**HIST104g: Modern Europe**

**Fall Semester 2018, University of Southern California  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-10:50AM, THH 301**

Prof. Aro Velmet   
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Office hours: Tuesdays from 12-2PM or by appointment  
SOS 269

Teaching assistants:

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Discussion sections:

Fridays 8-8:50AM, THH 106  
Fridays 9-9.50AM, THH 106  
Fridays 10-10.50AM, THH 106  
Fridays 11-11.50AM, THH 106

Immigration, nationalism, globalization, economic distress, gender trouble: the global issues of today are the perennial debates of European modernity. This course, rather than offering a comprehensive survey, provides a thematic overview of major problems in European history. Central to our inquiry are the questions: 1) what is modernity? and 2) who are the „Europeans“ that make it? We begin with the Enlightenment and the age of Revolutions as the point where modern ideas of citizenship, statehood, and civilization emerged as we now know them, and think about how various people – women, colonial subjects, serfs, religious minorities – challenged and reworked these notions in the age of empires and nationalism. We analyze how competing ideologies of liberalism, fascism, and communism promised the arrival of a new, modern man, and the destruction of a world that had outlived its time. Finally, we look at the emergence of postwar welfare states and ask why questions about belonging and civilization, which at the end of World War II appeared settled, have now once again become critical to the future of the continent.

The course consists of lectures, which rely heavily on visual analysis and on film, and discussion sections, where students delve into art, literature, and philosophy, ranging from the horrific visions of Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* to the psychosexual dream analyses of Sigmund Freud.

*Course policies. READ WITH CARE – Many questions are likely answered here*

**Course Mechanics:** This General Education class falls within the GE-B “Humanistic Inquiry” rubric. Courses in this category “cultivate a critical appreciation for various forms of human expression by teaching students to evaluate works of literature, philosophy, and the arts, to think critically, and [to] formulate informed opinions about ideas and values.” This course introduces students to major problems and themes in European history, and teaches to read works – literary, philosophical, political, and artistic – that have emerged from this history as three-dimensional, open to interpretation, and rooted in specific times and places. The course consists of two lectures and one discussion section per week.

**Course Materials:** Students are encouraged to purchase a number of books listed below.They will also be available on reserve at the Leavey library. All other printed course materials, images, study guides and assignment instructions are posted on Blackboard by the first week of class, and updated as necessary. Lectures notes/slides *will not* be made available. This is a pedagogical point: note-taking is a useful synthetic skill that requires you to condense and summarize information, helping with analysis and recall.

**Attendance**: Attendance is mandatory in both lectures and discussion sections. Frequent absences may cause the student to fail the course. If you are struggling with medical or personal issues that might be impacting your attendance, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

**Lateness**: The penalty for late assignments is one third of a letter grade per day (a B+ becomes a B etc.) After 72 hours the paper will receive an F and any submissions after that time will not be read.

**Use of Electronics:** There is now ample evidence suggesting that the use of laptops in classrooms can both enhance learning when properly integrated into the curriculum, as well as disrupt learning by distracting users and nearby observers, while also creating a false sense of effective multitasking. Laptop use is discouraged; try taking notes by hand. It will likely improve your performance. Any non-course related use of electronics in forbidden (don’t fool yourself: your instructor can tell). Treat your colleagues with respect. You’ll find a series of articles reviewing the research on the effect digital technology has on attention and focus here: https://www.chronicle.com/article/The-Distracted-Classroom/239446

**Extensions**: Will be granted under special circumstances only. Medical paperwork and/or other supporting materials may be required.

**Religious holidays:** Please notify the instructor during the first week of the semester of any planned absences due to religious holidays.

**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 (GFS 120, tel. 740-0776, fax 740-8216 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 a guide to USC’s policies on plagiarism and academic integrity (among other things), go to: <http://policy.usc.edu/student/scampus/>

Course Requirements and Grading

Section (participation in discussions and section assignments): 10%  
Paper I (4-5 pp, due Sept 14): 20%  
Paper II (5-6 pp, due Nov 9): 25%  
Midterm Exam, October 9: 20%  
Final Exam: 25%

**Books to Purchase / Find on Reserve:**

Lynn Hunt, ed. *The French Revolution and Human Rights: A Brief Documentary History*  
Nancy Prince, *A Black Woman's Odyssey through Russia and Jamaica: The Narrative of Nancy Prince*Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, *Frankenstein or The Modern Prometheus*Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*Martha Hannah, *Your Death Would Be Mine: Paul and Marie Pireaud in the Great War*  
Steve Hochstadt, ed. *Sources of the Holocaust.*Slavenka Drakulic, *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed*

**Schedule and Readings**Week 1

**Tu, Aug. 21.** Introduction to Modern Europe  
  
*PART 1. The Enlightenment and the Age of Revolution*  
  
**Th, Aug 23.** The Old Regime Falls  
Reading: (From Hunt) Denis Diderot, „Natural Law“ (pp. 35-37)  
Abbé Emmanuel Sieyès, *What is the Third Estate?* (pp. 62-70)  
National Assembly, *Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen* (pp. 68-76)  
  
Week 2  
  
**Tu, Aug 28.** The French Revolution and Citizenship  
Reading: (From Hunt) Olympe de Gouges, *Declaration of the Rights of Woman* and other documents (pp. 115-120)  
The Jewish question (pp. 88-95)  
  
**Th, Aug 30.** The Revolution in Haiti and the Age of Napoleon  
Reading: (From Hunt) Free Blacks and Slaves (pp. 95-102).

