

Modern Europe, 1789-Present
History 210 (Section 004)
Spring 2011

North Carolina State University
Withers 115
Tuesday/Thursday 11:45-1:00
Professor: Eric Brandom
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Office hours: Tuesday/Thursday 1:00-2:30 or by appointment

Course Description

This course treats the history of Europe from the French Revolution of 1789 to the adoption of the Euro. This period begins with European dominance in the Atlantic world through imperial formations built largely on the African slave trade, and ends as Europe today claims to be a model of economic and political integration built on the idea of human rights. The French Revolution ushered in political modernity by asserting at once the freedom of the individual and the sovereignty of the people. During the 19th century Europe became the political and economic center of the world, dividing itself into nation-states and much of the rest of the world into imperial holdings. During the twentieth century, a sequence of international conflicts and revolutions tore Europe apart and reshaped it, from the trenches of the Great War and the Bolshevik Revolution, to the Shoah, a divided Berlin, and decolonization.

In this class we will understand European history as a continuing attempt to find political structures and procedures adequate to guard individual liberty, however understood, from the continual challenges of scientific, technical, economic, and social change. These attempts, as we shall see, often turn out to have consequences worse than the problem they set out to solve. Why, we shall try to understand, do attempts to secure human freedom seem so often to end destroying it? What large changes in social and economic structures have shaped political action? How have individuals experienced these changes? Through the interrogation of primary documents, we will come to understand how academic historians construct and challenge arguments about the past. We will ourselves make and evaluate arguments about the material we study, as well as the continuing relevance of European history to the present.

Required Books

Judith G. Coffin and Robert C. Stacey, *Western Civilizations*, volume C: since 1789, 16th edition, 2008.
Émile Zola, *Thérèse Raquin*.
Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*.

Attendance

Class attendance is required and attendance will be taken each day. After the end of the add/drop period (Jan 14th online/24th in person), students will be allowed two unexcused absences for the semester. Any further absences will be permitted only with verification that the student had a legitimate medical or personal reason for missing class. Students who come late to class (by more than 10 minutes) or who leave early will be marked absent. Further unexcused absences will lower the student's final grade by 1/3 (a B+ will drop to B, a B to B-, and so forth). For further information on university attendance policies, see www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/pols_regs/REG205.00.4.php

Course Requirements

In addition to regular class attendance, completion of reading assignments, and participation, there are the following individual requirements:

- 11 short writing assignments
- mid-term examination
- final exam

Please note that the midterm examinations cannot be made up without verification from a Dean or physician of a serious medical or personal emergency. Details about the exams and short writing assignments will be made available in class. There will be + and – grades given in this course. All reading assignments should be completed before the class for which they are assigned.

Course grades will be based on the following formula:

Class participation (15%)
Mid-term examination (25%)
Final exam (35%)
Weekly writing (25%)

The weekly writing assignment that received the lowest grade will be dropped when calculating the final grade.

Course GER Learning Objectives

This course fulfills the NCSU History GER (General Education Requirement) for a non-English speaking culture. Each course in the history category of the GER will provide instruction and guidance that help students to: 1) Understand and engage in the human experience through the interpretation of evidence from the past situated in geo-temporal context; 2) Become aware of the act of historical interpretation itself, through which historians use varieties of evidence to offer perspectives on the meaning of the past; and 3) Make academic arguments about history using reasons and evidence for supporting those reasons that are appropriate to the field of study.

Student Evaluations

Online class evaluations will be available for students to complete during the last two weeks of class. Students will receive an email message directing them to a website where they can login using their Unity ID and complete evaluations. All evaluations are confidential; instructors will never know how any one student responded to any question, and students will never know the ratings for any particular instructors.

Evaluation website: <https://classeval.ncsu.edu>

Student help desk: classeval@ncsu.edu

More about ClassEval: <http://www2.acs.ncsu.edu/UPA/classeval/index.htm>

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism may include the reproduction of the work of others without quotation marks or attribution; paraphrasing or summarizing the work of others without attribution; using the work of another student as one's own; and failure to cite sources for information not commonly known. Plagiarism and cheating are serious infractions and will result in: 1) a failing grade for the course; 2) placement on academic integrity probation; and 3) referral to the Office of Student Conduct.

For more information on NCSU policies regarding plagiarism and academic dishonesty, please see the Code of Student Conduct: http://www.ncsu.edu/stud_affairs/osc/code_conduct/

The honor pledge, "I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this test or assignment," should be written and signed at the bottom of each assignment for this class.

Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must register with Disability Services for Students at 1900 Student Health Center, Campus Box 7509, 515-7653.

Schedule of Class Meetings and Assignments

WEEK 1

January 11th [Meeting #1] – Introductions. Scope of course: What is Europe?

January 13th [Meeting #2] – Enlightenment and the Origins of 1789
Coffin & Stacey, pgs 636-650.

WEEK 2

January 18th [Meeting #3] – Radical Revolution

Coffin & Stacey, pgs 636-657.

Robespierre, "On Political Morality." <http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution/d/413/>

Wollstonecraft, Mary. from *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792)

<http://womhist.alexanderstreet.com/awrm/doc1.htm>

January 20th [Meeting #4] – Napoleon, Haiti, the European Nations

Coffin & Stacey, pgs 658-670.

Wordsworth, "Toussaint L'Ouverture."

[http://thelouvertureproject.org/index.php?title=To Toussaint Louverture - poem by Wordsworth](http://thelouvertureproject.org/index.php?title=To_Toussaint_Louverture_-_poem_by_Wordsworth)

Writing Assignment #1 Due

WEEK 3

January 25th [Meeting #5] – The First Industrial Revolution

Coffin & Stacey, pgs 673-688.

