History 102: Modern European History  
Spring 2008  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30-9:50 AM (Section 1); and 11:00-12:15 PM (Section 2)  

Instructor: Leonard V. Smith  
315 Rice Hall, x8950  
E-mail: lvsmith@oberlin.edu  
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00-3:00 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 European responses to the present war in Iraq. 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 after the class meeting in question.
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 5: Introduction: Objectivity and Its Limits

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

Original documents:

R.D. Madison, "Introduction" (p. ix-xxi) and William Bligh, "A Narrative of the Mutiny (pp.1-66). Be prepared to discuss on February 21.

February 7: Crown and State

Original documents:

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

Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan (1651, excerpts):


NOTE: All web documents are also available on Blackboard, under self-evident titles.

February 12: The Decline of the Society of Orders, Part I: Church and Nobility

Readings:

Original document:

"Bossuet Chides Louis XIV about the State of His Soul" (1675, Blackboard. Note: This is available in the same file as the previous reading from Bossuet.)

February 14: The Decline of the Society of Orders, Part II: The Third Estate


Original documents:

February 19: The Enlightenment

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

Original document:

Immanuel Kant, "What is Enlightenment?" (1784) available at:

[http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/kant-whatis.html](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/kant-whatis.html)

Appendix A, "Bligh's Orders and a Description of the Breadfruit," *The Bounty Mutiny* (pp.197-204)

February 21: Europe and the World: Slavery and Colonization

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

Original documents:

Olaudah Equiano, "The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano Written by Himself" (1789, Blackboard)


DISCUSSION ON READINGS TO DATE FROM *BOUNTY MUTINY*

ONE-PAGE DISCUSSION PAPER DUE

II The Age of Revolution, 1789-1848

February 26: 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" (1789) available at:

[http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/rightsof.htm](http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/rightsof.htm)
February 28: 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 4: Metternich's Europe: A World Restored?

Readings: Hunt, Making of the West, Ch. 17
Glenny, The Balkans, Introduction, Ch.1

Original documents:

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

http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1820metternich.html

From: Bounty Mutiny (pp. 205-54): Appendix B (Lady Belcher's Account of the Pandora [1870]); Appendix C (Quarterly Review on the Bounty [1810]); Appendix D (Quarterly Review on the Bounty [1815]); Appendix E (Jenny's Story [1829]); and Appendix F (John Adams's Story [1831])

Begin Shelley, Frankenstein, Be prepared to discuss entire book on March 18.

March 6: The Industrial Revolutions: Models of Economic Development

Readings: Continue Hunt, Making of the West, Ch. 22; Shelley, Frankenstein

First Essay Due

March 11: Romanticism

March 13: No Class
March 18: Discussion of *FRANKENSTEIN*

ONE-PAGE DISCUSSION PAPER DUE

March 20: The Revolution of 1848 and the New Old Orders

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

Original documents:

Decrees from the French Revolution of 1848, available at:

http://history.hanover.edu/texts/fr1848.htm

**Spring Break!!!**

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

April 1: The Construction of Race, Part I: Nationalism

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

Glenny, *The Balkans*, Ch.2

Original Documents:

NOTE: Be sure to have completed Marx and Engles readings for discussion on April 3.

On German Unification, (1848-1871)

http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/germanunification.html

April 3: The Construction of Class: Liberalism and Socialism

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

Original document:

Karl Marx and Friederich Engles, “Manifesto of the Communist Party,” (1848) available at:

http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/treatise/communist_manifesto/mancont.htm
DISCUSSION OF THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO

ONE-PAGE DISCUSSION PAPER DUE

April 8: The Construction of Gender: Femininity and Masculinity before World War I

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

Original Document:

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

April 10: The Construction of Race, Part II: Empire

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

Original Documents:

1) Rudyard Kipling, "The White Man's Burden" (1899)
   http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/Kipling.html

2) Edward Morel, "The Black Man's Burden" (1903)
   http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1903blackburden.html

Second Essay Questions Handed Out

VI. The End and Beginning of the European Era?

April 15: From Periphery to Center: The Tinder Box of the Balkans

Readings: Glenny, The Balkans, Ch.3-4

April 17: Europe's First Suicide Attempt: World War I

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

Glenny, The Balkans, Ch. 5-6

Original document:

John Macrae, "In Flander's Field" (1915)
http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/mccrae-flanders.html

Second Essay Due

April 22: Europe's Second Suicide Attempt: The Depression and World War II

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

Glenny, The Balkans, Ch. 7

Charles Maier, "German History as Case History" (Blackboard)

Begin Fanon, Wretched of the Earth, "Concerning Violence" (1961, Blackboard)
Be prepared to discuss in class on April 29.

April 24: Cold War Europe: 1945-1989

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

Glenny, The Balkans, Ch. 8

Continue Fanon, “Concerning Violence” for discussion on April 29

Original document:

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

http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/churchill-iron.html

April 29: Recasting Race, Class, and Gender in 20th-century Europe

DISCUSSION OF FANON “CONCERNING VIOLENCE”

ONE-PAGE DISCUSSION PAPER DUE

May 1: The Revolutions of 1989

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

Original document:

Malgorzata Tarasuewicz, "Women in Solidarity" (1997, Blackboard)

May 6: The Past becomes the Present: The Wars of ex-Yugoslavia

Readings: Hunt, Making of the West, Ch. 24; Glenny, The Balkans, Epilogue
May 8: Europe in the Age of the Hyper-power

Original Document:

Speech by Dominique de Villepin on Iraq at the United Nations, 14 February 2003 (Blackboard)

FINAL ESSAY
DUE SATURDAY, MAY 17, 4:00 PM
(SAME DATE AND TIME FOR BOTH SECTIONS)
THIS TIME IS DETERMINED
BY THE COLLEGE 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. The use of computers in class is not forbidden, but it is discouraged. It is remarkably easy to tell when students are fixating on whatever happens to be on their computer screens rather than paying attention in class.