

EUROPEAN INTELLECTUAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY

History 348
Sarah Curtis

Fall 2014
MW 2:10-3:25

Course objectives:

This course surveys the intellectual and cultural history of Europe from the Enlightenment through the present day. It will examine changes in European thought from the rationalism of the "age of reason" to the belief in science and progress in the nineteenth century to the crisis of modern thought in the twentieth. Special attention will also be paid to the ways in which artistic movements like romanticism and modernism have paralleled and reflected intellectual trends, and how both intellectual and cultural history have reacted to the changing European social and political landscape.

Reading:

This course depends entirely on reading from primary sources, some in entirety and others in excerpt. The following books are available for purchase at the bookstore. The particular editions may matter, since some of the books have other documents that I have also assigned. I recommend buying the books since you will need to consult them frequently.

*Edgar E. Knoebel, *Classics of Western Thought*, vol. 3, *The Modern World* (4th ed., Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, ISBN 978-0155076846) (abbreviated as CL on the schedule)

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*, 3d ed (Broadview, 9781554811038; also an e-Pub) (This is the 1818 edition.)

H. G. Wells, *The Time Machine*, (Broadview, ISBN 9781551113050; also an e-Pub)

Sigmund Freud, *Five Lectures on Psycho-analysis* (Norton, ISBN 978-0-393008470)

George Orwell, *1984* (Signet, ISBN 978-0451524935)

*Also on reserve at the library.

Electronic reserves and websites:

Some of the readings are available on electronic reserves (abbreviated ER on the schedule). They can be accessed via iLearn. Some readings are directly accessible on the web, in which case the URL is given in the syllabus and linked on iLearn.

Office hours and contact information:

Monday 1:00-2:00 and Wednesday 9:30-10:30 and 3:30-4:00, and by appointment

office location: Science 267

phone: (415) 338-2250

e-mail: scurtis@sfsu.edu

website: under construction

Course requirements:

In general, I will lecture on Mondays and we will discuss that week's readings on Wednesdays (exceptions will be announced in class). Careful reading and participation in discussions is one of the requirements for this course and therefore attendance also matters. If you have to miss a class, phone or e-mail me in advance. If you miss more than two classes, your discussion grade will suffer.

In order to make sure that students are doing the reading assignments, I will give occasional unannounced quizzes at the beginning of the discussion period. There will be no makeup for these quizzes, but I will drop your two lowest scores.

There will be three papers (due October 6, November 10, and December 17) of 5-6 pp. each, based on the readings and the material we cover in class. Topics for these assignments will be handed out in class. You will be required to turn in a paper copy in class and an electronic copy via Turnitin.com. (Turnitin.com is an electronic resource that compares your essay to internet sources and a comprehensive database of other papers for the detection of plagiarism; your papers will be retained as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database to be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers.)

Papers turned into me by Wednesday of the same week will be penalized one-half grade (e.g. A to A-), the following Monday one full grade (A to B). **Papers more than one week late will not be accepted** without proof of illness or natural disaster.

Graduate students enrolled in the course for upper-division credit will be expected to write longer papers (7-9 pp.) and write one extra book review. Graduate students enrolled concurrently in History 799 (1 unit) will instead complete a 15-20 pp. historiographical essay in addition to the assignments on this syllabus. Both assignments are due December 3.

Grading:

Grades will be determined as follows: each paper 20%, participation 20%, quizzes 20%. Students who wish to take the course CR/NC can change their grading status via "My SFSU" until October 20 at midnight.

If you are unable to complete the course requirements by the end of semester, it is your responsibility to withdraw from the course. I will issue no instructor-initiated withdrawals or incompletes. Student-initiated incompletes are reserved for serious medical excuses (with documentation) or other natural disasters within the last three weeks of the semester. The last day to drop a course without a "W" is September 9; the last day with a "W" (except in extreme circumstances) is November 21.

Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor. The Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC) is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. The DPRC is located in the Student Service Building and can be reached by telephone (voice/TTY 415-338-2472) or by e-mail (dprc@sfsu.edu).

Schedule:

August 25-27 Introduction

Kant, "What Is Enlightenment?"

