

Grinnell College
Department of History
Spring 2009

History 101: Basic Issues in European History, 1650-Present

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Mears 212

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Course Meetings: MWF 9-9:50 AM, Science 1245
Office Hours: M 10-11:30 a.m., W 1:15-2:15 p.m., TH 9:30-11 a.m.

The course is an introductory-level survey exploring key patterns in the development of early modern and modern European history from the period of seventeenth-century absolutism to the collapse of Eastern European Communism and the end of the Cold War in 1989-91. The last 350 years have witnessed some of the most rapid and drastic developments in European history, including the emergence of nationalism, industrialization and representative democracies. Modernity has also brought with it industrial poverty and social displacement, imperialism, colonialism and totalitarianism. These different facets raise questions about the basic nature of the so-called “progress” of the modern age. We will examine these developments in ideas, lifestyles and institutions over this critical time period.

This course is not intended, however, to be an exhaustive survey of modern European history. Instead, it primarily provides an introduction to historical methodology through the lens of certain important developments that took place during this era. We will focus on carefully analyzing our primary sources through in-depth reading, open discussions and written analyses. While we have a textbook to provide contextualization, our focus will be on the documents themselves.

Course Requirements (with percentage of grade in parenthesis)

1. Discussion (20%)

This course is organized around class discussion. You are required to read the assigned primary sources and textbook passages before coming to class and to participate actively in our discussions. Our class meetings are mandatory. As part of your discussion grade, you will be required to respond (on six occasions) to a question or a set of questions that I will post to PioneerWeb about the readings throughout the semester. (I will distribute a separate schedule of discussion response dates once the course roster stabilizes). You will post a thoughtful short response (approximately two paragraphs) to PioneerWeb by 12 a.m. the day before discussion. These responses are required, but not graded. Because the primary purpose of these responses is to facilitate discussion, late postings will not be accepted for any reason. Non-submission will have an unfavorable impact on your final grade, as will, of course, non-attendance in class.

2. Papers (60%) (10% for paper 1, 16.7% for the remaining three papers)

There will be four papers for this course: a three-page primary source analysis and three five-page papers. The first paper will critically analyze a primary source from our course packet; the second and third papers will be slightly broader and comparative in scope, while the last paper will concentrate on Christopher Browning's monograph, *Ordinary Men*. Paper topics, style guidelines and grading criteria will be distributed in class.

4. Final Examination (20%)

There will be an in-class final examination at the regularly-scheduled examination time.

Required Texts

The following books will be available for purchase at the Grinnell College Bookstore.

Thomas Noble, Barry Straus, et. al., *Western Civilization: Beyond Boundaries (Volume II)*, 5th Edition (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2008)

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. *The Communist Manifesto* (New York: Signet, 1998)

Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa, *The Leopard* (New York: Pantheon, 2007)

Vera Brittain, *Testament of Youth* (New York: Penguin Classics, 2005)

Christopher Browning, *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland* (New York: Harper Perennial, 1993)

Many of our daily readings will come from the *Documents to Illustrate Basic Issues in European History* (a photocopied course packet). You must pick up the course packet from me in my office (Mears 212), ideally on the first day of the semester.

Other readings will be posted to PioneerWeb, and are indicated as "PioneerWeb" on the syllabus.

Schedule of Course Meetings and Assignments

Week 1

January 19

The Old Order

Introduction

(For class, read Mark A. Kishlansky, "How to Read a Document," in idem, ed., *Sources of the West* (New York: Longman, 2001), xiii-xxii (PioneerWeb))

January 20

FILM NIGHT

**The Return of Martin Guerre (*Le Retour de Martin Guerre*)
(Dir.: Daniel Vigne, 1982), ARH 102, 7 p.m.**

January 21

Discussion of *The Return of Martin Guerre* and early modern Europe
Readings: Documents 1AB; WC, 451-460, 476-481

January 23

Europe in 1648
Readings: Documents 1CDE; WC, 460-476

Week 2

January 26

Absolutism and the Enlightenment

The Absolutist State and Louis XIV

Readings: Documents 1FGH; WC, 490-501, 506-512

January 28

Galileo, Hobbes, and Locke

Readings: Documents 2ABC; WC, 501-506, 522-547

January 30

Montesquieu and Rousseau

Readings: Documents 2DF; WC, 550-571

Week 3

February 2

French Revolution

Popular Culture, Historical Change

Robert Darnton, "Workers Revolt: The Great Cat Massacre of the Rue Saint-Séverin" (PioneerWeb)

February 4

Revolutionary origins

Readings: Documents 3ABC; WC, 586-595

February 6

The Revolution solidifies

Readings: Documents 3DEG; WC, 595-604

Week 4

February 9

Revolution and Restoration

The Terror

Readings: Documents 3H; "The Festival of the Supreme Being" (PioneerWeb)

February 11

Napoleonic Europe

Readings: "The Constitution of the French Republic" (PioneerWeb); Documents 3J #6 (the Civil Code); WC, 604-615

February 13

Romanticism, Conservatism and the Post-Napoleonic Order

Readings: Documents 4ABDF; WC, 648-658

PAPER #1 DUE FEBRUARY 13, MEARS 212, 5 P.M.

