History 102: Modern European History
Spring 2010
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00-12:15 PM

Instructor: Leonard V. Smith
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Office Hours: Mondays 1:30-3:00; PM Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-4 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 European responses to the war in Iraq that began in 2003. 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)


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

Additional readings are available through Blackboard, and are listed there in the order assigned. In addition, various primary documents are assigned available on the World Wide Web. Full citations for web documents are provided below. Web readings are also available through Blackboard. 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. Please note that written work for this course may not be submitted electronically.