Oberlin College
Department of History

History 102: Modern European History
Spring 2016
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-10:50 AM

Instructor: Leonard V. Smith
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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 AM- 1:00 PM, and by appointment

History 102 is the second part of a two-semester survey of European history. The second semester begins around 1700 and ends with the effects of the world financial crisis beginning in 2008 and the current “refugee crisis.” The course serves two main functions. First, it will introduce students to the basic events, institutions, and developments of European history (such as the French Revolution, the Unification of Germany, the wars of ex-Yugoslavia, etc.). Second, and equally important, the course will explore how historical questions and answers are formulated and assigned significance. We will be reading both primary documents and secondary texts.

Readings:

The following required books have been ordered for purchase at the Oberlin College Bookstore:


Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (originally published 1831, any edition OK, also available on Blackboard)


All of the books for purchase except *The Making of the West* are also on reserve.

Additional readings are available through Blackboard under the tab marked “Materials and Assignments.” They are listed in the order assigned. PowerPoint presentations will also be posted on Blackboard before class meetings.
Requirements:

I. Take-home essays:

Letter-graded work for this course comprises three take-home essays. For all three, students will be able to choose one of several questions. The questions will be distributed in class one week before the due date. All of these essays are open-book with no time limit. However, all written work for this class has strictly enforced 5-page maximum limit. These are "think piece" essays rather than research papers, and do not require bibliographies or footnotes. The final essay is due at the time of the final exam for this course, which is set by the college master schedule. Additional Ground Rules are indicated at the end of the syllabus.

II. Discussion Papers:

Four discussion days are noted on the syllabus. On designated days, students will be required to turn in a one-page discussion paper, in which they identify and briefly explain issues in the readings. These papers are for students' benefit. Their sole purpose is to facilitate discussion. Consequently, late discussion papers will not be accepted, for any reason. Discussion papers may not be submitted electronically.

These papers are required, and must be word-processed. Failure to turn in discussion papers will be noted, and will have an unfavorable impact on a student's final grade. Each discussion paper will receive a "grade" of √+, √, √-, or 0 (meaning either a derisory effort or failure to turn the paper in at all). The cumulative performance on these papers may be used at the margin to shape a student's final grade. For example, if a student's final grade hovers between an A- and a B+ and that student got a √+ on all the discussion papers, the student will likely receive a final grade of A-. Discussion papers may push down a final grade in a similar manner. Comments will not be written on the papers themselves, but students are welcome to come talk to me about them if they have concerns or questions.

Schedule of Lectures and Reading Assignments:

I. The Ancien Régime

February 2: Introduction:

Readings: Begin Hunt, Making of the West, Ch. 11-13

Original documents:

February 4: Crown and State

Readings: Mazower, *Balkans*, Ch. 1, Continue readings from *Bounty Mutiny*

**Original documents:**

Jacques-Benigne Bossuet, "Politics Drawn from the Very Words of Scripture" (1670, Blackboard);

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (1651, excerpts, Blackboard)

February 9: The Decline of the Society of Orders, Part I: Church and Nobility

**Original Document:**

"Bossuet Chides Louis XIV about the State of His Soul" (1675). Both Bossuet documents appear on the same PDF.

February 11: The Decline of the Society of Orders, Part II: The Third Estate

Readings: Mazower, *Balkans*, Ch. 2

**Original documents:**


February 16: The Enlightenment

Readings: Hunt, *Making of the West*, Ch. 15

**Original documents:**

Immanuel Kant, "What is Enlightenment?" (1784, Blackboard)

Letter from Lady Mary Wortley Montagu to Abbé Conti on travels in the Ottoman Empire, (c.1719, Blackboard)


February 18: Europe and the World: Slavery and Colonization

Readings: Hunt, *Making of the West*, Ch. 14
Original documents:

Code Noir (France 1685, Blackboard)

**DISCUSSION ON READINGS TO DATE FROM BOUNTY MUTINY**

**ONE-PAGE DISCUSSION PAPER DUE**

February 23: First Museum Visit: Art and the Ancien Régime

February 25: No Class (instructor away on Oberlin business)

*II The Age of Revolution, 1789-1848*

March 1: The French Revolution, Part I: "The People are Smart, and They are becoming Powerful"

Readings: Hunt, *Making of the West*, Ch. 16

**Original document:**

"Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen" (1789, Blackboard)

March 3: The French Revolution, Part II: From the Terror through Napoleon

Readings:

**Original document:**

Marquis de Sade, "Frenchmen, yet another effort," from *Philosophy in the Bedroom* (1795, Blackboard)

(NOTE: The entire text of *Philosophy in the Bedroom* is also available on Blackboard, under Sade-Philosophy.pdf)

**First Essay Questions Handed Out**

March 8: Metternich's Europe: A World Restored?

