HISTORY 101

Professor George Drake
M.W.F. 10:00-10:50

Spring Semester, 2008-2009
ARH 318; Office: Mears 317

Basic Issue in European History

This course provides an introduction to the study of history, using themes from Modern European history. While following a narrative thread provided by occasional lectures and a survey textbook, the substance of the course is contained in a collection of documents assembled by the Grinnell College history faculty. You should read them with care and a critical mind. With effort and experience, you will have the fascination and joy of "doing history". You will engage with the complexity and ambiguity of human thought and behavior.

Your understanding of the documents depends on concentrated and critical reading as well as your openness to differing and even unusual perspectives. Much will depend on the questions you ask of the material. Questions form the basis for historical understanding and they should be asked before, during and after examining the sources. "Are statements supported by evidence?" "Who created the document and why?" "When was it created; soon after or long after the event(s) reported?" Does the writer seem objective or obviously biased? "What do I know about the period that helps me to judge the document?" "Do the documents support generalizations in the textbook?" These and similar questions provide the opportunity to understand and enjoy history. If you question the sources, class discussions will be lively and informative. Because much class time will be devoted to discussion, you bear considerable responsibility for the success of the course. On one occasion, you will lead class discussion along with a small group of classmates.

The more concrete, the more meaningful the historical event. This is one of the reasons why maps are essential and you are expected to refer regularly to the maps in your textbook.

ASSIGNED READING:

Grinnell College History Department, Documents to Illustrate Basic Issues in European History Since 1650, 2006.
Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, The Communist Manifesto, 1848
ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

1. The written assignments are designed to accomplish the following:
   a. Focus your understanding of the past.
   b. Provide experience in using documents to unlock historical events and support your analysis of these events.
   c. Develop your expository writing skills.
   d. Prepare you for class discussion.

2. Written Assignments:
   a. Examinations:
      1. Mid-term (Monday, March 2) 15%
      2. Final (Final Examination Week, Wed. May 13, 9:00 a.m.) 25%
      40%
   b. Papers:
      1. First essay, due on Friday, February 6 20%
      2. Second essay, due on Friday, April 17 20%
      3. Two Question/Observation pages, due Jan. 30 and March 13 10%
      50%
   c. Class Discussion: Your attendance and participation is expected 10%
      100%

3. Explanation of Papers:
The essays should be relatively short (around 5 pages), offering your interpretation of an historical problem. Your sources will be the assigned course reading, particularly the documents. Following submission, you will participate in a tutorial where you will discuss your essay with a small group of students. Each in the group will have read the essays of the other students in your tutorial.

   a. First Essay and Tutorial: Due on Friday, February 6, with your choice of topic to be submitted Friday, January 30. The tutorials will occur during the week of February 19-23. You will select one of these topics:

      1. Consider the political philosophies of Hobbes, Locke, Montesquieu and Rousseau. In what ways do they support each other? In what ways do they differ?
      2. What caused the French Revolution?

   b. Second Essay and Tutorial: Due on Friday, April 17, with the choice of topic due on Friday, April 10. The tutorials will take place during the week of April 20-24. You will select one of these topics:
1. "The Russian Revolution belied the Communist Manifesto." Do you agree? Disagree?
2. "The Industrial Revolution created a social more than an economic transformation." Do you agree? Disagree?

c. Two Question/Observation pages:

You will write two one-page Question/Observation pages based on the assigned readings. The first, due on Friday, January 30, will focus on Documents 2: A and B (Hobbes and Locke). The second one-page Question/Observation, due on Friday, March 13, will center on Documents 10: A, B, C, D, E and F (Imperialism).

4. Explanation of Discussion Leadership:

Once during the semester, together with a small group of classmates, you will lead discussion of the documents. The list of leadership groups will be given to you early in the semester. Student groups will lead discussion on Wednesday, February 18, Friday, February 27, Friday, March 6, Friday, April 10 and Monday, April 27.

THE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week I

Monday, January 19   Introduction

Wednesday, January 21   Europe Before 1650
    Reading:   W.C. Introduction

Friday, January 23   Europe Before 1650
    Reading:   W.C. Chapter 15, pp. 451-489

Week II

Monday, January 26   The Age of Louis XIV
Reading: W.C. Chapter 16, pp. 491-521
   Doc. 1: A,B,C,D,E

Wednesday, January 28  The Age of Louis XIV and the Scientific Revolution
   Reading: W.C. Chapter 17, pp. pp. 523-549

Friday, January 30  The Enlightenment
   Reading: W.C. Chapter 18, pp. 551-561
   Doc. 2: C, D (The Spirit of the Laws), F

Choice of Essay Topic due in class.
   Assignment: Question/Observation page on Hobbes and Locke due in class

Week III

Monday, February 2  Eighteenth Century Europe
   Reading: W.C. Chapter 18, pp. 561-584
   Doc. 2: D (The Persian Letters), E, G

Wednesday, February 4  The French Revolution
   Reading: W.C. Chapter 19, pp. 586-595
   Doc. 3: A, B, C,

Friday, February 6  The French Revolution
   Reading: Doc. 3: E, F, ;
   W.C. Chapter 19, pp 595-604

Written Assignment: First Essay due by 4:00 p.m.