Week 3  
  
*PART 2: The Industrial Revolution and Its Ideologies*

**Tu, Sept 4.** The Industrial Revolution and Its Imperial Roots  
Reading: *A Black Woman's Odyssey through Russia and Jamaica,* 41-89.

**Th, Sept 6.** The Remaking of Space and Time  
Reading: Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, *Frankenstein or the Modern Prometheus*

Week 4

**Tu, Sept 11**. The Promise of Socialism and 1848  
Reading: Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*

**Th, Sept 13.** The Age of Liberalism after 1848  
Reading: John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty* (selections)

Paper 1 due in section

Week 5

**Tu, Sept 18.** Science, Nature, and Race  
Reading: Charles Darwin, *On the Origin of Species* (1859)  
Francis Galton, „The Comparative Worth of Different Races,“ in *Hereditary Genius* (1869), 336-350.

**Th, Sept 20.** Religion and Nationalism  
Reading: Adam Mickiewicz (trans. Krystyn Lach-Szyrma), *The Books and The Pilgrimage of the Polish Nation* (1833)  
Ernest Renan*,* “What is a Nation” (1882)

Week 6

*PART 3: Who Belongs in Europe? Empire, and Gender*

**Tu, Sept 25.** Europe and Empire. The Scramble for Africa  
Reading: Jules Ferry, Speech of 28 July 1883.

**Th, Sept 27.** Europe and Empire. Race and Culture, West and East.  
Reading: Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

Week 7

**Oct 2.** Feminism and The New Woman  
Reading: Baroness Alexandra Gripenberg, "Concerning Finland", 9 May 1911

**Oct 4.** Freud and the Modern Psyche  
Reading: Freud, *The Wolfman and Other Cases* (selections)

Week 8

**Oct 9.** **MIDTERM EXAM**

**Oct 11.** World War I as Watershed  
Reading: Martha Hanna, *Your Death Would Be Mine: Paul and Marie Pireaud in the Great War* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2006), 127-175.

Week 9

*PART 4: Revolutions Revisited: Fascism and Communism*

**Oct 16.** The Russian Revolutions  
Reading: Alexandr Blok, “The Twelve”, 1918.

**Oct 18.** The Soviets in Power  
Reading: Mikhail Bulgakov, „Koroviev’s Tricks“ and „Black Magic Revealed“ in *Master and Margarita* (1928-1940)

Week 10

**Oct 23.** Liberal Empires and Everyday Life  
Reading: Céline, *Journey to the End of the Night,* 1932, selections.

**Oct 25.** The Fascist New Man  
Reading: Filippo Tomaso Marinetti, *The Founding and Manifesto of Futurism*, 1909  
Ernst Jünger*, “*Battle as an Inner Experience”, 1922

Week 11

**Oct 30.** The Nazi Racial State and World War II  
Reading: Steve Hochstadt, ed. *Sources of the Holocaust*, pp. 29-31; 36-56; 70-79; 95-105.

**Nov 1.** The Final Solution  
Reading: Steve Hochstadt, ed. *Sources of the Holocaust*, pp. 112-117; 129-140; 222-253.

Week 12

*PART 5: The Postwar Consensus?*

**Nov 6.** Decolonization  
Reading: Frantz Fanon, „Algeria Unveiled,“ (1959), pp. 35-67.

**Nov 8.** The European Community and the Iron Curtain  
Reading: Winston S. Churchill, “The Sinews of Peace” (1946)  
The Treaty of Rome (1954)  
Nikita Krushchev, “On the Cult of Personality and Its Consequences” (1956)

Paper 2 due in section

Week 13

**Nov 13**. Welfare States and Their Discontents  
Reading: “The Night of the Barricades,” *Le Monde*, May 12-13, 1968  
 “Join the Revolutionary Commune of the Imagination”, in *When Poetry Ruled the Streets: The French May Events of 1968*

**Nov 15.** Mature Socialism  
Reading: Slavenka Drakulic, *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed,* 1-42.

Week 14

**Nov 20.** Immigration and Postcolonial Europe  
Reading: Jonas Hassen Khemiri, “Sweden's Closet Racists,” *The New York Times,* April 20, 2013

**Nov 22** – **No class. Thanksgiving Holiday**

Week 15

**Nov 26.** 1991 and the End of History?  
Reading: Mikhail Gorbachev, “Perestroika: New Thinking for Our Country and the World”, 1987  
Francis Fukuyama, "The End of History?”, 1989

**Nov 28.** Modern Europe Revisited  
Jürgen Habermas, “Europe and the 'New German Question',” *Eurozine,* April 6, 2011.  
Viktor Orban, Speech at Băile Tuşnad (Tusnádfürdő) of 26 July 2014, *The Budapest* *Beacon.*