

HISTORY 344: EUROPEAN INTELLECTUAL HISTORY, 1870-1950

Fall 2015

Location TBA

Tues/Thurs 10:30-12:00

WARREN BRECKMAN

Office Hours: Monday 3:30-5:00; Wednesday, 3:30-5:00

Or by Appointment

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*** Provisional Syllabus Subject to Change ***

Course Requirements:

Assignments: **Take-home mid-term exam** (5 pages) due **THURSDAY, OCT 15 AT CLASS**, and a cumulative **take-home final exam** (8 pages) due **MONDAY, DEC 14 at 10:00 a.m.**

Mid-Term Exam 40%

Final Exam 60%

You may write an **optional paper** on a topic of your choice, which will count for 30% of your final-exam grade (i.e., 20% of the overall course grade). The optional paper will be due on May 3. You must discuss your topic with me before writing, and you must still pass the final examination to pass the course.

Note: All of the assigned reading in this course is primary. Lectures will provide information about the social and political context of these figures, as well as interpretations of the texts. You cannot do well in the exams if you do not attend lectures. Attendance is required.

Course Materials:

The following books are available for purchase in paperback at House of Our Own Bookstore, 3920 Spruce Street:

Joris-Karl Huysmans, *Against Nature*

Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Birth of Tragedy and the Genealogy of Morals*

Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*

Sigmund Freud, *The Freud Reader*, ed. Peter Gay

Bertolt Brecht, *The Threepenny Opera*

Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*

Charles Guignon, ed. *Existentialism: Basic Writings*

Jean-Paul Sartre, *Nausea*

Albert Camus, *The Fall*

Felix Gilbert and D. Large, *The End of the European Era, 1890 to the Present* [optional]

Most of the above books are also available in the Rosengarten Reserve Library

* All other readings are in the Bulk Pack available at Campus Copy Center on Walnut St. *

Reading Assignments:

Aug. 27 Introduction

Sept 1 Positivism in European Culture: Literary Naturalism and Impressionism

Emile Zola, "The Experimental Novel"

Sept 3-8 Aesthetic Reactions to Positivism: Bohemians, Dandies, and Decadents

Charles Baudelaire, "The Painter of Modern Life"; Joris-Karl Huysmans, *Against Nature*
(No Class on Monday, Jan. 21)

Sept 10-17 Philosophical Reactions to Positivism: Nietzsche

Nietzsche, *The Genealogy of Morals*

Sept 22 Modernity and Sociology: Weber

Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* [skip pp. 35-46; pp.129-152; and the endnotes, pp. 184-284]

Sept 24-29 Psychological Reactions to Positivism

The Freud Reader ("The Interpretation of Dreams," 129-142; "On Dreams," 142-172; "Dora," 172-239)

Oct 1-6 Crisis and Revisionism in Second International Socialism

Eduard Bernstein, "The Manifesto of Revisionism"; Rosa Luxemburg, "Ballot Box or Mass Strike?"; Luxemburg, "Requiem for Social Democracy"; Georges Sorel, *Reflections on Violence*

Oct 8 Fall Break

Oct 13 Catch Up and Review – Mid-Term will be distributed at the end of the class. Mid-Term is due on Thursday, Oct 15 at class

Oct 15 Film: "The Great War and the Shaping of the Twentieth-Century. Part I: The Explosion"

Oct 20 Intellectuals and the First World War

Rupert Brooke, "Peace," "The Soldier"; Wilfred Owen, "Dulce et Decorum Est"; Lenin, "The Collapse of the Second International"; Lenin, "War and Revolution"; Ernst Junger, "Fire"

Oct 22 Feminism

Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*

Oct 27 Weimar Culture: Experiment in Modernity

Bertolt Brecht, *The Threepenny Opera*

Oct 29 Cultural Pessimism and Fascist 'Regeneration'

Arthur Moeller van den Bruck, "The Third Empire"; "Berlin Stahlhelm Manifesto"; Carl Schmitt, "The Concept of the Political"; Hans Freyer, "Revolution from the Right"; Oswald Spengler, "Decline of the West"; Hermann Hesse, "The Longing of Our Time for a Worldview"; Ernst Junger, "On Danger"; Benito Mussolini, "The Doctrine of Fascism"; Gentile, "The Origins and Doctrine of Fascism"

Nov 3 "Degenerate Art"

Nov 5-12 Existentialism: Heidegger

Heidegger, *Being and Time* [selection in *Existentialism: Basic Writings*, pp. 203-46]; Heidegger, "The Self-Assertion of the German University"; Heidegger, "Only a God Can Save Us. *Der Spiegel's* Interview with Martin Heidegger"

Nov 17-19 Existentialism and Literature: Jean-Paul Sartre

Sartre, *Nausea*; "Existentialism is a Humanism" [in *Existentialism: Basic Writings*, pp. 268-87]

Nov 24-Dec 1 Albert Camus, *The Fall*
Dec 3-8 Catch-up and Conclusion

Pick-up TAKE-HOME FINAL on Friday, December 11 after 10:00 a.m.
FINAL EXAM is due on Monday, December 14 at 10:00 a.m.

Students may find the following surveys of modern European intellectual history useful
[on reserve at Rosengarten]:

Roland Stromberg, *An Intellectual History of Modern Europe*

F.L. Baumer, *Modern European Thought*

John W. Burrow, *The Crisis of Reason*