Readings: Hunt, *Making of the West*, Ch. 17
Original documents:

Prince Klemens von Metternich "Political Confession of Faith," (1820, Blackboard)

Begin Shelley, *Frankenstein*

March 10: The Industrial Revolutions: Models of Economic Development

Readings: Continue Hunt, *Making of the West*, Ch. 17; Continue Shelley, *Frankenstein*

**First Essay Due**

March 15: Romanticism and Discussion of *Frankenstein*

**ONE-PAGE DISCUSSION PAPER DUE**

March 17: The Revolution of 1848 and the New Old Orders

Readings: Continue Hunt, *Making of the West*, Ch. 17

Original documents:

Decrees from the French Revolution of 1848 (Blackboard)

Note: Begin Karl Marx and Friederich Engles, "Manifesto of the Communist Party," (1848, Blackboard) for discussion on April 8

**Spring Break!!!**

*III. Race, Class, and Gender in 19th Century Europe*

March 29: The Construction of Class: Liberalism and Socialism

Readings: Hunt, *Making of the West*, Ch. 19

**DISCUSSION OF THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO**

**ONE-PAGE DISCUSSION PAPER DUE**

March 31: Second Museum Visit: Art and Society in the 19th Century
April 5: The Construction of Race: Nationalism and Empire

Readings: Hunt, *Making of the West*, Ch. 18-19

Mazower, *Balkans*, Ch. 3

Original Documents:

1. On German Unification, (1848-1871, Blackboard)

2. Rudyard Kipling, "The White Man's Burden" (1899, Blackboard)

3. Edward Morel, "The Black Man's Burden" (1903, Blackboard)

April 7: The Construction of Gender: Femininity and Masculinity before World War I

Readings: Continue Hunt, *Making of the West*, Ch. 19

Original Document:

Florence Nightingale, Letter to Dr. William Bowman, November 14, 1854 (Blackboard)

**Second Essay Questions Handed Out**

*VI. The End and Beginning of the European Era?*

April 12: From Periphery to Center: The Tinder Box of the Balkans

Readings: Mazower, *Balkans*, Ch. 4

April 14: Europe's First Suicide Attempt: World War I

Readings: Hunt, *Making of the West*, Ch. 20

*Original document:*

John Macrae, "In Flanders Field" (1915, Blackboard)


**Second Essay Due**
April 19: Europe's Second Suicide Attempt: The Depression, Fascism and World War II

Readings: Hunt, *Making of the West*, Ch. 21

NOTE: Continue reading Fanon, *Wretched of the Earth*, "Concerning Violence" (1961, Blackboard).

April 21: Cold War Europe: 1945-1989

Readings: Hunt, *Making of the West*, Ch. 22

Original document:

Winston S. Churchill, "'Iron Curtain' Speech," (5 March 1946, excerpts, Blackboard)

DISCUSSION OF FANON, “CONCERNING VIOLENCE,”
from *THE WRETCHED OF THE EARTH* (1961)

ONE-PAGE DISCUSSION PAPER DUE

April 26: The Revolutions of 1989

Readings: Continue Hunt, *Making of the West*, Ch. 23

April 28: The Post-Cold War Balkans: From Margin to Center to Margin


May 3: Museum Visit Number 3: Gender, and Sexuality in 20th Century Europe

May 6: Europe and the World since 1989

Readings:

Original Document:

New Year's Address by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, 31 December 2015

FINAL ESSAY DUE AT THE TIME
DETERMINED BY THE COLLEGE MASTER FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE
Additional Ground Rules:

1. Due dates and page-limit requirements are to be taken most seriously. I am not in the business of persecuting students if a genuine problem exists, but in principle I strongly dislike giving extensions. Normally, I take off 1/3 of a letter grade for every 24 hours an exam is overdue.

2. Three excuses for requesting extensions will never be acceptable: 1) a self-defined character flaw of procrastination; 2) extracurricular activities, including performances and political activism; 3) work in other classes. Two possible exceptions exist for unacceptable excuse #3. I am prepared to exercise some indulgence concerning students doing Seniors Honors projects or, in the case of Conservatory students, students playing Senior recitals. This is because of the "once in a lifetime" character of these projects.

3. Take-home exams and final essays must be clearly printed, double-spaced and have 1-inch margins. They must use a font no smaller than the one that appears here (12 point). I reserve the right to return any paper that does not meet these requirements. Papers may not be submitted electronically.

4. All written work at Oberlin College is covered by the Honor Code. No graded essay will be read until the Honor Code is signed.

5. All graded written work for the course must be completed in order to pass it. That is to say, a student who receives an A on the first two essays and does not submit the final essay will fail the entire course.

6. All electronic devices are forbidden in class without express permission of the Office of Disabled Students.

7. Students are advised that they may not engage in any activities in class not related to the class.

8. No permission is granted to upload ANY materials from this course on to a third party web site. Such materials are for the use of students in this class only.