Spring 2017
History 102:
History of Modern Europe

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Office Hours: Monday 4-5; Thursday 2-3; and by appointment

Course Description:

History 102 is the second part of a two-semester survey of European history since the fall of Rome. Over the course of the semester, we will examine the most important events, institutions, and developments in Europe from the late 17th through the 20th century. We will engage with such crucial events as the French Revolution and the two World Wars. We will also examine longer-term trends such as the relationship between Europe and the rest of the world, and more elusive concepts such as the Zeitgeist or spirit of the age as it evolves over the course of the modern era. This course is intended as an introduction to a variety of historical methodologies and will combine approaches drawn from cultural, political, social, and intellectual history. As such, our readings will range from philosophical treatises to popular novels, and from scholarly articles to manifestos.

Assignments & Grading

10% Map Quizes (Best 3 out of 4)
15% Attendance & Participation
5% Notetaking
20% Primary Source Paper
25% Historiography Portfolio
25% Final Exam

All written work must be turned in to receive credit for this course.

15% of your grade is based on participation. As attendance is a necessary prerequisite for participation, your attendance is figured into this grade. I will pass around an attendance sheet each day. Lateness will count as a half absence. Please also try to refrain from excessive bathroom breaks in the middle of class. Unless you are the scheduled note-taker for a given day (see below), you are also not allowed to use a laptop or tablet in class. All phones must be switched off or put in silent mode. If you have a disability that requires you to use a device in addition to the notes that will be posted after each class, please let me know as soon as possible.

5% of your grade is based on the minutes that you take for a given class session. During the second week of class, everyone will sign up for a minute-taking day. This day cannot be the same day as your reading intro. The minutes can take any form that you like (narrative, charts, graphs, images, whatever else), just so long as they accurately represent our class session. Your
minutes should be submitted via blackboard 48 hours after your note-taking day (i.e. if you took minutes for a Thursday class, your notes are due Saturday at 11am). They will be graded on a √-, √, √+ basis and posted on blackboard for the rest of the class.

At four times during the semester, I will distribute a map of Europe. You will need to identify five key features of the map. You will be expected to know countries, their capital cities, and rivers. You will get credit for your best 3 out of 4 quizzes.

20% of your grade is based on your midterm paper. This paper will be based on a primary source that I will distribute several weeks before the due date.

25% of your grade will be based on a final exam. This exam will be taken in-class, although the format and some of the questions will be distributed in advance.

25% of your grade will be based on your historiography portfolio. For this assignment, you will write summaries of the three articles that we read (Thompson, Schneer, or Fritzsche) for the days we discuss them, and then, at the end of the semester, you will select an article from a group of journals that I will identify and both summarize and critique that article. We will discuss this assignment more later in the semester.

All papers must be double-spaced in 12-point Times New Roman font with 1” margins. They will be submitted via blackboard unless already specified.

ALL late papers will be downgraded 1/3 of a grade for every twenty-four hour period that they are late (i.e. a paper due at 11am on Tuesday but turned in at 1pm on Wednesday will lose 2/3 of a grade). If you miss or are late to class on the day that a paper is due, that paper is automatically counted as 1 day late in addition to any lateness penalty that would otherwise be assessed (i.e. a paper due at 11am on Thursday but turned in at 2pm, while class was missed, will lose 2/3 of a grade).

All work for this class is governed by the honor code. You must write and sign the honor code pledge at the end of each assignment. If you have further questions, please go to: http://www.oberlin.edu/students/student_pages/honor_code.html.

You will have a total of four “indulgences” to use over the course of the semester. An “indulgence” can allow you to take a 24 hour extension for a paper (not including the summaries) or it can be used to take an unexcused absence from class. If you wish to use an indulgence to make up for preparing for an in-class activity, it will cost 3 indulgences and you are also asked to not attend class on the day of the activity (hence one of the indulgences is actually for the absence). So, for example, you could fail to prepare for one activity, and miss one additional class. If you wish for one or several indulgences to apply to a late paper, please indicate that on the first page of the paper when you (finally) turn it in. You do not need to inform me in advance that you are taking indulgences, unless it is for one of the in-class activities. You cannot use an indulgence for a class when there is a quiz, unless you wish to forfeit that quiz as well.
Beyond the indulgences that you receive no questions asked over the course of the semester, I do not give extensions except under extreme circumstances. As a rule of thumb, you will only receive an extension if the kind of thing you are asking for is the kind of thing you would inform your class dean about.

Readings & Films

The following books are required and are available for purchase at the Oberlin College Bookstore:

Peter Fritzsche, *Life and Death in the Third Reich* (Cambridge: Bellknap, 2008)

We will be watching one film in this class, which is available for streaming on oberlin.kanopystreaming.com:

*Insel der Schwänne* (1981)

We will also be listening to one piece of music, which is available for streaming at oberlincoll.naxosmusclibrary.com:

Berlioz, *Symphonie Fantastique* (1830)

Additional readings have either been placed on the blackboard site for this class (marked with a *) or are available elsewhere online (web address on syllabus). If a reading is marked with a #, that means it is available online through an academic journal.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

January 31: Introduction: What’s so modern about modern Europe?

February 2: Everyday Life & Absolute Monarchy
   *Robert Darnton, “The Great Cat Massacre,” in *The Great Cat Massacre*

February 7: The Glorious Revolution & Social Contract Theory
   *Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (1651, excerpts)
   *John Locke, *Second Treatise on Government* (1690, excerpts)

February 9: The Atlantic World & Slavery
   Olaudah Equiano, "The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano Written by Himself" (1789):
   [http://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/equiano1/equiano1.html](http://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/equiano1/equiano1.html)
February 14: The Enlightenment
Rousseau, *The Social Contract*

February 16: French Revolution

**Map Quiz #1**

Hunt, *The French Revolution and Human Rights*, selections

**French Revolution Activity**

February 23: Napoleon & After
*Rafe Blaufarb, ed.,* *Napoleonic Foot Soldiers and Civilians*, 76-101

February 28: Industrialization

**E.P. Thompson Summary Due**

March 2: Nineteenth Century “Isms”: Liberalism & Romanticism
Listening: Berlioz, *Symphonie Fantastique* (1830)
*Program Notes to Symphonie Fantastique*

March 7: 1848

March 9: **Map Quiz #2**

March 14: Nineteenth Century “Isms”: Socialism
Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*:
[http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/61](http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/61)

March 16: Urbanization
**Primary Source Paper Due**

**SPRING BREAK**

March 28: Nineteenth Century “Isms”: Nationalism
*Budweis Activity*

March 30: Nineteenth Century “Isms”: Imperialism

**Schneer Summary Due**
April 4: World War I

April 6: **Map Quiz #3**

April 11: Revolution, Versailles & The New European Order  
*Versailles Activity*

April 13: The “Roaring Twenties” & The Great Depression  
Irmgard Keun, *The Artificial Silk Girl*

April 18: Fascism & Nazism  
*Peter Fritzsche, *Life and Death in the Third Reich*, 19-75  
**Fritzsche Summary Due**

April 20: World War II

April 25: An Iron Curtain Descends? The 1950s in East & West  
*Postwar City Activity*

April 27: Decolonization  
**Map Quiz #4**

May 2: Utopia, Ennui and the Later Cold War  
Film: *Insel der Schwänne* (1981)  
**Historiography Portfolio Due**

May 4: 1989 and After

**Final Exam, 5/10/17, 2-4pm Location TBA**