

Spring 2013

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
HIS 223-01 The History of Modern Europe

'The gods of old have not died, they just each rhyme with "ism"' – Carl Gustav Jung

Instructor: Dr. Cristina Bejan

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Office: MHRA 2117

Office Hours: Thursday 12.30 – 1.30 pm

Time: Tuesday/Thursday (TR): 11 – 12.15

Room: Cury 225

Reading: (texts with an * were recommended for purchase at the university book store and will not be available on Blackboard, other readings listed here and throughout the semester will be available on Blackboard and on reserve in the UNCG library. You can also always order your own copies discounted on Amazon.)

Kant, Immanuel "What is Enlightenment?"

Voltaire, *Philosophical Letters*

Rousseau *On the Social Contract*

*Lynn Hunt et al., *The Making of the West, vol. C*, 3rd edition

J. Kelley Sowards *Makers of the Western Tradition: Portraits from History Vol. II*

Marx and Engels *The Communist Manifesto*

Anton Chekhov *The Cherry Orchard*

*Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa*

Karl Gustav Jung's *The Psychology of the Unconscious*

Bertolt Brecht *Mother Courage and her Children*

Mihail Sebastian *Journal 1936-1945*

Arthur Koestler, *Darkness at Noon*

Eugene Ionesco *Rhinoceros*

Vladimir Tismaneanu *The Devil in History*

Elie Wiesel *The Testament*

*Heda Kovály, *Under a Cruel Star: A Life in Prague, 1941-1968*

Milan Kundera *The Joke*

Slavenka Drakulic *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed*

Tom Stoppard *Rock n' Roll*

Misha Glenny *The Balkans: Nationalism, War and the Great Powers, 1804-1999*

Vaclav Havel *Toward a Civil Society: Selected Speeches and Writings 1990-1994*

Ayaan Hirsi Ali, selected essays

Timothy Garton Ash, selected essays

Films

Triumph of the Will (Germany)

Kapo (Italy, France, Yugoslavia)

4 Months, 3 Weeks, 2 Days (Romania)
Goodbye Lenin (Germany)
Gegen die Wand [Head-on] (Germany, Turkey)

Warning: the films shown in this class are European and may be shocking to American audiences.

Catalog Course Description:

This course is a survey of the political, social and cultural history of Europe from the time of the French Revolution to the present. Emphasis will be placed on the political culture and the emergence of the great ideological systems of the West (e.g. liberalism, conservatism, socialism, communism, nationalism and fascism). The focus will be on primary source material, supplemented by expert secondary literature and films. There will be *a lot* of reading. You should learn to read selectively and with efficiency.

Course Goals:

- To gain general knowledge about the major events and people in modern European history
- To be able to evaluate the processes of change in the development of European society, culture and government from 1789 through the modern day
- To gain an appreciation for the different experiences of various groups of people in Europe as a result of such things as nationality, gender, ethnicity, social class and religion.
- To develop an understanding of the major forces for historical change and development in Europe, and analyze the effects of those forces on the continent
- To acquire some of the basic skills of historians such as: the ability to analyze primary source materials, considering such factors as the author's objective, the intended audience, bias, etc.; the ability to interpret and analyze different opinions of the same event and to draw your own conclusions based on your own knowledge and the soundness of others' argument.
- Warning: you will not be spoon-fed. You will be expected to do the readings and assignments. You are responsible for your own education and can make the most out of the course yourself.
- The most important goal is critical thinking, learning to question and daring to carefully understand what is perplexing and difficult.

Grade Breakdown

Class Participation (questions, ideas, contributions, bringing in relevant newspaper articles, youtube links, anything to share that is relevant) 20%

Attendance (absolutely **mandatory**, no exceptions, unless you get permission in advance via email, attendance will be taken every class. Failure to abide by this will lead to failure of the class. This happened to a student last semester.)

In-class Presentation (Drama, Powerpoint, Performance -> BE CREATIVE!) 20%

In-class response paper 20%

Map Quiz 20%

Final Exam 20%

Honor Code

UNCG has an honor code, you are expected to abide by it. Failure to do so can result in failing the class and even expulsion from the university.

The English Language

All written work should be presented in English with the correct grammar and spelling. No “text lingo”/short-hand is allowed. If you fail to write out a full word (i.e. you attempt to abbreviate “and” to be “&”) you will lose points. There are absolutely no exceptions. Part of being at university is being able to write correctly by hand. If you cannot do so because you have special needs, I will be accommodating and you may type the written assignment and final exam or complete the assignments orally.

THE COURSE

January

Tuesday, the 15th

EUROPE THEN AND NOW

Introductions. Where is Europe? What is Europe? Why study History? Why should we care today in 2013 about 1789, 1848, 1918, 1945, 1948, 1989 and 2007? A brief history of Europe leading up to 1789. Maps from 1789 and today. Creation of groups for presentations.

