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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 11 - 1 & by appt.

History 104g
Fall Semester 2013
Class times: T, Th 9:30 – 10:50
Class location: THH 102

Teaching Assistants:
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MODERN EUROPE

Course Description

This course fulfills the requirement for General Education Category I, Western Cultures and Traditions. Classes in this category “stress concepts, values, and events in Western history that have shaped contemporary American and European civilization.” Here we will explore selected themes in the history of modern Europe, starting with the philosophical innovations of the Enlightenment, the political achievements of the French Revolution, and the economic and social consequences of industrialization. Rather than attempting a comprehensive, chronological survey of this period of European history, the course offers an in depth exploration of five major topics: (1) The Enlightenment, the French Revolution and the Making of Modern Politics; (2) The Industrial Revolution, the Liberal Order, and the Transformation of Space & Time; (3) Empire, Race and the “New Imperialism”; (4) The End of the Liberal Order: World War I, Modernism and Revolution; and (5) Counterrevolution: War, Fascism and Mass Death in the Twentieth Century. We conclude with a final section on Europe during and after the Cold War, surveying the ruins of the twentieth century from the vantage point of a post-communist, post-fascist, post-colonial and (one hopes) post-genocidal present.

Our treatment of these topics will revolve around a number of fundamental questions, including: How did the major nineteenth-century ideologies of progress — Nationalism, Liberalism, Socialism, etc. — evolve into the repressive (fascist and communist) state systems of the twentieth century? How can we square the Enlightenment’s vision of reason, tolerance and natural rights with the brutality of modern state power, or in other words, what historical continuities and discontinuities can we trace from the Enlightenment through the killing fields of the Belgian Congo, the Nazi death camps and the mass graves of the former Yugoslavia? How, furthermore, did Europe’s position in the world change from the “new Imperialism” of the late nineteenth century through the end of the old colonial empires, and how did race become an organizing principle for so much of the world? And finally, what are the origins and characteristics of terror as a political weapon, from the radical phase of the French Revolution to the post-colonial struggles of the post-World War II world?

Course Mechanics

Students taking this course are required to enroll in one of the four sections. **Attendance is mandatory, at both sections and lectures.** Significant absences will affect your grade. Class participation is strongly urged and also affects your grade. Beyond completing the class's formal written requirements, you are required to come to every class meeting prepared. Being prepared means having done the assigned reading and being able to discuss it and to answer questions about it.

Absences: in the event of unavoidable absences, please notify the professor or your teaching assistant ahead of time and make arrangements for catching up on the material that you will miss.

The readings for this course consist chiefly of primary source material, such as contemporary novels, memoirs, political documents and propaganda. These sources are supplemented by several secondary works, i.e., succinct histories and interpretations of significant and complex events, above all the French Revolution and the Russian Revolution, and visual material to be shown in class. Class time in lectures will consist of a combination of lecture and discussion, and the weekly sections will provide an opportunity for more in-depth discussion and review of the material covered in lectures.

Students with Disabilities

Students requesting academic accommodations due to disabilities must register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) as early in the semester as possible (STU 301, tel. 740-0776, open M-F, 8:30 AM – 5 PM). Please bring your letter of verification for approved accommodations (which you can obtain from DSP) early in the semester, and let me know if you need any assistance with this process.

Academic Integrity

All work must be your own. You may not borrow another person's ideas, words or arguments without properly acknowledging them. For guides to USC College's policies on plagiarism and academic integrity, go to:

<http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/forms/tio.pdf> and

<http://www.usc.edu/studentaffairs/SJACS/forms/tig.pdf>.

Plagiarism is a serious matter. Do not hesitate to speak with me or your TA if you have any questions. We will discuss proper citation procedures and the meaning of plagiarism when the first paper assignment is distributed.

Class Notes Policy

Notes or recordings made by students in this class based on my lectures, on discussion group, or on class discussions may only be made for the purposes of individual or group study, or for other non-commercial purposes that reasonably arise from your membership in this class. Permission to make notes or recordings falls within my discretion as the instructor and as informed by instructional purposes, classroom order, property interests, and other reasonable considerations arising in the academic context. Notes and recordings of this class may not be exchanged or distributed for any commercial purpose, for compensation, or for any purpose other than your personal study. Unless

authorized by the University in advance and explicitly and in writing permitted by me, commercial or any non-personal use of class notes or recordings constitutes an unauthorized commercial activity in violation of the Student Conduct Code, and students who violate this policy are subject to University discipline. As the instructor in this course, I retain intellectual property rights in the lecture material pursuant to U.S. copyright law and California Civil Code 980(a)(1). Misuse of course notes or recordings derived from lecture material may also subject you to legal proceedings.

Course Requirements and Grading

The written requirements for this class consist of the following: two papers (4-6 pages and 5-8 pages, due 10/8 and 11/19 respectively, topics to be distributed in class); a Midterm Exam (10/22), in class); a comprehensive Final Exam (Thursday, December 12, 11 AM – 1 PM) and regular writing assignments for your section. Papers will be due in hard copy at the beginning of class and must also be submitted electronically to Turnitin by the beginning of class time.

