Readings:

Perry, Chapter 4, 95-106, 113-115, 117-121.

Secondary Source Readings:

Spielvogel, Chapter 19 (532-559).

Monday, September 15 – The French Revolution: Part I (Moderate Phase)

Wednesday, September 17 – The French Revolution: Part II (The Terror / Napoleon)

Monday, September 22 – **DISCUSSION: French Revolution Documents**

UNIT 3 – A Dual Revolution: Industrialization

Primary Source Readings:

Perry, Chapter 5 (122-146).

Secondary Source Readings:

Spielvogel, Chapter 20 (562-587).

Wednesday, September 24 – The Industrial Revolution

Monday, September 29 – **DISCUSSION: Industrial Revolution Documents**

! **First midterm exam prompt assigned**

UNIT 4 – The Age of “Isms”

Primary Source Readings:

Perry, Chapter 6, 154-172.

Marx & Engel, *The Communist Manifesto*, 191-275. (You don't need to read the Introduction, but you should read the prefaces to the different editions.)

Secondary Source Readings:

Spielvogel, Chapter 21, 589 – 609.

Spielvogel, Chapter 22, 638 – 641.

Wednesday, October 1 – Conservatism, Liberalism, & Nationalism

! **DUE: First midterm exam**

Monday, October 6 – The Revolutions of 1830 & 1848

Wednesday, October 8 – **DISCUSSION: The Communist Manifesto**

UNIT 5 – Building States, Creating Nations

Primary Source Readings:

Perry, Chapter 8, 227-238.

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1861italianunif.html>

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/germanunification.html>

Secondary Source Readings:

Spielvogel, Chapter 22, 620-631.

Monday, October 13 – National Unification: Italy & Germany

DISCUSSION: National Unification documents

UNIT 6 – Bourgeois Civilization at Home and Abroad

Primary Source Readings:

Perry, Chapter 9, 239-250, 257-259, 266-270.

Secondary Source Readings:

Spielvogel, Chapter 22, 642 (“Charles Darwin”);

Spielvogel, Chapter 24, 681-692, 701-714.

Wednesday, October 15 – The Age of Anxiety & Imperialism

Friday, October 17 – Last Day to Withdraw and Receive a Grade of W.

Monday, October 20 – NO CLASS, FALL BREAK

Wednesday, October 22 – **DISCUSSION: Imperialism documents**

UNIT 7 – The Great War and the End of the Long 19th Century

Primary Source Readings:

Perry, Chapter 11, 298 – 333.

<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/imt/partviii.htm> (Article 231)

Secondary Source Readings:

Spielvogel, Chapter 25, 717-747.

Monday, October 27 – The Great War & The Russian Revolution

Wednesday, October 29 – The Treaty of Versailles

DISCUSSION: WWI documents

! **Second midterm exam prompt assigned**

UNIT 8 – The Interwar Period and The Second World War, 1919-1945

Primary Source Readings:

Perry, Chapter 12, 361-383.

Perry, Chapter 13, 389-440, 445-448.

Perry, Chapter 14, 450-455.

Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*.

Secondary Source Readings:

Spielvogel, Chapter 26, 750-754, 762-769.

Spielvogel, Chapter 27, 782-802.

Spielvogel, Chapter 27, 794-796.

Monday, November 3 – Weimar, the Rise of Hitler, and the Advent of WWII

! **DUE: Second midterm exam**

Wednesday, November 5 – World War II: The Eastern Front, D-Day to VE Day

Monday, November 10 – World War II: The Holocaust

Wednesday, November 12 – **DISCUSSION: Survival in Auschwitz**

UNIT 9 – Postwar Europe, 1945-1989

Primary Source Readings:

Perry, Chapter 14, 455-471.

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1947marshallplan1.html>

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1946stalin.html>

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1947TRUMAN.html>.

Secondary Source Readings:

Spielvogel, Chapter 28, 814-817, 828-847.

Monday, November 17 – Potsdam: Origins of the Cold War

Wednesday, November 19 – The Cold War: 1960s to 1980s

Monday, November 24 – **DISCUSSION: Postwar documents**

UNIT 10 – Europeans in a Postmodern World, 1989 - present

Primary Source Readings:

Perry, Chapter 15 (475-503).

Ash, *The Magic Lantern*, 11-167.

Secondary Source Readings:

Spielvogel, Chapter 29, 850-882.

Wednesday, November 26 – NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Monday, December 1 – German Reunification and The Collapse of the Soviet Union: Part I

Wednesday, December 3 – German Reunification and The Collapse of the Soviet Union: Part II

Monday, December 8 – **DISCUSSION: *The Magic Lantern***

! ***Final exam prompt assigned***

Monday, December 15

! ***DUE: Final exam due in my office (MHRA 2103) by 3 pm.***