Thursday, the 17th

SAPERE AUDE

Making of the West Ch. 19

Kant’s “What is Enlightenment” in-class response paper. You are responsible for providing your own paper and pencils. Write legibly. This class will be moderated by Lauren Mottle, UNCG graduate student. You will be graded by me for creative thinking and demonstration of comprehension of Kant’s argument.

Tuesday, the 22nd

LIBERALISM

Making of the West Chs. 19 – 20

Voltaire’s “On Commerce” from *Philosophical Letters*

Rousseau *On the Social Contract*

Thursday, the 24th

POST-REVOLUTIONARY FRANCE

Making of the West Ch. 21

Napoleon in Sowards

Tuesday, the 29th

EVOLUTION

Making of the West Chs. 22-23

Darwin in Sowards

Thursday, the 31st

IMPERIAL BRITAIN

Making of the West Chs. 22-23

Queen Victoria in Sowards

February

Tuesday, the 5th

COMMUNISM

Making of the West Ch. 22

Marx and Engels *The Communist Manifesto*

Thursday, the 7th

RUSSIA

Making of the West Ch. 26

Anton Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*

Lenin in Sowards

Tuesday, the 12th

COLONIAL AFRICA

Making of the West Ch. 24

King Leopold's Ghost

Rhodes in Sowards

Thursday, the 14th

PSYCHOANALYSIS

Making of the West Ch. 25

Freud in Sowards

Karl Gustav Jung's *The Psychology of the Unconscious*

Tuesday, the 19th

WWI AND EPIC THEATRE

Making of the West Ch. 25-26

Bertolt Brecht *Mother Courage and her Children*

Thursday, the 21st

NAZISM, FASCISM AND WWII

Making of the West Chs. 26-27

Hitler in Sowards

Film: *Triumph of the Will*

Tuesday, the 26th

THE HOLOCAUST

Making of the West Ch. 27

Mihail Sebastian *Journal 1936 - 1945*

Thursday, the 28th

THE HOLOCAUST

Making of the West Ch. 27

Film: *Capo*

March

Tuesday, the 5th

RELATIVITY AND THE ATOMIC BOMB

Making of the West Ch. 25

Albert Einstein in *Sowards*

Thursday, the 7th

Map Quiz

STALIN, YALTA AND THE IRON CURTAIN

Making of the West Ch. 28

Arthur Koestler's *Darkness at Noon*

Stalin in *Sowards*

SPRING BREAK

Tuesday, the 19th

RHINOCERIZATION AND TOTALITARIANISM

Making of the West Ch. 28

Eugene Ionesco's *Rhinoceros*

Vladimir Tismaneanu *The Devil in History*

Thursday, the 21st

COMMUNIST BELIEVERS' DISILLUSIONMENT

Making of the West Ch. 28

Elie Wiesel's *The Testament*

Tuesday, the 26th

LIFE IN COMMUNIST PRAGUE

Making of the West Ch. 28

Heda Kovaly *Under a Cruel Star 1941-1968*

Thursday, the 28th

THE IRONY OF COMMUNISM

Making of the West Ch. 29

Milan Kundera's *The Joke*

April

Tuesday, the 2nd

CEAUSESCU'S PRO-NATALIST POLICY LED TO A BANNED ABORTION EPIDEMIC

Film: *Four Months, Three Weeks, Two Days*

Thursday, the 4th

OSTALGIA

Film: *Good bye Lenin!*

Tuesday, the 9th

FEMINISM IN EUROPE

Making of the West Ch. 29

Slavenka Drakulic's *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed*

Thursday, the 11th

ROCK AND ROLL IN WESTERN AND EASTERN EUROPE

Making of the West Ch. 29

Tom Stoppard's *Rock n' Roll*

Tuesday, the 16th

THE BALKAN WARS AND DEMOCRATIZATION IN CENTRAL-EASTERN EUROPE

Making of the West Ch. 30

Misha Glenny's *The Balkans: Nationalism, War and the Great Powers, 1804-1999*

Vaclav Havel *Toward a Civil Society: Selected Speeches and Writings 1990-1994*

Thursday, the 18th

TOLERANCE, IMMIGRATION, AUSLAENDERFEINDLICHKEIT (fear of foreigners)

Making of the West Ch. 30

Ayaan Hirsi Ali, selected essays

Film: *Gegen die Wand (Head-on)*

Tuesday, the 23rd

CONTEMPORARY EUROPE: THE EU AND HER NEIGHBORS

Making of the West Ch. 30

Timothy Garton Ash, selected essays

Thursday, the 25th

FINAL EXAM

Tuesday, the 30th NO CLASS

Regarding the FINAL: I will provide a list of sample questions well beforehand and you may bring to the final exam one sheet of paper with notes front and back. These must be your own notes. No googledocs or any mass-sharing is allowed. I can tell the difference and you will fail if you attempt this.

There are no extra credit opportunities.