The course grade will be determined according to the following breakdown:

Section: 20%

Papers I and II: 20% each

Midterm Exam: 20%

Final Exam: 20%

Required Reading

The following, required books are available at the USC bookstore and have also been placed on reserve at Leavey Library. (The reserve password is “Europe”.)

Aimé Césaire, *Discourse on Colonialism* (Monthly Review)

Jack Censer & Lynn Hunt, *Liberty, Equality, Fraternity* (Penn State)

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* (Norton)

Roger Griffin ed., *Fascism* (Oxford)

Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz* (Simon & Schuster)

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, *The Communist Manifesto* (Bedford)

J. J. Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origins and Foundations of Inequality among Men* (Bedford)

Wolfgang Schivelbusch, *The Railway Journey* (UC Press)

Robert Weinberg & Laurie Bernstein, *Revolutionary Russia* (Oxford)

Readings marked ** will be available from the course Blackboard site.

Schedule, Assignments and Topics

August 27. Course Introduction and Overview. The Meaning of Modern Europe

I The Enlightenment, the French Revolution and the Making of Modern Politics

August 29. The World of the Old Regime

Reading: Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origins and Foundations of Inequality*, pp. 133-38, 1-25

September 3. The Enlightenment

Reading: Rousseau, *Discourse on Inequality*, pp. 42-95

September 5. No Class: Rosh Hashana

September 10. The Old Regime and the Origins of the French Revolution

Reading: Censer & Hunt, *Liberty, Equality, Fraternity*, pp. 1-47

September 12. 1789: The Liberal Revolution

Reading: Censer & Hunt, *Liberty, Equality, Fraternity*, pp. 49-84

September 17. The Radical Revolution and the Terror

Reading: Censer & Hunt, *Liberty, Equality, Fraternity*, pp. 85-138

II The Industrial Revolution, the Liberal Order and the Transformation of Space & Time

September 19. The Industrial Revolution

Reading: Schivelbusch, *Railway Journey*, 1-15, Adam Smith**, Jeremy Bentham**

September 24. Industrialization and Its Social Consequences

Reading: Marx & Engels, *Communist Manifesto*, pp. 106-110, Thomas Malthus, Thomas Carlyle**

September 26. Industrialization and Its Cultural Consequences

Reading: Schivelbusch, *Railway Journey*, 16-112 (skim 89-112)

October 1. The “Utopian Socialists” and the Challenge to Liberalism

Reading: Marx & Engels, pp. 114-118, Saint-Simon, Robert Owen, Etienne Cabet**

October 3. Marx and “Scientific Socialism”

Reading: Marx & Engels, *Communist Manifesto*, pp. 63-96, 132-143

III Empire, Race and the “New Imperialism”

October 8. European Colonialism and the “New Imperialism”

First Paper is Due

October 10. Science and Race

Reading: Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*, pp. 208-241

October 15. Science, Race and the “Scramble for Africa”

Reading: Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*, pp. 3-77, 336-349, 386-395

IV The End of the Liberal Order: World War I, Modernism and Revolution

October 17. Marxism and the Revolutionary Tradition

Reading: Weinberg & Bernstein, *Revolutionary Russia*, pp. 9-35

October 22. **Midterm Exam**

October 24. 1917: The February and October Revolutions

Reading: Weinberg & Bernstein, *Revolutionary Russia*, pp. 37-89

October 29. The Soviets in Power: Gender & Culture in Revolutionary Russia

Reading: Weinberg & Bernstein, *Revolutionary Russia*, pp. 93-161

October 31. Stalin & the Great Terror

Reading: Weinberg & Bernstein, *Revolutionary Russia*, pp. 163-207

V Counterrevolution: Fascism, World War II and Mass Death in the Twentieth Century

November 5. The Great War and Its Aftermath: Nationalism and the Culture of Violence

Reading: Griffin, *Fascism*, pp. 23-33, 104-115

November 7. The Fascist Seizure of Power in Italy

reading: Griffin, *Fascism*, pp. 34-44, 49-65

November 12. The Rise of National Socialism in Germany

reading: Griffin, *Fascism*, pp. 116-153

November 14. The Spread of Fascism, the Spanish Civil War & the Road to WWII

reading: Griffin, pp. 185-203, 219-226; Start reading Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*

November 19. The Nazi Racial State and the War

Reading: Griffin, pp. 154-165; Documents on Eugenics**

Second Paper Due

November 21. The “Final Solution” and the Destruction of European Jewry

Reading: Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*, entire

Coda: Postwar Europe

November 26: Europe Divided: The Problem of German Guilt and the Origins of the Cold War

November 28. No Class: Thanksgiving

December 3. Resistance, Decolonization and the End of the Colonial Order

Reading: Césaire, *Discourse on Colonialism*, pp. 31-78

December 5. Looking Back: The Making, Unmaking and Remaking of Modern Europe?

Final Exam: Thursday, December 12, 11 AM – 1 PM