

# HISTORY OF EUROPEAN CIVILIZATION FROM THE 17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

HIST 103/SPRING 2006

## **Professor Wendy Lower**

Department of History

Office: Linthicum # 119E

Office Hours: Mon/Wed 12:45 - 1:45; 3:30-4:30 and by appt.

Mon/Wed 11:00 am- 12:15 pm; LH238

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## **Required Texts** (available at the Towson University Bookstore):

*The Making of the West* (Since 1740, Vol C) by Hunt, Martin, et al.

*Sources of the Making of the West* (Since 1500, Vol 2) by Lualdi

*Candide* by Voltaire

*Communist Manifesto* by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels

*All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque

*Survival in Auschwitz* by Primo Levi

## **Course Description**

This course focuses on the major social, political, economic, and cultural developments that occurred across Europe from the Enlightenment until the end of the Second World War (roughly 1700-1945). Within this sweep of time, Europe reached its zenith as a world power only to plummet into two devastating world wars that took millions of lives and destroyed countless architectural wonders. Europe experienced rapid industrialization, the consolidation of nation-state systems, parliamentary democracies, and fascist states, the demise of monarchical rule, population explosions, a proliferation of diverse artistic forms and expression, cataclysmic wars, a Holocaust, and major advances in technology, science, and medicine. This course will not offer you a simplified narrative of Europe's history as a story of progress that ended with the disasters of Nazism and Stalinism. Instead we will critically examine the paradoxes and problems that each generation of Europeans has grappled with in the modern era.

## **Assignments and Goals**

All assignments have been developed with the aim of deepening your knowledge of modern European history and introducing you to historical ways of thinking. Your textbook provides a general, chronological survey. We will also read and analyze primary sources from the different periods, and examine images and artifacts in class such as WWI postcards from the trenches. The structure of the course consists of a weekly lecture and discussion. You will work in small groups in the discussions and be required to make presentations to the entire class.

Students will demonstrate their increased historical knowledge and understanding through class participation in discussions as well as in written assignments. The writing assignments consist of three papers (3-5 pages, double-spaced). The papers must demonstrate: 1) a close reading of the texts; 2) the ability to present the main themes of the texts by quoting key passages; 3) thoughtful reflection about the themes and 4) strong writing skills. As you formulate your papers, think about how the book sheds light on major events or developments of its time. All papers should be typed and include standard citations. I will provide examples of citations. \*\* Assignments will not be accepted as email attachments; all papers must be handed in on paper and in class on the due date. Late papers will receive a lower grade.

Students will complete two in-class examinations (a mid-term and final). The exams will consist of ids and essay questions. To help students better prepare for the exams, I will distribute the possible ids and essay questions beforehand. Students are encouraged to form study groups and to exchange ideas and materials with other students. However no discussion, lecture notes, or texts will be allowed in the classroom during the exams.

**Grading:** Three Reaction Papers 30%

Mid Term Examination 30%

Final Examination 40%

A (94-100) A- (90-93) B+ (87-89) B (84-86) B- (80-83) C+ (77-79) C (70-77) D(60-69)

## **Policies**

Class participation and attendance are factored into final grades and in borderline cases can mean the

difference between e.g. C+ and B-. According to Towson's attendance policy, students who do not attend the first two class meetings and fail to inform the department may be dropped from the class. I will take attendance at each class. Excused absences are permitted (e.g. illness, family emergency, religious observance, university event), but please inform me. It is impolite and unfair to your colleagues if you arrive late to class and/or leave early. All cell phones must be turned off during class. Any student whose phone rings during class will be asked to leave the class that day and marked down with an unexcused absence. Students with multiple unexcused absences will fail the course.

Plagiarism is the taking of another's ideas or writings as one's own. Do not copy verbatim text from a published source, cut and paste material from the Internet and then submit that copied text to me as your "masterpiece" in prose. This is intellectual theft, which is easily detectable to the reader and will not be tolerated. You must remember to acknowledge another author's ideas if you include them in your written assignments. For more information on plagiarism, see the University's Student Academic Integrity Policy, Appendix F of the University Catalogue, Part V.

For any student who may need an accommodation due to a disability, please make an appointment to see me during my office hours. A memo from Disability Support Services authorizing your accommodations will be required.

### **Class Schedule: Lectures, Discussion Topics, Assignments**

Jan 30 (Mon) - Introduction to the Course, Why Study History? Why "the West?"