Tutorials

Week IV

Monday, February 9  Extremes
   Reading: Doc. 3: G, H, I

Wednesday, February 11  No Class

Friday, February 13  Napoleon
   Reading: W.C. Chapter 19, pp 604-616
   Doc. 3: J

Week V

Monday, February 16  Reaction to the French Revolution and Napoleon
   Reading: W.C. Chapter 21, pp. 648-665
Wednesday, February 18  *The Industrial Revolution*
Reading:   W.C. Chapter 20, pp. 618-632
Doc. 5: A, C, D, E, F
*Assignment: student-led discussion*

Friday, February 20  *The Impact of the Industrial Revolution*
Reading:   W.C. Chapter 20, pp. 632-647
Doc. 7: A, B, C, D, E

**Week VI**

Monday, February 23  *The Revolution of 1848*
Reading:   W.C. Chapter 21, pp. 665-679
Doc. 5: G, H

Wednesday, February 25  *Communism*
Reading:   The Communist Manifesto, pp. 31-65

Friday, February 27  *Communism*
Reading:   The Communist Manifesto, pp. 65 to the end
*Assignment: student-led discussion*

**Week VII**

Monday, March 2   *Mid-term examination*

Wednesday, March 4  *The Unification of Italy and Germany*
Reading:   W.C. Chapter 22, pp. 680-693
Doc. 6: A, B, C, D

Friday, March 6  *The Unification of Italy and Germany and mid-nineteenth century Europe*
Reading:   W.C. Chapter 22, pp. 693-709
Doc. 6: G, H, J
*Assignment: student-led discussion*

**Week VIII**

Monday, March 9  *The Age of Progress?*
Reading:   W.C. Chapter 23, pp. 710-725
Doc. 7: F; 8: A, B

Wednesday, March 11  *The Age of Progress?*
Reading: W.C. Chapter 23, pp. 725-737
Doc. 8: D, F, G, H

Friday, March 13  
*Imperialism*
Reading: W.C. Chapter 24, pp. 738-748
Doc. 10: A, B, C, D, E, F

**Assignment:** Question/Observation page on Imperialism

**SPRING BREAK**

**Week IX**

**Monday, March 30**  
*Catch-up*

**Wednesday, April 1**  
The Outbreak of World War I
Reading: W.C. Chapter 24, pp. 749-769
Doc. 10: G, H

**Friday, April 3**  
World War I and the Russian Revolution
Reading: W.C. Chapter 25, pp. 770-790
Doc. 11: A, B, C, D

**Week X**

**Monday, April 6**  
The Russian Revolution and the Impact of WW I
Reading: W.C. Chapter 25, pp. 790-803
Doc. 11: E, F, G, H, I

**Wednesday, April 8**  
*Feminism*
Reading: Doc. 9: A, B, D, E, F, G; Doc. 13: I

**Friday, April 10**  
*Interwar Europe*
Reading: W.C. Chapter 26, pp. 804-835
Doc. 12: A, B, C, D, E

**Assignment:** student-led discussion
Choice of Essay topics due in class

**Week XI**  
*(Film: Triumph of the Will)*

**Monday, April 13**  
*Fascism*
Reading: W.C. Chapter 27, pp. 836-855
Doc. 12: F, G

**Wednesday, April 15**  
*Hitler and the Nazis*
Reading: W. C. Chapter 27, pp. 855-867
       Allen, Chapters 1-5

Friday, April 17  The Nazis and World War II
Reading  W. C. Chapter 28, pp. 868-890
       Allen, Chapters 6-12
Assignment: Second Essay due

Week XII  Tutorials

Monday, April 20  World War II
Reading:  W.C. Chapter 28, pp. 890-905
         Allen, Finish
         Doc. 12: I, J

Wednesday, April 22  No Class

Friday, April 24  The Cold War
Reading:  W.C. Chapter 29, pp. 906-926
         Doc. 14: A, B, C

Week XIII

Monday, April 27  Decolonization
Reading:  W.C. Chapter 29, pp. 927-932
         Doc. 13: A, B, C
Assignment: student-led discussion

Wednesday, April 29  The Common Market and European Union
Reading:  W.C. Chapter 29, pp. 932-933 and 949-951
         Doc. 13: D, E, F, H

Friday, May 1  The Collapse of the Soviet System
Reading:  W.C. Chapter 29, pp. 933-943
         Doc. 14: A, B, C

Week XIV

Monday, May 4  The West and the World since 1989
Reading:  W.C. Chapter 30, pp. 944-956
         Doc. 14: D, E, F, G, H

Wednesday, May 6  The West and the World since 1989
Reading:  W.C. Chapter 30, pp. 957-983
Friday, May 8    Review
Reading          W.C. Glossary of Terms

EXAMINATION WEEK

Final Examination, Wednesday, May 13, 9:00 a.m.