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

Spring 2013

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Office Hours: Thursday 12.30 – 1.30 pm
Time: Tuesday/Thursday (TR): 11 – 12.15
Room: Cury 225

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

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
J. Kelley Sowards Makers of the Western Tradition: Portraits from History Vol. II
Marx and Engels The Communist Manifesto
Anton Checkhov 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
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)
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 evaluated 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

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 Checkhov’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.