

Nineteenth-Century Europe

HIST 308-001

Syllabus

Prof. Sun-Young Park
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Office: Horizon Hall 3156
Office hours by appointment

Fall 2023
TR 3-4:15pm
Music Theater Building 1006

Contact information of 2 classmates:

1. _____
2. _____

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 discussions 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 requirements

Grade breakdown:

Class participation 25%
Take-home midterm 25%
Primary source analysis 25%
Take-home final exam 25%

1. *Class participation:* This course will be composed of both lectures and discussions. You are expected to come to each class prepared with thoughts and questions on the day's reading assignment. One of the aims of this course is to teach you how to read and reflect critically on a range of historical texts. Learning to respond to your fellow students' opinions and comments is a valuable part of this process, and a skill you will be able to take with you to future courses. I may occasionally give unannounced reading quizzes to check that you are keeping up.

There will also be 4 required Discussion Board posts (through Blackboard) over the course of the semester. Based on the groupings below, you will post a reflection on the reading(s) by 2pm on the indicated dates:

Group 1 – last names A-C: 8/31, 9/19, 10/17, 11/7
Group 2 – last names D-M: 9/7, 9/26, 10/24, 11/14
Group 3 – last names N-Z: 9/12, 10/3, 10/31, 11/28

2. *Take-home midterm* (due Friday 10/13, 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 essays 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 Friday 10/6 at 9am.

3. *Primary source analysis*: This paper 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 our course. You will be expected to situate the document 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. The deadline for this assignment is rolling. As a preliminary step, you will give a short presentation on your primary source on the day we study the related topic. Your paper will be due two weeks after that date.
4. *Take-home final exam* (due Friday 12/8, 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 essays 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 Friday 12/1 at 9am.

Reading assignments

The following textbook is available for purchase at the university bookstore:

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

Additional reading assignments for each week, comprising both primary and secondary texts, 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/full-honor-code-document/>) with clear guidelines regarding academic integrity. Three fundamental and 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. 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 Style 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.

Artificial intelligence (AI) language models, such as ChatGPT, and online assignment help tools, such as Chegg®, are examples of online learning support platforms. They cannot be used for course assignments unless explicitly authorized by the instructor. The following actions are prohibited in this course:

- Submitting all or any part of an assignment statement to an online learning support platform;
- Incorporating any part of an AI generated response in an assignment;
- Submitting your own work for this class to an online learning support platform for iteration or improvement.

If you are in doubt as to whether you are using an online learning support platform appropriately in this course, I encourage you to discuss your situation with 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.
- *Attendance and conduct:* You are expected to attend and participate in every class session. For justifiable absences (such as illness or other emergencies), you may be asked to provide official documentation. You should e-mail me in advance if you know of an upcoming conflict. Repeated absences will impact your participation grade. Please refrain from eating or sleeping during class.
- *Use of technology:* Cell phones and other communicative devices must be switched off or put on silent (not vibrate) mode and kept out of sight during class hours. Laptops/tablets may be used solely for note-taking purposes, and not for e-mailing, internet browsing, or using social media. I may occasionally check that you are complying with this policy, and in the case that it is not respected, I reserve the right to prohibit laptop/tablet use for the remainder of the course.
- *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 contact the Office of Disability Services at 703.993.2474 or ds.gmu.edu. All academic accommodations must be arranged through this office.

Weekly schedule

Week 1 The French Revolution

T 8/22 Introduction

R 8/24 The French Revolution

- Abbé Sieyès, "What is the Third Estate?" (1789)
- "Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen" (1789)
- Lynn Hunt, ed., *The French Revolution and Human Rights* (1996)—documents 24, 25, 34
- Background: Merriman ch.12, p.451-93

Week 2 Napoleon, the Congress of Vienna, and the Restoration

T 8/29 Napoleon's rise and fall

- Jean-Jacques Dessalines, "The General-in-Chief to the people of Haïti" (1804)
- K. von Metternich, "Political confession of faith" (1820)
- Background: Merriman ch.13, p.496-529

R 8/31 The Restoration

- Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (1790), excerpts
 - Adam Mickiewicz, *The Books and the Pilgrimage of the Polish Nation* (1832), excerpt
- Group 1 Discussion Board -

Week 3 New movements

T 9/5 Library research session with Dr. George Oberle

*We will be meeting in Fenwick Library 1014A; please bring a laptop if you can.