Feb 1 (Wed) - Mapping Europe and the Old Order; The Making of the West, Chapter 19

Feb 6 (Mon) – Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment Thought; Class reading, Galileo's Letter (31-35)

Feb 8 (Wed)- The Philosophes and Salon Society, Read for Class, Memoirs of Duke of Saint Simon (p.45-48); Mary Astell (p 67)and Adam Smith (p.81) selections in "Source of the Making of the West"

Feb 13 (Mon) - The French Revolution in Phases, 1789-1799; The Making of the West, Chapter 20, 747-763, Discussion Question Assignment for Candide!

Feb 15 (Wed) - \*\*Discussion Candide, Hand in Answers to Questions

Feb 20 (Mon) -The French Revolution cont- The Great Terror and its Legacies;

The Making of the West, Chapter 20 , 763-785. Handout- Robespierre and the Terror

Feb 22 (Wed) – Discussion; Sources of the West- National Assembly's Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen, Olympe de Gouges, Toussaint L'Ouverture, 95-104.

Feb 27 (Mon) - Napoleon's Europe and the Spread of Revolutionary Ideas;

The Making of the West, Chapter 21, 787-805

Mar 1 (Wed) - Discussion Conservatism and Romanticism.; Sources of the West- Wordsworth and Caspar David Friedrich in Making of the West, 805-823. Music: Chopin

Mar 6 (Mon)-. - European Society and Thought in the First Half of the 19th century-Industrialization, Social Reform Movements and Revolutions; The Making of the West, Chapter 22

Mar 8(Wed). Discussion; The Sources of the West- Macaulay, Owen, 109-116; Berlin Factory Rules, Ellis, Engels, 119-130. Handout, Child Labor Inquiry, Women in the Textile Mills

Mar 13 (Mon) –.Revolutions of 1848, and J.S. Mill on the "Woman Question"

**Mar 15(Wed) - \*First Paper Due, The Communist Manifesto** Discussion: Labor and Rise of Utopian Socialism and Marxism, \*Mid Term questions and IDS announced \*

SPRING BREAK Mar 20-25

Mar 27 (Mon) -\*\*In Class Review of Essays and Ids\*\*

**Mar 29 (Wed) \*\*\* MID TERM EXAMINATION \*\*\***

Apr 3(Mon) - The Rise of the Nation State and the End of the Concert of Europe (Germany and Italy); The Making of the West, Chapter 23;Nationalism and State Building Discussion, Sources of the West, Mazzini,

116-117; Petofi, 130-132; von Ihering letters, 133-136

**APRIL 5 (Wed) NO CLASS**

April 10 (Mon) - The New Imperialism in Africa- Case Study of the Belgian Congo; The Making of the West. Chapter 24

April 12 (Wed) -. In class Discussion- Krupa Sattianadan's "Saguna," 138-142, Charles Darwin's Descent of Man, 142-147, Jules Ferry Speech Before the French National Assembly, 149-153, Kipling's White Man's Burden, 153-156 and Nietzsche's "The Gay Science" 165-170 in Sources of the Making of the West.

April 17(Mon) - Modernity and the Road to War, 1890-1914. The Making of the West, Chapter 25, Chapter 26, 1003-1014

April 19 (Wed) The Impact of WWI- **\*Paper Due- All Quiet on the Western Front.** Making of the West, Chapter 26, 1003-1014. In class examination of postcards from the trenches. Discussion of Remarque.

April 24 (Mon) - Revolution in Russia. Making of the West, Chapter 26, 1014-1028 Discussion: Sources of the West- Kropotkin, 136-138; Lenin, 192-193..

April 26(Wed) - Fascism in Europe, Making of the West, 1028-1047,

May 1 (Mon) -. Discussion; Propaganda- Film Excerpts Triumph of the Will. In Sources of the West, Mussolini and Hitler, 193-201. Goebbels, 202-205 Handout Krupskaya's Agitprop, 'What a Communist Ought to be Like

May 3 (Wed) -" 1930s Stalinism: Handout Five Year Plan

May 8 (Mon) - Origins of World War II and the Appeasement Debate. Discussion-Sources of the West, Neville Chamberlain's Speech, 205-208

May 10 (Wed) – WWII and The Holocaust 1933-1945. **\*Paper Due, Survival in Auschwitz.**

\* Distribution of Final Exam Questions and Ids

May 15 (Mon) LAST CLASS - In Class Review of Exam Questions and Ids

Final Exam Date TBA