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## HISTORY 312

### INTRODUCTION TO MODERN EUROPE

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**Instructor:** Dr. Nick Steneck

**Classroom:** Jennings Hall 155

**Meeting Times:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:30am-1:18pm

**Office:** 164 Dulles Hall, 230 W. 17th Avenue

**Office Hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00-3:00pm

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**Course Description.** This course explores the history of modern Europe from the French Revolution to the near present with the goal of familiarizing students with the important changes, events, and institutions of the period. In examining the history of modern Europe we will cover a variety of social, political, economic, and cultural developments, including state-building, empire-building, and nation-building, industrialization and urbanization, the development of mass politics and mass movements, wars and revolutions, the development of ideologies such as liberalism, nationalism, socialism, communism, imperialism, social Darwinism, and culmination of these processes in the end of empires, deindustrialization, the fall of communism, the reemergence of ethnic nationalism, globalization and multiculturalism. We will also look at how these larger developments affected people, especially the evolution of gender relationships in Europe during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and individuals' relationship with the state. Although the course's primary focus is on Europe, we will consider the region's development and experiences within the larger context of modern world history.

**Assigned Readings.** The following books are required for the course and are available at the SBX Bookstore. You are welcome to look for the books on-line but should make sure you purchase the correct edition. You are also responsible for a few short primary source readings (listed in the course schedule and available at the course website), videos shown in class, and class handouts. With the exception of Briggs and Clavin's *Modern Europe*, the books are listed in the order we shall discuss them.

- Asa Briggs and Patricia Clavin, *Modern Europe, 1789-Present*, 2d. ed. (Longman, 2003).
- Wolfgang Schivelbusch, *The Railroad Journey: The Industrialization and Perception of Time and Space* (University of California Press, 1987)
- Modris Eksteins, *Rites of Spring: The Great War and the Birth of the Modern Age* (Mariner Books, 2000).
- Christopher Browning, *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland* (Harper Perennial, 1993).
- Françoise Gaspard, *A Small City in France* (Harvard University Press, 1995).

**Graded Assignments.** To receive full credit for this class you must complete all of the following assignments. Please note that I reserve the right to fail students, including graduating seniors, who do not complete all of the assignments.

- Three short analytical papers based on the assigned readings (excluding the textbook), worth collectively sixty percent (60%) of the final grade;
- Four on-line quizzes based on the lectures and textbook readings, worth collectively thirty percent (30%)

- of the final grade; and
- Class attendance and participation, worth ten percent (10%) of the final grade.

The analytical papers will take the form of an essay response to a single question. You will receive the questions approximately two weeks in advance of the date the papers are due. The on-line quizzes will consist of multiple-choice and short answers questions. Regular attendance and active participation in class discussions are required. In general, if you miss more than two class meetings and make less than five meaningful contributions to class discussions, you are unlikely to receive an “A” for this part of your grade.

**Grading Scale.** I use the following grading scale when assigning grades in this course. Normal rounding rules apply. I DO NOT grade on a curve.

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	E
93+	92-90	89-88	87-83	82-80	79-78	77-73	72-70	69-68	67-60	59-

In the case of borderline final grades, I will take improvement into account.

**Assignment Make-Up Policy.** If for any family, medical, or personal emergency you find it necessary to miss a scheduled examination or assignment (but not a quiz), you must contact your section leader as soon as possible (preferably via e-mail). If you are unable to contact your section leader, please contact me, either via e-mail or by leaving a message with the History Department. Medical excuses will require a note from a doctor stating clearly that the student was **medically unable** to attend class on the day of the scheduled examination or assignment. (A note merely confirming that you **visited** the health clinic or your personnel physician is not sufficient.) I understand that genuine cases of extenuating circumstances may arise during the quarter and will try to make reasonable accommodations if you contact me in a timely manner. **Please note that scheduling conflicts with other University activities—such as band, sports, and exams outside of regularly-scheduled class meetings, etc.—or outside work is generally not a valid excuse for missing a scheduled assignment.** Also, please remember that **you MAY NOT make up missed quizzes for any reason.**

**Statement on Course Accessibility.** If you feel that you may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, you should contact me to discuss your specific needs. You may also contact the Office for Disability Services at 292-3307 in room 150 Pomerene Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations for documented disabilities.

**Statement on Academic Misconduct.** I expect all work that you turn is your own. Attempting to pass off someone else’s work as your own constitutes plagiarism. This as well as any other form of academic misconduct, such as cheating on exams or quizzes, will be dealt with through the procedures established by the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If you have not done so, I recommend you read Section 3335-23-04, “Prohibited Conduct,” of the *Code of Student Conduct*. You will find the *Code* and additional details about academic misconduct at: [http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource\\_csc.asp](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp). For a useful discussion of how to avoid plagiarism in your own work, please see the handout “How Not to Plagiarize,” available from the course website.