R 9/7 Liberalism and romanticism

- J.S. Mill, *On Liberty* (1859), ch.1
 - Alfred Musset, "Reflections," in *Confession of a Child of the Century* (1836)
 - Recommended: Merriman ch.15, p.592-617
- Group 2 Discussion Board -

Week 4 The Industrial Revolution

T 9/12 The age of industry

- Andrew Ure, "The Philosophy of the Manufacturers" (1835)
 - Nile Green, "Among the Dissenters: Reciprocal Ethnography in Nineteenth-Century Inglistan," *Journal of Global History* (2009)
 - Background: Merriman ch.14, p.532-47
- Group 3 Discussion Board -

R 9/14 Urbanization and its consequences

- Alexis de Tocqueville, "A description of Manchester in 1835" (1835)
- Edwin Chadwick, *Report on Sanitary Conditions* (1842), excerpt
- Michael Faraday, "Observations on the Filth of the Thames" (1855)

Week 5 Class and culture

T 9/19 Working classes

- Friedrich Engels, *The Condition of the Working Class in England* (1845), excerpt
 - "Women Miners in the English Coal Pits" (1842)
 - Recommended: Merriman ch.14, p.566-74
- Group 1 Discussion Board -

R 9/21 The bourgeoisie

- Simon Gunn, "The industrial city, the middle class and bourgeois culture," in *The Public Culture of the Victorian Middle Class: Ritual and Authority and the English Industrial City, 1840-1914* (2000)
- Recommended: Merriman ch.14, p.547-60

Week 6 Socialism and 1848

T 9/26 Socialism's rise

- Flora Tristan, *The Workers' Union* (1843), excerpt
 - Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto* (1848), excerpt
- Group 2 Discussion Board -

R 9/28 The 1848 revolutions

- G. Mazzini, "Europe, its Conditions and Prospects" (1852)
- Background: Merriman ch.16, p.626-55

Week 7 Nations and Nationalism

T 10/3 Nationalism and identity

- J.G. Fichte, "Thirteenth address to the German nation" (1808)
 - G. Mazzini, "Duties towards your country" (1860)
 - E. Renan, "What is a nation?" (1882)
- Group 3 Discussion Board -

R 10/5 Italian and German unification

- Merriman ch.17, p.661-93

Week 8 Midterm (no class meetings this week): Take-home midterm due Friday 10/13, by 5pm.

Week 9 Modern cities

T 10/17 Haussmann's Paris

- Patrice Higonnet, "The Urban Machine," in *Paris, Capital of the World* (2002)
- Group 1 Discussion Board -

R 10/19 London and Vienna

- Carl Schorske, "The Ringstrasse, Its Critics, and the Birth of Urban Modernism," *Fin-de-siècle Vienna* (1981)

Week 10 Science, technology, medicine

T 10/24 Hygiene and the social question

- Erwin H. Ackerknecht, "Anticontagionism between 1821 and 1867" (1948, reprinted 2009)
- Group 2 Discussion Board -

R 10/26 Advancements in modern science

- Zeynep Çelik, "Islamic Quarters in Western Cities," in *Displaying the Orient* (1992)
- Background: Merriman ch.19, p.750-65

Week 11 New and old beliefs

T 10/31 The Darwinian revolution

- Janet Browne, "Darwin in Caricature: A Study in the Popularisation and Dissemination of Evolution" *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society* 145 (2001)
- Group 3 Discussion Board -

R 11/2 Religion and secularism

- Friedrich Nietzsche, "Parable of the Madman" (1882)
- David Blackburn, *Marpingen: Apparitions of the Virgin Mary in 19th-Century Germany* (1994), ch.1

Week 12 Gender and society

T 11/7 Gender and Society

- Emile Zola, *The Ladies' Paradise* (1883), excerpt
 - Background: Merriman ch.19, p.765-80 ("Social Change") and 785-89 ("The Consumer Explosion")
- Group 1 Discussion Board -

R 11/9 NO CLASS MEETING (Professor away)

Week 13 The age of empires

T 11/14 Conceptions of race

- James Africanus Horton, *West African Countries and Peoples* (1868)
 - John Chilembwe, "African Christian Union" (1897)
- Group 2 Discussion Board -

R 11/16 New imperialism

- Frederick Lugard, *Political Memoranda* (1913-18)
- G.L. Angoulvant, "General instructions to civilian administrators" (1908)
- Background: Merriman ch.21, p.826-67

Week 14 Fin-de-siècle Europe

T 11/21 Beyond reason

- Georg Simmel, "The Metropolis and Mental Life" (1903)
- Background: Merriman ch.20, p.807-23

R 11/23 NO CLASS (Thanksgiving break)

Week 15 Toward the Great War

T 11/28 Mass culture and politics

- Ziya Gökalp, “The ideal of nationalism” (1913)
- Background: Merriman ch.20, p.792-807

- Group 3 Discussion Board -

R 11/30 The origins of World War I

- Sigmund Freud, “Thoughts for the time on war and death” (1915)
- Background: Merriman ch.22, p.873-95