(<http://www.columbia.edu/acis/ets/CCREAD/etscc/kant.html>)

September 1-3 The Age of Reason

Monday: Labor Day (no class)

The Encyclopedia Project: "The Philosopher" and one selection of your choice

(<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/d/did/>)

Locke, "An Essay Concerning Human Understanding" (CL)

September 8-10 Education of Man (and Woman)

Rousseau, "On the Origin of Inequality among Men" (CL)

Rousseau, "On Education" (CL)

Rousseau, "Sophie or The Wife" (<https://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution/d/470/>)

Wollstonecraft, "Vindication of the Rights of Woman," chap. 2, paragraphs 1-28

(<http://www.bartleby.com/144/2.html>)

September 15-17 Political Enlightenment

Locke, "Of Civil Government" (CL)

Condorcet, "The Progress of the Human Mind" (CL)

Burke, "Reflections on the Revolution in France" (CL)

Rousseau, "Social Contract"

(<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/Rousseau-soccon.html>)

September 22-24 Sense or Sensibility

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein or the Modern Prometheus*, pp. 49-221

September 29-October 1 Romanticism

"Romantic Poetry" (CL)

Wordsworth, "Preface to the 2nd Edition of the Lyrical Ballads" (ER)

Hazlitt, "Wordsworth and the Lake Poets" (ER)

Baudelaire, "The Salon of 1846: To the Bourgeois" (ER)

Brentano, "Letter to Goethe" (ER)

Beethoven, "Letter to Bettina Brentano" (ER)

October 6-8 Marx and Darwin

Paper due Monday

Marx and Engels, "The Communist Manifesto" (CL)

Darwin, "The Origin of Species" and "The Descent of Man" (CL)

Wells, *The Time Machine*, Appendix A (1, 2, 3), Appendix B (2, 3, 4, 5)

October 13-15 Progress and Its Discontents

Wells, *The Time Machine*, pp. 57-156

October 20-22 The Modernist Revolt

Dostoevsky, "The Brothers Karamazov: The Grand Inquisitor" (CL)

Nietzsche, "The Genealogy of Morals" (CL)

Nietzsche, "Loneliness and Its Possibilities" (ER)

October 27-29 Relativity and Irrationality

Freud, *Five Lectures on Psychoanalysis* (entire)

November 3-5 The Legacy of World War I

Modern Poetry (McCrae, Sassoon, Owen, Goll, Yeats, Auden) (CL)

Rivers, "On the Repression of War Experience"

(<http://net.lib.byu.edu/estu/wwi/comment/rivers.htm>)

Einstein and Freud correspondence, "Why War?"

(<http://www.public.asu.edu/~jmlynch/273/documents/FreudEinstein.pdf>)

(Note: Freud's side of this correspondence is also in CL, "Why War?")

November 10-12 Modern Art

Paper due Monday

"Cubism (Apollinaire), Futurism (Marinetti), Dada (Tzara)" (ER)

Browse one of these sites for examples of modern art:

Museum of Modern Art, New York: www.moma.org

Centre Georges Pompidou: www.cnac-gp.fr

Tate Modern, London: www.tate.org.uk

Guggenheim Museum, http://www.guggenheim.org/new_york_index.shtml

November 17-19 Totalitarianism

Hitler, "My Struggle" (CL)

Levi, "The Grey Zone" (ER)

Arendt, "Ideology and Terror: A Novel Form of Government" (ER)

December 1-3 Total War and Its Aftermath
Orwell, *1984*

Graduate student assignment due Wednesday

December 8-10 Existentialism

Monday: Sartre, "Existentialism" (CL)

De Beauvoir, "The Second Sex" (ER)

Fanon, "Black Skin, White Masks"; "Letter to the Resident Minister"; "The Wretched of the Earth" (ER)

Fanon, "Colonial War and Mental Disorders" (ER) (optional)

December 15 Postmodernism

Foucault, "What Is Enlightenment?"

(<http://foucault.info/documents/whatIsEnlightenment/foucault.whatIsEnlightenment.en.html>)

Final paper due Wednesday, December 17 in my office by 4:00.