Week 5

February 16

The Industrial Revolution: Defenders and Critics

Liberalism and the Industrial Revolution

Readings: Documents 5CDF; WC, 618-632, 658-660

February 18

Early Utopian Responses

Readings: Robert Owen, "A New View of Society: Fourth Essay" (PioneerWeb); Selections from Charles Fourier (PioneerWeb)

February 20

Marxism

Readings: The Communist Manifesto (49-99 at the very least; feel free to read the introduction and the multiple prefaces); WC, 660-662

Week 6

February 23

Unifications

1848

Readings: Documents 5GH, 6E; WC, 671-677

February 25

Italian Unification

Readings: Lampedusa, The Leopard (3-132); WC, 680-689

February 27

Italian Unification, part II

Readings: The Leopard (133-210)

- Week 7** **Unifications and Imperialism**
March 2 Italian Unification/Novels as History
 Readings: The Leopard (211-279)
March 4 German Unification
 Readings: Documents 6GHI; WC, 689-693
March 6 Imperialism
 Readings: Documents 10CDF, “Modern Egypt” (PioneerWeb); WC, 740-749

- Week 8** **The Fin-de-Siècle**
March 9 Socialism
 Readings: Documents 8ABCE; WC, 716-736
 PAPER #2 DUE MARCH 9, MEARS 212, 5 P.M.
March 11 Fin-de-Siècle Gender Divides
 Readings: Brittain, Testament of Youth (15-93)
March 13 Origins of World War I
 Readings: Testament of Youth (94-164); WC, 764-767, 770-778

Spring Break!!

- Week 9** **World War I and the Russian Revolution**
March 30 The Great War at Home
 Readings: Testament of Youth (165-204, 232-236)
April 1 Women and the War
 Readings: Testament of Youth (239-361)
April 3 Russian Revolution, Part I
 Readings: Documents 11ABD; WC, 778-786

- Week 10** **Revolution and Interwar Europe**
April 6 Russian Revolution and Beyond
 Readings: Documents 11F; Documents on PioneerWeb (Tsereteli’s exchange with Lenin; “Report of the Commissar;” Lenin’s “Letter to Central Committee Members”); WC, 786-790
April 8 Interwar Europe: A Doomed Peace?
 Readings: Testament of Youth, 467-534, 642-661; WC, 790-802, 806-811, 819-826, 829-833
April 10 Authoritarian Responses
 Readings: Documents 12FG; WC, 811-819, 836-847
 PAPER #3 DUE APRIL 10, MEARS 212, 12 P.M.

- Week 11** **The Third Reich and Total War**
April 13 From Weimar to World War
 Readings: Browning, Ordinary Men, 1-37; WC, 826-829, 847-866
April 15 War on the Eastern Front
 Readings: Browning, 38-142; WC, 868-893

April 17 The War and Aftermath
Readings: Browning, 143-189

Week 12 **The Cold War Order**

April 20 Debating the Past, Assessing Responsibility
Readings: Browning, 191-223; Daniel Goldhagen, “The Evil of Banality”
(PioneerWeb)

April 22 Origins of the Cold War
Readings: Gale Stokes, *From Stalinism to Pluralism*, 19-42 (PioneerWeb);
WC, 893-901, 906-915, 922-927

April 24 Welfare States and European Cooperation
Readings: *Documents* 13DEG; WC, 914-922

Week 13 **Economic Boom and the Critics of Prosperity**

April 27 Decolonization: War and Insurrection
Readings: *Documents* 13BC; WC, 901-902, 927-932

April 29 Immigration and the Changing Face of Europe
Readings: Mike Phillips, *Windrush* (PioneerWeb)

May 1 Prosperity and its Discontents
Readings: Feenberg and Freeman, May 1968 documents (PioneerWeb)
PAPER #4 DUE MAY 1, MEARS 212, 12 P.M.

Week 14 **The End of the Cold War**

May 4 From Budapest to Charter 77
Readings: Stokes, *From Stalinism to Pluralism*, 81-87 and 122-138
(PioneerWeb); WC, 933-939

May 6 1989 and the Collapse of Eastern Europe
Readings: *Documents* 14DE; Stokes, *From Stalinism to Pluralism*, 253-267
(PioneerWeb); WC, 939-941, 946-951

May 8 Europe in 2008
Readings: WC, 951-965

FINAL EXAMINATION ON MAY 15, 9 A.M.

Additional Ground Rules:

1. Deadlines are to be taken most seriously. I will automatically grant you one extension on any of the three papers. You must e-mail me 48 hours before the paper is due; you do not need to explain the circumstances necessitating the extension. The extension will be for 72 hours. Barring exceptional emergency circumstances, I will not grant you an extension on another paper. Normally, I take off 1/3 of a letter grade for every 24 hours a paper is overdue.

2. Papers must be double-spaced and have one-inch margins, and should not employ anything larger than 12-point font.

3. All written work at Grinnell College is subject to the Student Handbook. If you have questions as to how a particular assignment relates to the Student Handbook, please consult with me in advance of that assignment's due date.

4. All written work submitted for a grade must be completed in order to pass the course. In addition, any student who misses more than six classes (again, barring exceptional emergency circumstances) will not receiving a passing grade.

5. If you have specific physical, psychiatric or learning disabilities and require accommodations, please let me know early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to the Dean for Student Academic Support and Advising, Joyce Stern, located on the third floor of the Rosenfield Center (x3702).