HIST 80200: Literature of Modern Europe

Spring 2023

Course Description:
This course provides students with an introduction to the major themes and historiographical debates in the field of modern European history from the Enlightenment to the present. We will explore a range of literature from works of classic historiography to innovative recent studies; themes will include nation-state building, imperialism, war and genocide, culture, and sexuality. After completing the course students should have a solid grounding in the literature of modern Europe, which will serve as a basis for preparation for first year written exams and oral exams, as well as for later teaching and research work.

Learning Goals:
By the end of the course, students should be able: to demonstrate a command of major historiographical themes in modern European history; to analyze individual works in terms of cogency of argument, the appropriateness of the sources, and clarity of structure; to read the historical literature critically, with attention to questions of approaches and methodologies; and to put together several works into larger interpretative frameworks in preparation for passing the first written examination.

Course Requirements:
Class participation by all students is essential for the success of the learning process in a small seminar setting like this one. One of the goals of this seminar is class discussion, and the success of the discussion depends on careful readings by all students of the assigned texts as well as attendance of all meetings. Active, informed participation in class discussions counts as 35% of your final grade.

Each week, one student will be asked to introduce the readings. As part of this responsibility, they will write 2-page summaries of the readings they have been assigned and distribute them via email to the other students and to me, in advance of that week’s meeting. Summaries must include: a) an assessment of the book’s place within the existing scholarship; b) summary of the argument, beginning with a 1 sentence statement of it followed by elaboration; c) mention of sources, i.e. in what ways they support the argument. Where relevant, they should also address the authors’ theoretical and methodological approaches.

Students are also required to write a 20-page historiographical paper (25 at the most), on a subject of their choice and interest. The topic should be chosen in consultation with me. The
paper should provide critical analysis of the most important scholarly works on this topic, with an emphasis on recent historiography, and be based on books that have not been discussed in class. Once you have chosen the topic you will be expected to submit an annotated bibliography and an outline of the paper on April 13. The bibliography and outline should be pre-circulated with the class and each student should offer a brief 10-minute presentation on that day. The final paper is due one week after the end of the semester, on May 18.

Grade breakdown:

   Class participation: 35%
   Class presentations: 25%
   Research paper: 40%

January 26:
- Introduction to the course and tips on how to read a book!

February 2:
- Thinking about History, Modernity, and the Enlightenment

Readings:
   E. H. Carr, *What is History?*
   Margaret Jacob, *The Secular Enlightenment*

February 9:
- The French Revolution

Readings:
   David Bell, *The First Total War*
   Lynn Hunt, *The Family Romance of the French Revolution*

February 16:
- Other Revolutions

Readings:
   Mark Mazower, *The Greek Revolution and the Making of Modern Europe*
   Jonathan Sperber, *The European Revolutions, 1848-1851*

February 23:
- Imperialism and Colonialism

Readings:
   Mostafa Minawi, *The Ottoman Scramble for Africa*
Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Empire*

**March 2:**
- World War I

**Readings:**
- Eric Lohr, *Nationalizing the Russian Empire: The Campaign Against Enemy Aliens during World War I*
- Jorn Leonhard, *Pandora’s Box: A History of the First World War*

**March 9:**
- Nation-State building in Eastern Europe

**Readings:**
- Peter Connelly, *From Peoples into Nations: A History of Eastern Europe*
- Tim Snyder, *The Reconstruction of Nations*
- Emily Greble, *Muslims and the Making of Modern Europe* (pp. 135-191)

**March 16:**
- The Russian Revolution

**Readings:**
- Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution*
- Richard Pipes, *A Concise History of the Russian Revolution*

**March 23:**
- Fascism

**Readings:**
- Victoria De Grazia, *How Fascism Ruled Women*
- Robert Paxton, *The Anatomy of Fascism*

**March 30:**
- Stalinism

**Readings:**
- Stephen Kotkin, *Magnetic Mountain: Stalinism as Civilization*
- Yuri Slezkine, *The Jewish Century* (Chapters 3-4)
- Moshe Lewin, *The Making of the Soviet System*

**SPRING RECESS: April 5-April 13**

**April 20:**
- The Genocide of European Jewry

**Readings:**
- Saul Friedlander, *The Years of Extermination*
- Ray Brandon and Wendy Lower, eds., *The Shoah in Ukraine*
- Tim Snyder, *The Bloodlands* (chapters 4-7)
April 27:
   ● Postwar Europe

Readings:    Tony Just, *Postwar*
             Dagmar Herzog, *Sex After Fascism*

May 4:
   ● 1989 and Post-Cold War Europe

Readings:    Anthony Garton Ash, *The Magic Lantern*
             Stephen Kotkin, *Armageddon Averted*

May 11:
   ● Ukraine: With or Without Europe

Readings:    Sergii Plokhy, *The Gates of Europe: A History of Ukraine*
             Sergii Zhadan, *The Orphanage*

May 18: FINAL PAPER IS DUE!