

HIST 606: Themes in European History II

Syllabus

Prof. Sun-Young Park
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Virtual office hours by appointment

Spring 2021
Th 7:20-10pm
Online course

Course overview

This course is a graduate reading seminar that will examine developments in European history between 1815 and the present. We will explore the intersecting strands of political, social, intellectual, and cultural movements of this period, through topics including: industrialization and labor; class, gender, and race relations; urbanization and urbanism; nationalism and imperialism; developments in science, technology, and medicine; mass culture and politics; decolonization and migration. Our investigations will be both historical and historiographical. On the one hand, we will gain a deeper understanding of the major issues and themes spanning 19th- and 20th-century politics, culture, and society, and how they have come to shape our understanding of modernity. On the other, we will analyze how historians' methods and theoretical frameworks have evolved over time to generate new approaches and perspectives to the study of modern Europe.

Course requirements

***All times noted on this syllabus are in Eastern Standard Time (EST).**

Grade breakdown:

Class participation 20%

Class presentation and discussion lead 20%

Book review 25%

Final paper (historiographical essay) 35%

1. *Class participation:* This is a synchronous online course, and it is expected that you will be available to meet virtually during the official class time. As a graduate seminar, this class will be primarily based around group discussions. You are expected to come to class each week having read the assigned texts and prepared to discuss them with your classmates. Each week, you will be asked to post 1 discussion question on the readings by Thursday 5pm on Blackboard.
2. *Class presentation and discussion lead:* In addition to general expectations on class participation, you will each take a more active role in leading the seminar in two separate meetings. First, each student will be assigned a particular week on which to present a mini-lecture (15-20 minutes) on the broader historical context under consideration (noted in the Weekly Schedule below). As part of this exercise, you will also prepare a supplementary bibliography to share with the class. Second, either working alone or in pairs, you will lead the class discussion on one of the seminar readings.
3. *Book review* (approx. 1000 words), due Thursday 3/11 by 7pm: Early in the semester, you will each select a book published in the last 5-8 years, which relates to the theme(s) of the course. You will write a book review of your selection, conforming to the standards of a professional historical journal (*American Historical Review*, *Journal of Social History*, etc). You and your classmates will then choose one of these books to read and discuss together for our 4/29 meeting.
4. *Final paper* (approx. 4000 words), due Friday 5/7 by 6pm: The final assignment will be a historiographical essay on 5 publications on a topic of your choice, to compare and analyze different

historical methods and approaches. One of the books reviewed may come from the course syllabus. You will be asked to prepare a brief paper proposal (200 words) and bibliography by 4/8.

Reading assignments

The following books are available for purchase at the university bookstore:

- Wolfgang Schivelbusch, *The Railway Journey: The Industrialization of Time and Space in the Nineteenth Century* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2014)
- James Winter, *Secure from Rash Assault. Sustaining the Victorian Environment* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999)
- David Harvey, *Paris, Capital of Modernity* (New York: Routledge, 2003)
- Itohan Osayimwese, *Colonialism and Modern Architecture in Germany* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2017)
- Carl Schorske, *Fin-de-Siècle Vienna: Politics and Culture* (New York: Vintage Books, 1981)
- Deborah Cohen, *The War come Home: Disabled Veterans in Britain and Germany, 1914-1939* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001)
- David Hoffmann, *Cultivating the Masses: Modern State Practices and Soviet Socialism* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2011)
- Benjamin Martin, *The Nazi-Fascist New Order for European Culture* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2016)
- Brian Ladd, *The Ghosts of Berlin: Confronting German History in the Urban Landscape* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998)
- Todd Shepard, *Sex, France, and Arab Men, 1962-1979* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018)
- Dan Diner, *Cataclysms: A History of the Twentieth Century from Europe's Edge* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2008)

Other texts in the syllabus will be shared online through Blackboard.

