

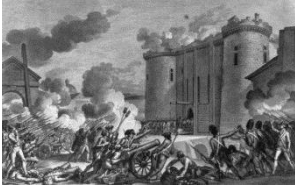
HIST 126: Modern Europe, 1789–1945: War, Revolution, and Empire
University of Pennsylvania

Fall 2017

T/Th. 12-1:30

Prof. Alex Chase-Levenson, alchase@sas.upenn.edu

College Hall 306C, Office Hours W 1-3, Th. 1:30-3



Introduction:

This course runs from the fall of the Bastille to the end of World War II—two moments where the European Continent stood at the precipice of a new order. Between these moments of great change, we'll look at the dreams that politicians, artists, and working people formed about the future and the way they understood the past. We'll study this period as both a discrete historical moment and as a dynamic era in which modern society emerged.

The course covers broad questions about the boundaries of Europe and the relationships among different kinds of histories. Where did “Europe” begin and end? How did industrial change and political upheaval feed off each other? How did new ideas of religious, sexual, and social boundaries intersect with political developments? What remnants of the nineteenth-century order survived the cataclysm of two world wars? Each of these questions will be interrogated in the course of the semester.

While our discussions will primarily be based on primary sources, our course textbook, John Merriman's *History of Modern Europe Vol. 2* offers a background to lectures and discussions. Visual sources will be emphasized in lecture, and there will also be several films you are required to watch.

Course Books for Purchase:

The following five books are available at the Penn Bookstore and will also be on reserve at Van Pelt Library. Other materials will either be distributed to you in class or made available on the course Canvas site.

John Merriman, *A History of Modern Europe VOLUME 2 ONLY* (W.W. Norton and Co.)

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (Dover Thrift Edition)

Karl Marx, *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte* (Int'l Pub)

John Stuart Mill, *The Subjection of Women* (Dover Thrift Edition)

George Bernard Shaw, *Major Barbara* (Penguin Classics)

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* (Dover Thrift Edition)

Assignments: Three 2–3 page response papers (15%), participation (15%), midterm exam (20%), take-home final (25%), film review (10%), primary source analysis/presentation (15%)

Response Papers: At our Thursday meeting each week I will distribute a list of response questions based on the next week’s primary source readings. Five times during the semester, you need to write a 2-3 page response to one of these questions and post it to the Canvas site by noon the next Thursday. Which weeks you choose to write response papers for are up to you, but please try not to cluster them at the end of the semester; the aim is to help you practice crafting historical arguments on course material you might want to use in your research paper.

Film Review: We will watch three films in the course of the semester (Luchino Visconti’s *Il Gattopardo*, Claude Berri’s *Germinal*, and Jean Renoir’s *La Grande Illusion*). For one of these films, write a review (4 pages) in which you reflect on choices made by the director, screenwriter, designers, and actors on how to represent historical themes and ideas touched on in this course.

Primary Source Analysis: You are required to identify a primary source that we have not read for class but that intersects with one of the subjects or themes we’ve discussed in class. You will write a 4-5 p. primary source analysis, in which you explain how the source sheds light on and influences our understanding of a major trend in European history in this period. You will also briefly present the source to the rest of the class and explain why you chose it. (Source presentations will be on November 9th).

Late Assignments Policy:

Late assignments will be docked a third of a letter grade for each day they are late (e.g., from an A to an A- on the first day the paper is late, to a B+ on the second, etc.).

Disabilities:

If you have a disability that means you need extra time to take the midterm or any other accommodations, please let me know at the beginning of the semester.

Other Course Policies:

Under no circumstances is anyone permitted to make a recording of any portion of the class.

Plagiarism of any kind is completely impermissible and will result in a failing grade. In your response papers, film reviews, and primary source papers, please ensure that all material taken from outside sources is properly cited.

Course Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction

August 29th: Course Introduction and Europe's Old Regime

Reading: NONE

Week 2: The French Revolution

September 5th: The Revolution in France

September 7th: Terror and Total War: The French Revolution in Europe

Reading: Merriman, Ch. 12
Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (1790) (Excerpts)
Abbé Sieyès, "What is the Third Estate?" (1789)
Maximilien Robespierre, *On the Principles of Political Morality* (1794) (Excerpt)
J.G. Fichte, Seventh and Eighth Addresses to the German Nation
(http://ghdi.ghi-dc.org/pdf/eng/12_EnlightPhilos_Doc.8_English.pdf)
Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen (1789)

Week 3:

September 12th: The Age of Napoleon—Conflict and Integration

September 14th: Revolutionary Aesthetics: Romanticism, the Gothic, and the Picturesque

Reading: Merriman, Ch. 13
Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (Entire)
William Wordsworth, "The Prelude" (Excerpts)

Week 4: Restoration or Evolution?

