

# Nineteenth-Century Europe

HIST 308-DL2

Syllabus

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Online course  
Fall 2021

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Virtual office hours by appointment

## Course overview

This course will provide an overview of European history over the long 19th century, from the French Revolution to the eve of World War I. We will explore the intersecting strands of political, social, intellectual, and cultural movements of this period, through topics including: industrialization and labor; class and the rise of the bourgeoisie; urbanization and urbanism; nationalism and imperialism; gender and early feminism; developments in science, technology, and medicine; mass culture and consumption. The aim of the course is to gain a deeper understanding of the major issues and themes spanning 19th-century politics, culture, and society, and how they have come to shape our understanding of modernity. Through readings and study of a variety of primary and secondary documents, we will also question how we use different kinds of sources to reconstruct the past, and think critically about ways of writing history.

## Course structure and requirements

This is an asynchronous online course. All course materials (video lectures, readings, assignments) will be organized through the official Mason Blackboard website (all of your courses are accessible through the myMason Portal, <http://mymason.gmu.edu/>). This structure obliges you to thoroughly read and understand all the written details and instructions shared online, beginning with this syllabus.

For each of the 2 weekly lesson topics, I will normally provide 3 mini-lecture videos of approximately 10 minutes each. These videos will be available on Blackboard by Tuesday 12pm for Topic 1 and Thursday 12pm for Topic 2. These videos may not be downloaded or shared.

### Grade breakdown:

Weekly assignment 25%  
Take-home midterm 25%  
Primary source analysis 25%  
Take-home final exam 25%

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

1. *Weekly assignment:* At the beginning of the semester, the class will be divided into 3 groups (details will be posted to the course Blackboard site). Every week, you will do one of the following assignments depending on your group: 1) take a lecture and textbook reading comprehension quiz; 2) write a reading response paper; or 3) participate in a Blackboard Discussion Board. The only exception is Week 1, when all groups will take a comprehension quiz solely on the video lectures.

- **Comprehension quiz:** This multiple-choice quiz, administered through Blackboard, will cover material from the week’s video lectures and textbook reading (noted as “Merriman” in the Weekly Schedule) only. It is open book and open note, but must be completed in one sitting and within 1 hour. The quiz will be posted each Thursday at 5pm and must be completed before Sunday 5pm.
  - **Response paper:** This is a 300-word essay in which you will reflect on a particular theme or question raised by the week’s readings (excluding the Merriman textbook). You should not simply summarize the text(s), but critically analyze the arguments and ideas they raise. These are due Sunday at 5pm.
  - **Discussion Board:** This will be an opportunity for you to engage with your classmates on your thoughts and questions regarding the week’s topics. To make the discussion size manageable, each Group will be divided further into 2 forums (these groupings will remain constant throughout the semester). A discussion prompt will be posted to each forum on Tuesday at 12pm. You should post your first response by Friday 5pm. You must then respond to at least one of your classmates’ posts by Sunday, 5pm. These posts should be substantive, actively drawing on material from the readings. Please keep your posts to 100-200 words in length. This is a Pass/Fail assignment.
2. **Midterm** (due Sunday 10/17, 5pm): The midterm will cover material from weeks 1 through 7, and will be open book and open note. You will be asked to write 2 essay responses, of 1000 words each, from a selection of 3 topics, using course lecture and reading materials to make your arguments. The midterm will be posted to Blackboard on Monday 10/11 at 9am.
  3. **Primary source analysis** (due Sunday 11/21, 5pm): This essay will be a 1500-2000-word analysis of a primary source (text or artifact, such as an artwork) that relates to the topics and themes covered in class. You will be expected to situate the text in its larger historical context to interpret and analyze its significance. I will provide a list of suggestions, but you are welcome to make a different selection based on your interests. You will be given library research guidance early in the semester.
  4. **Final exam** (due Sunday 12/12, 5pm): The final exam will cover material from weeks 9 through 15, and will be open book and open note. You will be asked to write 2 essay responses, of 1000 words each, from a selection of 3 topics, using course lecture and reading materials to make your arguments. The exam will be posted to Blackboard on Monday 12/6 at 9am.

## Reading assignments

The following required textbook is available for purchase from the university bookstore:

- John Merriman, *A History of Modern Europe, vol. 2: From the French Revolution to the Present*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (New York: W.W. Norton, 2019).

This book will serve as the background reading for the course, and you will be assigned approximately 20-40 pages each week to give you a broad overview of that week's topic. Additional reading assignments for each week, comprising both primary and secondary sources, will be made available 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 and rather simple 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. No grade is important enough to justify academic misconduct. 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).
- *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:* Late submissions will not be accepted for the weekly Discussion Board, response papers, and comprehension quizzes. For all other 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 this office.

### Weekly schedule

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Assignments</u>
1 (8/23-29) The French Revolution	Topic 1: Introduction  Topic 2: French Revolution	Please read through the syllabus carefully and explore the course Blackboard site.  Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Textbook: Merriman ch.12, p.451-93</li> <li>▪ Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen (1789)</li> <li>▪ Emmanuel Sieyès, "What is the Third Estate?" (1789)</li> </ul> Weekly assignment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All groups: Comprehension quiz.</li> <li>▪ Please also go to your Group's Discussion Board thread to introduce yourself.</li> </ul>