**Department Enrollment Policy.** All students must be officially enrolled in the course by the end of the second full week of the quarter. No requests to add the course will be approved by the History Department after that date. Enrolling officially and on time is solely the responsibility of each student.

**Lecture Behavior.** All instructors have pet peeves: behavior they consider really annoying, if not outright

disruptive. Unlike many of my colleagues, I like to list my pet peeves upfront. While you are taking my class, please refrain from the following.

- First, please avoid arriving late to class. Doing so is disruptive and disturbs the learning process for other students. If you need to park and ride the bus to Central Campus, leave early. If you absolutely must come to class late, please be quiet when you enter.
- Second, please refrain from using your cellular telephone during the class, including sending and reading text messages. Frankly, I hate cellular telephones, especially when they ring in the middle of a class. If you have a cellular telephone, please turn it off before class begins. If you are expecting an urgent call, please switch your cellular telephone to vibrate rather than ring. As far as I know, all cellular telephones manufactured since the late-1990s are capable of operating silently.
- Third, please do not pack up early or leave before the class ends. Just about every instructor absolutely loathes the sound of textbooks slamming shut and papers rustling five minutes before the class officially ends. I will tell you when the class is finished and guarantee never (or almost never) to continue into the break. If you must leave class early, please let me know in advance.
- Fourth, please do not surreptitiously read the newspaper (or your cellular telephone), work on non-class related assignments, or engage in non-class-related conversations with other students. If you believe your time is better spent reading the *Lantern*, working on homework, text-messaging, or talking with your friends, that is fine, but please do so someplace other than this class. You have my full attention during the time we meet; it is only polite to reciprocate.
- Finally, please remember that instructors, including myself, have outside lives just as you do. I will respond to messages and requests for information as quickly as possible, but it may take me a day or so to do so. Including the course number in the subject line of your e-mail as well as a signature will generally result in a more timely response.

**Policy Regarding Lecture Notes, Class Session Recording, and Computer Usage.** It is my standard policy not to post lecture outlines to the course website. Nor do I post the class presentations or my lecture notes, so please do not ask. In other words, it is important you attend class regularly. **Sound, image, or video recording of any part of the class meetings is prohibited without my prior consent.** If you wish, you may use a laptop computer to take notes during lectures, but **not** to surf the web, watch movies, communicate with friends, or other purposes. You will be asked to put your computer away if I find it being used inappropriately. Repeated inappropriate use will result in the loss of computer privileges.

**Course Schedule.** As is the case with most schedules, this one is subject to change. Please complete the readings before the Monday class meeting.

**Week of March 24, 2008: Europe at the Beginning of the Modern Era**

- No assigned readings.

**Week of March 31, 2008: Political Revolution and Its Aftermath**

- *Modern Europe*, Chapters 1-2

**Week of April 7, 2008: Industrialization and Its Consequences**

- Schivelbusch, *The Railroad Journey* (all)
- Quiz #1 must be completed Wednesday, April 9th, by midnight.

**Week of April 14, 2008: Europe in the Second Half of the Nineteenth Century**

- *Modern Europe*, Chapters 3-4
- Schivelbusch paper due Monday, April 14th, at the beginning of class

**Week of April 21, 2008: The Great War**

- *Modern Europe*, Chapters 5-6
- Eksteins, *Rites of Spring* (all)
- Quiz #2 must be completed by Wednesday, April 23rd, by midnight.

**Week of April 28, 2008: Recovery and Collapse in the Interwar Period**

- *Modern Europe*, Chapters 7-8
- Eksteins paper due Monday, April 28th, at the beginning of class

**Week of May 5, 2008: Europe and the Experience of Total War**

- *Modern Europe*, Chapter 9
- Browning, *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland* (all)
- Quiz #3 must be completed by Wednesday, May 7th, by midnight.

**Week of May 12, 2008: Europe Divided**

- *Modern Europe*, Chapters 10-12 (to page 391)
- Browning paper due Monday, May 12th, at the beginning of class.

**Week of May 19, 2008: The Challenges of Reunification**

- *Modern Europe*, Chapter 13
- Gaspard, *A Small City in France* (all)
- Quiz #4 must be completed by Wednesday, May 21st, by midnight.

**Week of May 26, 2008: Europe at the Beginning of the 21st Century (No class on Monday, May 26th)**

- (No class on Monday, May 26th)
- Gaspard paper due Wednesday, May 28th, at the beginning of class.

**Week of June 2, 2008: Final Exam Week**

- There is no final exam for this course.