

Course Syllabus  
Modern European History, Politics and Culture  
Spring 2002

Course/ Day/Time/Place: HIST.324/TTh /2-3:20/Henry 221  
Instructor: Dr.Lilia Castle  
Office Hours: TTR 3:30-4:30, F 9-11  
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**Course Description:**

This course introduces students to the history of modern Europe. The history is examined from the perspective of the trials and tribulations of peoples, governments, social orders, cultures and individuals that shaped European continent from 1815 to modern time.

The course is designed to give students an understanding of the ideas, institutions, economy and other characteristic features of Europe in historical and contemporary context. Foreign and domestic policies of different countries, the origin and consequences of wars and revolutions will be explored. Additional coverage is given to culture. We investigate the expression of Modern ideas in literature and art.

Students should have the ability to understand and criticize the historical information in various forms: written essays, verbal discourse, small groups interaction. Through course material students should appreciate the values and lifestyles of peoples through the world.

Video clips, slides music will be used to bring the historical panorama to life.

**Exams and Creative Project:**

1. There will be a take home mid-term exam, a final exam, a quiz, and a presentation
2. Students will also take short tests, write analytical essays, participate in intellectual games and class discussions.

3. Attendance: Students are expected to attend all classes, to be prepared, and participate if they wish to receive full credit for the course.

**Course Grading:**

All students will take a mid-term (dialogue due), and final exam on the dates scheduled. The exams will be given specific letter and number grades, and will count for a percentage of the total grade, as follows:

90-100	A	Mid-term exam – 15%
80-89	B	Final exam-15%
70-79	C	Quiz-15%
60-69	D	Student’s presentation-5%
Below 60	F	Group discussions- 10%
		Essays-15%
		Quizzes, tests-15%
		In class participation -10%

**Course Texts:**

A History of the Modern World since 1815, by R.R.Palmer and Joel Colton, McGraw-Hill, Inc., NY, 1995

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**Jan.15** Introduction to the course.

**Jan.17** the Revolution in Western politics, 1775-1815: theory and practice. Robert Owen. Charles Fourier. Saint-Simon. Jean-Jacques Rousseau.

Homework: Prologue xxv-453

In *Anatomy of a revolution*, by Crane Brinton to find out about

1. Protestant Reformation
2. American Revolution
3. French Revolution
4. Russian Revolution

**Jan.22** Video on Revolutions in Europe.

**Group discussion** on theory and practice of revolution (*up to 5 points*)

Homework: *Freedom and the Ideal State*, by L. Castle

**Jan.24** The Industrial Revolution in Europe. Positive and negative results of the Industrial revolution. Urban working class. The condition of women and children.

Homework: ch. X1

**Jan.29** Realism, Positivism, Marxism, "Rational egoism". Thomas Malthus, David Ricardo, Adam Smith, Chernishevsky.

Homework: ch.XII

Prepare for the group discussion on the new social theories

**Jan.31** Group discussion on social theories (*3 points*)

**Feb.5** Unification of Italy. The founding of German Empire. National revolt in Greece. Nationalism.

Group discussion: Nationalism, Patriotism, Chauvinism (*2 points*)

Homework: The America's Civil War – presentations (major events, leaders, and reflection of the Civil war in American literature)

**Feb.7** Student's presentations on America's civil war.

**Feb.12** Liberalization of Russia: Great reforms of Alexander the II.

Homework: handouts, ch.XIII

**Feb.14** *Test* on the reforms of Alexander the II (*5 points*)

**Feb.19, 21** European culture of the first half of the XIX century: art, literature, music, theater, magazines, intellectual societies.

Classicism. Romanticism. Sentimentalism

Slides, video

Homework: ch.XIV, handouts.

**Feb. 26** Intellectual games (*up to 5 points*).

European science in XIX century.

Homework: students presentations on one of the writers, artists, scientists, composers of the XIX century.

**Feb.28** Philosophy of life: Friedrich Nietzsche

*First essay.*

**March 5,7** Dostoevsky, Tolstoy

**March 12** Culture of the second half of the XIX century.

Slides, Video

Homework: ch.XIV, handouts

**March 14 Midterm due**

**Mach 19** Imperialism, First World War. Economic and social impact of the War. The reflection of the War in European literature. Lost generation.

**March 21** Political parties at the beginning of the XX century. Russian Revolutions of 1905, 1917. Murder of Nicholas II and his family.

Canonization of the Tsar in our time.

Video clips.

Homework: ch.XVII, handouts for the quiz

**March 28** Test on First World War and two Russian Revolutions.

**April 2,4** Italian fascism, Third Reich in Germany. Depression in US. Gulag in Stalin's Russia.

*Third essay (5 points)*

Homework: ch.XIX

**April 9,11** The Second World War.

Video.

Homework: ch. XX, handouts.

**April 16** Test on WWII

Homework: ch. XXI, XXII- for the workshop and Students presentations

**April 18, 23** Workshop on modern issues. Students' presentations on modern issues.

**April 25, 30** Modern culture and art.

**May 2** Intellectual game. Review for Final exam

**May 8** Final exam (12:45-2:45)