Orwell, "Down the Mine" http://orwell.ru/library/essays/mine/english/e_dtm

January 27th [Meeting #6] – Resistance and Accommodation to Industrialization

Coffin & Stacey, pgs 689-706.

Ure, Andrew. from *The Philosophy of the Manufacturers*, 1835.

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1835ure.html>

Carlyle, Thomas. "Captains of Industry" Book 4, Chapter 4, *Past and Present*, 1848.

<http://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/13534/pg13534.html>

Writing Assignment #2 Due

WEEK 4

February 1st [Meeting #7] - Postwar orders I. Liberals, Revolutionaries, Ultras

Coffin & Stacey, pgs 709-724.

Constant, Benjamin. "Liberty of the Ancients Contrasted with that of the Moderns"
<http://www.uark.edu/depts/comminfo/cambridge/ancients.html>

February 3rd [Meeting #8] – Utopians?
Coffin & Stacey, pgs 725-742.
Marx, Karl. Preamble and ch I, from *The Communist Manifesto*, 1848.
<http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/ch01.htm#007>

Writing Assignment #3 Due

WEEK 5

February 8th [Meeting #9]- European nation-building
Coffin & Stacey, pgs 745-767.
Mazzini, <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1852mazzini.html>

February 10th [Meeting #10] – Non-European European Nations
Coffin & Stacey, pgs 767-780.
Marx on the US Civil War: <http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1862/06/20.htm>
Recommended: Pontecorvo, Queimada!

Writing Assignment #4 Due

WEEK 6

February 15th [Meeting #11] – New Imperialism I (Asia – Capitalism)
Coffin & Stacey, pgs 787-804.
Orwell, "Shooting an Elephant" http://orwell.ru/library/articles/elephant/english/e_eleph

February 17th [Meeting #12] – New Imperialism II (Africa - Racism)
Coffin & Stacey, pgs 804-820.
Spencer, Herbert. "The Coming Slavery," from *The Man versus the State*.
Recommended:
Darwin, <http://www.literature.org/authors/darwin-charles/the-origin-of-species/chapter-03.html>

Writing Assignment #5 Due

WEEK 7

February 22nd [Meeting #13] – Second Industrial Revolution
Coffin & Stacey, pgs 823-837.
Zola, *Therese Raquin* (first half)

February 24th [Meeting #14] – *Fin-de-siècle* ?
Coffin & Stacey, pgs 837-862.
Zola, *Therese Raquin* 2nd half

Writing Assignment #6 Due

WEEK 8

March 1st [Meeting #15] – Review/Catch-up Day
Marinetti, "The Futurist Manifesto"
<http://www.italianfuturism.org/manifestos/foundingmanifesto/>

March 3rd [Meeting #16] – MIDTERM EXAM

SPRING BREAK March 8th & 10th

WEEK 9

March 15th [Meeting #17] – “Rites of Spring”

Coffin & Stacey, pgs 865-883.

Junger, Ernst. from *Storm of Steel*.

Recommended: Kubric, Paths of Glory

March 17th [Meeting #18] – The End of the World, and the Birth of a New Man

Coffin & Stacey, pgs 883-901.

Kollontai, *Autobiography*, pgs 37-44.

Writing Assignment #7 Due

WEEK 10

March 22nd [Meeting #19] – Postwar I: Revolutions Left and Right

Coffin & Stacey, pgs 904-919.

Lenin, April Theses, <http://www.historyguide.org/europe/april.html>

Hitler, Speech, 1921 <http://history.hanover.edu/courses/excerpts/111hit1.html>

Recommended: Eisenstein, Battleship Potempkin

March 24th [Meeting #20] – Nazis and Cultural Upheaval

Coffin & Stacey, pgs 919-936.

Goebbels, Joseph. “Why are we Enemies of the Jews?”

Tillich, Paul. “Ten Theses”

Recommended: Riefenstahl, Triumph of the Will

Writing Assignment #8 Due

WEEK 11

March 29th [Meeting #21] – Reasons and Dress Rehearsals for War

Coffin & Stacey, pgs 939-953.

Hitler, Speech, 1939 http://yad-vashem.org.il/about_holocaust/documents/part1/doc59.html

March 31st [Meeting #22] - WWII Beginnings

Levi. First half

Writing Assignment #9 Due

WEEK 12

April 5th [Meeting #23] – WWII Endings

Coffin & Stacey, pgs 953-974.

Posen Speech – Listen, <http://www.holocaust-history.org/himmler-poznan/>

Levi, finish.

April 7th [Meeting #24] – Postwar II: Political Economy Perfected

Coffin & Stacey, pgs 977-996.

Césaire, *Discourse on colonialism*, pgs 31-53, 74-78.

Writing Assignment #10 Due

WEEK 13

April 12th [Meeting #25] – Decolonizing Europe?

Coffin & Stacey, pgs 996-1013.

Milton Friedman, *Capitalism and Freedom*, pgs 7-25, 198-202.

April 14th [Meeting #26] – Cultural Revolution in the Streets (1968 and consumerism)

Coffin & Stacey, pgs 1016-1037.

1968: <http://www.bopsecrets.org/SI/May68docs.htm>

Recommended: Edel, The Baader Meinhof Complex

Writing Assignment #11 Due

WEEK 14

April 19th [Meeting #27] – The 1970s and the Postmodern World

Coffin & Stacey, pgs 1037-1048.

Charter 77: http://libpro.cts.cuni.cz/charta/docs/declaration_of_charter_77.pdf

NO CLASS 21st

WEEK 15

April 26th [Meeting #28] – The European Union?

Coffin & Stacey, pgs 1050-1070.

Havel, Vaclav. “The Need for Transcendence in a Postmodern World”

<http://www.worldtrans.org/whole/havelspeech.html>

April 28th [Meeting #29] – Exam Review

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday May 10th