September 19th: Plus ça change?: The Congress system and the conservative ascendancy

September 21st: Reform in Britain, France, and Russia

Reading: Merriman, Ch. 15
Benjamin Constant, "The Liberty of the Ancients and the Moderns" (1819)
Stendahl, *The Red and the Black* (1830) (Chs. 1–7)
Piotr Chadayev, "Apology of a Madman" (1837)
The People's Charter (1838)
Prince Metternich, "Political Confession of Faith" (1820) (Selections)

Week 5: Class Convulsions

September 26th: The Industrializing Environment

September 28th: 1848 Revolutions

Reading: Merriman, Ch. 14
Edwin Chadwick, *Report on the Sanitary Conditions of the Labouring Classes*
(1841) (Short Excerpt— www.victorianweb.org/history/chadwick2.html)

Film: *Germinal* (dir. Claude Berri)

Week 6: 1848

October 3rd: 1848—Aftermaths

October 5th: **NO CLASS (Fall Break)**

Reading: Merriman, Ch. 16
Karl Marx, *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Napoleon* (1852) (Entire)
A.J.P. Taylor, “The Man of December”

Week 7: Gender and Religion

October 10th: Separate Spheres?

October 12th: Popular Religion

Reading: J.S. Mill, *The Subjection of Women* (1869) (Entire)
Pope Pius IX, “Syllabus of Errors”
Pope Leo XIII, “Rerum Novarum”
Lourdes Documents and Inquiries

Week 8: Liberalism and Nationalism

October 17th: Liberalism and the Cult of Progress

October 19th: German and Italian Unification

Reading: Merriman, Ch. 18
Samuel Smiles, *Self-Help* (1859) (Ch. 1)
V.I. Belinsky, “Letter to Gogol” (1847)
Alexander Herzen, “The Russian People and Socialism” (1851)
Michel Chevalier, “On the Arguments of the Protectionists” (1852)

Film: *Il Gattopardo* (dir. Luchino Visconti, 1963)

Week 9: Cities

October 24th: **MIDTERM EXAMINATION**

October 22nd: Urban Sensation and Spectacle

Reading: Charles Baudelaire, (selected poems)
Georg Simmel, “The Metropolis and Mental Life” (1903)

Week 10: Imperialism

October 31st: Imperialism and Anti-Imperialism

November 2nd: Imperial Scandals and Civilizing Missions

Reading: Merriman, Ch. 20
Jules Ferry, “Speech Before the Chamber of Deputies” March, 1884
Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* (Entire)

Week 11: Home and Away at the Fin-de-Siècle

November 7th: Mass Politics: Socialists, Radicals, and Utopians

November 9th: Modernism and Disenchantment (**Primary Source Project Due**)

Reading: Merriman, Ch. 21
G.B. Shaw, *Major Barbara* (Entire)
Emile Zola, “J’Accuse” (1898)
General Boulanger, “The Program of General Boulanger” (1888)
(<https://www.marxists.org/history/france/boulanger/1888/program.htm>)

Week 12: World War I and the Russian Revolution

November 14th: The July Crisis and the Great War

November 16th: The Russian Revolution

Reading: Merriman, Ch. 22, 24
Willy-Nicky Letters
Paul Fussell, *The Great War and Modern Memory* (Ch. 1)
Vera Figner, *Memoirs of a Revolutionist* (Chs. 1-3)

Film: *La Grande Illusion* (dir. Jean Renoir, 1937)

Week 14: Making Peace

November 21st: The Peace of 1919

November 23rd: **No Class (Thanksgiving Break)**

Reading: Merriman, Ch. 23
J.M. Keynes, *The Economic Consequences of the Peace* (Selections)

Week 15: The Road Back to War

November 28th: Fellow Travelers of the European Far Right (**Film Review due**)

November 30th: World War II

Reading: Merriman, Chs. 25
George Orwell, *Homage to Catalonia* (Chs. 1, 7, and 10)
Jean-Paul Sartre, “Anti-Semite and Jew” (1944) (Part 1)
Charles Maurras, *An Affair of State* (1933) (Excerpt)
(<https://www.marxists.org/history/france/dreyfus-affair/maurras.htm>)
Adolf Hitler, “Appeal to the German People” (Radio Address, Jan., 1933)
(germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=3940)

Week 16: From Total War to Postwar

December 5th: Genocide, Displacement, and Memory

December 7th: Building a New Europe from the Rubble: Forward and Backward from 1945

Reading: Merriman, Ch. 26
Peter Weiss, *The Investigation* (Selections)

Take-home Final Exam distributed. Due Dec. 15th at 5 PM by email.