Course policies

- *Academic integrity:* The integrity of the University community is affected by the individual choices made by each of us. GMU has an Honor Code (<https://oai.gmu.edu/mason-honor-code/>) with clear guidelines regarding academic integrity. Three fundamental principles to follow at all times are that: (1) all work submitted be your own; (2) when using the work or ideas of others, including fellow students, give full credit through accurate citations; and (3) if you are uncertain about the ground rules on a particular assignment, ask for clarification. Plagiarism means using the exact words, opinions, or factual information from another person without giving the person credit. Writers give credit through accepted documentation styles, such as parenthetical citation, footnotes, or endnotes. Paraphrased material must also be cited, using MLA or Chicago format. A simple listing of books or articles is not sufficient. Plagiarism is the equivalent of intellectual robbery and cannot be tolerated in the academic setting. If you have any doubts about what constitutes plagiarism, please see me.
- *Course communication:* Mason uses only Mason e-mail accounts to communicate with enrolled students. Students must activate their Mason e-mail account, use it to communicate with their department and other administrative units, and check it regularly for important university information including messages related to this class.
- *Course technology:* Activities and assignments in this course will regularly use the Blackboard learning system, available at <https://mymason.gmu.edu>. Students are required to have regular, reliable access to a computer with an updated operating system (recommended: Windows 10 or Mac OSX

10.13 or higher) and a stable broadband Internet connection (cable modem, DSL, satellite broadband, etc., with a consistent 1.5 Mbps [megabits per second] download speed or higher). We will also regularly use the web-conferencing software **Zoom**. In addition to the requirements above, students are required to have a device with a functional camera and microphone. In an emergency, students can connect through a telephone call, but video connection is the expected norm.

- *Online conduct:* Please be respectful and courteous when interacting with your professor and classmates online. You should abide by the same standards of conduct as in a regular classroom.
- *Late assignments:* For all written work, lateness will be penalized by 1/3 of a letter grade (for example, A to A-) for every 24-hour period beyond the deadline. If you have extenuating circumstances, you should always get in touch with me directly.
- *Special accommodations:* If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services at 703.993.2474 or ods.gmu.edu. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Weekly schedule

1/28 Introduction: Modern Europe

- Charles Baudelaire, “The Painter of Modern Life” (1863)
- T.J. Clark, “Preface,” in *The Painting of Modern Life: Paris in the Art of Manet and His Followers* (1999)

2/4 The age of industry I: Technology

- Schivelbusch, *Railway Journey*
- E.P. Thompson, “Time, Work-Discipline, and Industrial Capitalism,” *Past & Present* 38, no. 1 (1967), 56-97.

Student lecture topic: The Industrial Revolution

2/11 The age of industry II: Environment

- Winter, *Secure from Rash Assault*

Student lecture topic: 1848

2/18 Urbanism and urbanization

- Walter Benjamin, “Paris, capital of the 19th century” (1935)
- Harvey, *Paris, Capital of Modernity*

Student lecture topic: Nationalism

9pm: Library research session with Dr. George Oberle

2/25 Age of empires

- Osayimwese, *Colonialism and Modern Architecture in Germany*
- Zeynep Çelik, “Islamic Quarters in Western Cities,” in *Displaying the Orient: Architecture of Islam at Nineteenth-Century World's Fairs* (1992)

Student lecture topic: The New Imperialism

Due: Book review selection

3/4 The *fin de siècle*

- Schorske, *Fin-de-siècle Vienna*

Student lecture topic: Mass politics

3/11 - Intermission - no Zoom meeting this week

Due: Book reviews and Blackboard Discussion Board to select final reading

3/18 The Great War

- Cohen, *The War Come Home*
- Catherine Kudlick, "Disability History: Why We Need Another "Other,"" *AHR* 108, no. 3 (2003), 763-93

Student lecture topic: World War I

3/25 Revolutionary Russia

- Hoffmann, *Cultivating the Masses*

Student lecture topic: Russian Revolution / Interwar Europe

4/1 World War II

- Martin, *The Nazi-Fascist New Order for European Culture*
- Monica Black, "Expellees Tell Tales: Partisan Blood Drinkers and the Cultural History of Violence after World War II," *History & Memory* 25, no. 1 (2013), 77-110

Student lecture topic: World War II

4/8 Cold War

- Ladd, *Ghosts of Berlin*

Student lecture topic: The Cold War

Due: Final paper proposal and bibliography

4/15 Decolonization

- Shepard, *Sex, France, and Arab Men*

Student lecture topic: Decolonization

4/22 Twentieth-century Europe

- Diner, *Cataclysms*

Student lecture topic: The European Union

4/29 Conclusion

- Reading selected by class