<p>2 (8/30-9/5)</p> <p>Napoleon, the Congress of Vienna, and the Restoration</p>	<p>Topic 1: Napoleon's rise and fall</p> <p>Topic 2: The Restoration</p>	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Merriman ch.13, p.496-529</li> <li>▪ K. von Metternich, "Political confession of faith" (1820)</li> </ul> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Edmund Burke, <i>Reflections on the Revolution in France</i> (1790), excerpt</li> <li>▪ Adam Mickiewicz, <i>The Books and the Pilgrimage of the Polish Nation</i> (1832), excerpt</li> </ul> <p>Weekly assignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Group 1: Comprehension quiz</li> <li>▪ Group 2: Response paper</li> <li>▪ Group 3: Discussion board</li> </ul>
<p>3 (9/6-12)</p> <p>New movements</p>	<p>Topic 1: Liberalism</p> <p>Topic 2: Romanticism</p>	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Merriman ch.15, p.592-617</li> <li>▪ J.S. Mill, <i>On Liberty</i> (1859), excerpt</li> </ul> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Alfred Musset, "Reflections," in <i>Confession of a Child of the Century</i> (1836)</li> </ul> <p>You will also be assigned library research tutorials this week.</p> <p>Weekly assignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Group 1: Discussion board</li> <li>▪ Group 2: Comprehension quiz</li> <li>▪ Group 3: Response paper</li> </ul>
<p>4 (9/13-19)</p> <p>The Industrial Revolution</p>	<p>Topic 1: The age of industry</p> <p>Topic 2: Urbanization and its consequences</p>	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Merriman ch.14, p.532-47</li> <li>▪ Andrew Ure, "The Philosophy of the Manufacturers" (1835)</li> <li>▪ Alexis de Tocqueville, "A description of Manchester in 1835" (1835)</li> </ul> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Edwin Chadwick, <i>Report on Sanitary Conditions</i> (1842), excerpt</li> <li>▪ Michael Faraday, "Observations on the Filth of the Thames" (1855)</li> </ul> <p>Weekly assignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Group 1: Response paper</li> <li>▪ Group 2: Discussion board</li> <li>▪ Group 3: Comprehension quiz</li> </ul>
<p>5 (9/20-26)</p> <p>Class and culture</p>	<p>Topic 1: Working classes</p>	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Friedrich Engels, <i>The Condition of the Working Class in England</i> (1845), excerpt</li> <li>▪ Merriman ch.14, p.566-74</li> </ul>

	Topic 2: The bourgeoisie	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Merriman ch.14, p.547-60</li> <li>▪ Simon Gunn, "The industrial city, the middle class and bourgeois culture," in <i>The Public Culture of the Victorian Middle Class: Ritual and Authority and the English Industrial City, 1840-1914</i> (2000)</li> </ul> <p>Weekly assignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Group 1: Comprehension quiz</li> <li>▪ Group 2: Response paper</li> <li>▪ Group 3: Discussion board</li> <li>▪ Please look over the details of the primary source analysis assignment (due 11/21), which will be posted to Blackboard this week.</li> </ul>
6 (9/27-10/3) Socialism and 1848	<p>Topic 1: Socialism's rise</p> <p>Topic 2: The 1848 revolutions</p>	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Marx and Engels, <i>The Communist Manifesto</i> (1848)</li> </ul> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Merriman ch.16, p.626-55</li> <li>▪ G. Mazzini, "Europe, its Conditions and Prospects" (1852)</li> </ul> <p>Weekly assignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Group 1: Discussion board</li> <li>▪ Group 2: Comprehension quiz</li> <li>▪ Group 3: Response paper</li> </ul>
7 (10/4-10) Modern metropolis	<p>Topic 1: Haussmann's Paris</p> <p>Topic 2: London and Vienna</p>	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Patrice Higonnet, "The Urban Machine," in <i>Paris, Capital of the World</i> (2002)</li> </ul> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Carl Schorske, "The Ringstrasse, Its Critics, and the Birth of Urban Modernism," <i>Fin-de-siècle Vienna</i> (1981)</li> </ul> <p>Weekly assignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Group 1: Response paper</li> <li>▪ Group 2: Discussion board</li> <li>▪ Group 3: Comprehension quiz</li> </ul>
8 (10/11-17) MIDTERM		Midterm exam due Sunday 10/17, 5pm.
9 (10/18-24) Gender and society	<p>Topic 1: Early feminism</p> <p>Topic 2: Public and private spheres</p>	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Flora Tristan, <i>The Workers' Union</i> (1843), excerpt</li> </ul> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Merriman ch.19, p.765-80 ("Social Change")</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Group 1: Comprehension quiz</li> <li>▪ Group 2: Response paper</li> <li>▪ Group 3: Discussion board</li> </ul>
13 (11/15-21) The age of empires	<p>Topic 1: Conceptions of race</p> <p>Topic 2: New Imperialism</p>	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Alexis de Tocqueville, "Notes on the voyage to Algeria" (1841)</li> <li>▪ J.A. de Gobineau, "Essay on the Inequality of Human Races" (1853), excerpt</li> </ul> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Merriman ch.21, p.826-67</li> </ul> <p>Primary source analysis due Sunday 11/21, 5pm. No weekly assignment.</p>
14 (11/22-28) Fin-de-siècle Europe	<p>Topic 1: Beyond reason</p> <p>Thanksgiving break</p>	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Merriman ch.20, p.807-23</li> <li>▪ Georg Simmel, "The Metropolis and Modern Life" (1903)</li> </ul> <p>No weekly assignment.</p>
15 (11/29-12/5) Toward the Great War	<p>Topic 1: Mass culture and politics</p> <p>Topic 2: The origins of World War I</p>	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Merriman ch.20, p.792-807</li> <li>▪ Emile Zola, "J'accuse...!" (I accuse) (1898)</li> </ul> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Merriman ch.22, p.873-95</li> <li>▪ Sigmund Freud, "Thoughts for the time on war and death" (1915)</li> </ul> <p>Weekly assignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Group 1: Discussion board</li> <li>▪ Group 2: Comprehension quiz</li> <li>▪ Group 3: Response paper</li> </ul>