

Nineteenth-Century Europe

History 344
Sarah Curtis

Spring 2011
TTh 12:35-1:50

Course objectives:

This course covers the history of Europe from the Napoleonic period to the eve of World War I. It will concentrate primarily on the historical experience of Britain, France, Germany, and Russia with occasional attention paid to other European nations. But above all, we will examine the issues common to the European experience in the nineteenth century: industrialization and its consequences, new forms of political organization, social reform, urbanization, the emergence of mass culture and politics, and the expansion of European power. The course attempts to balance political, social, and cultural history.

In order to examine these themes and to make the course comprehensible, balanced, and (hopefully) exciting, we will examine the main events of the nineteenth-century in week-long units. With a few exceptions, we will discuss that week's reading on Thursday; you should come to class prepared to do so.

This course meets the Segment III requirement in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century European Contributions to World Culture. All Segment III courses include a minimum of 10 pages of corrected writing. Segment III rules are described in the Class Schedule and Bulletin; student must have earned 60 units by the end of the semester in which they take the course.

Reading:

The reading is mainly drawn from nineteenth-century novels, memoirs, and original documents and is designed to give you a taste of nineteenth-century writings and issues.

The following books are required and are available for purchase at the bookstore:

Elizabeth Gaskell, *Mary Barton* (Broadview)

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto* (Bedford/St. Martin's)

Barbara Engel and Clifford Rosenthal, eds., *Five Sisters: Women Against the Tsar* (Routledge)

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* (Broadview, 2d ed.)

If you buy your books outside of the bookstore, please get the same editions.

I do not ordinarily assign a textbook in this class, but if you feel in need of one, I recommend John Merriman's *A History of Modern Europe*, vol. 2, *From the French Revolution to the Present*. You can buy it online. I have put one copy of the book on reserve in the library if you just want to consult it occasionally.

Electronic reserves and websites:

Some of the readings are available on electronic reserves at the library. They can be accessed via the internet on campus or at home at the following address: <http://eres.sfsu.edu/> (or by the link on the library web page or my web page). The password for this course is Leopold. If you are having trouble logging in, check that you have capitalized and correctly spelled the password.) These readings are indicated on the schedule with the abbreviation ER.

Some readings are directly accessible on the web, in which case the URL is given in the syllabus. There are also links on my web page.

Course requirements:

There will be two exams (midterm and final) and two paper assignments in this class. Dates are indicated on the schedule. Paper topics are on the last page of the syllabus.

Graduate students taking the course for upper-division credit will have one additional assignment. Graduate students enrolled concurrently in History 799 (1 unit) will complete a 15-20 pp. historiographical essay in addition to the assignments on this syllabus. Both assignments are due April 21. Please see information sheet.

Grading:

Grades will be calculated as follows: midterm 25%, final 25%, each paper 20%, participation 10%. (Graduate students: midterm 20%, final 20%, each paper 20%, book review 20%.) Students who wish to take the course CR/NC can change their grading status via "My SFSU" before March 18.

Papers due on Thursday and turned in on Tuesday will be two-half grades (e.g. A to B+) and papers turned in one week late one full grade (e.g. A to B). Papers more than one week late will not be accepted.

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 February 4; the last day with a "W" (except in extreme circumstances) is April 22.

Office hours and contact information:

Tues and Thurs 2:30-3:30, and by appointment

office location: Science 267

phone: (415) 338-2250

e-mail: scurtis@sfsu.edu website: <http://bss.sfsu.edu/scurtis>

Schedule:

Week 1: January 25-27

Europe after the French Revolution

Reading:

Begin Elizabeth Gaskell, *Mary Barton* (chaps. 1-9)

Week 2: February 1-3

Nationalism and Romanticism

Reading:

Johann von Herder, "Materials for the Philosophy of the History of Mankind"
(<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1784herder-mankind.html>)

Lord Byron, "The Isles of Greece"
(<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/byron-greece.html>)

William Wordsworth, "Tables Turned"
(<http://rpo.library.utoronto.ca/poem/2373.html>)

William Wordsworth, "Tintern Abbey" (<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/wordsworth-tintern.html>)

Continue *Mary Barton* (chaps. 10-18)

Week 3: February 8-10

Liberalism and the Middle Classes

Reading:

Samuel Smiles, *Self Help*, chaps. 1, 2, 10 (ER; this is also an e-book in the SFSU library; look it up on the Investigator catalogue and click on "computer file.")

Mrs. Beeton's Book of Household Management, chap. 1
(<http://etext.library.adelaide.edu.au/b/beeton/household/index.html>)

Continue *Mary Barton* (chaps. 19-27)

Week 4: February 15-17

Poverty and the Working Classes

Reading:

Finish *Mary Barton* (chaps. 28-38, appendices C and E) (The two appendices are also available on ER if you have a different edition of the book.)

Week 5: February 22-24

Utopian and Marxist Socialism

Reading:

The Communist Manifesto (pp. 61-96, documents 1, 3-9)

(The documents are available on ER if you have a different edition of the book.)

Week 6: March 1-3

Revolutions of 1848

Thursday: **PAPER DUE**

Week 7: March 8-10

Russia and the Emancipation of the Serfs

Reading:

Ivan Turgenev, *Sketches from a Hunter's Album*: "Yermolay and the Miller's Wife," "Farmer Ovsyanikov," "Bailiff," "Two Landowners" (ER)

Week 8: March 15-17

Tuesday: **MIDTERM**

Thursday: **The Darwinian Revolution**

Week 9: March 22-24

Paris: Capital of the 19th Century

Reading:

Rupert Christiansen, *Paris Babylon*, pp. 1-14 (ER)

March 29-31 SPRING BREAK

Week 10: April 5-7

The Unification of Germany

Reading:

Heinrich Mann, *Man of Straw*, chap. 3 (ER)

Optional: Film "The Kaiser's Lackey" (1951) and/or "The White Ribbon" (2009)

Week 11: April 12-14

Culture Wars

Reading:

David Blackbourn, *Marpingen: Apparitions of the Virgin Mary in a Nineteenth-Century German Village*, chap. 1 (ER)

“Politics of Anticlericalism” and “French Schoolteachers’ Testimonies” (ER: folder is called “Nineteenth-Century Europe”)

Week 12: April 19-21

Radical Politics

Reading:

Five Sisters (introduction, Vera Figner, Praskovia Ivanovskaia, Elizaveta Kovalskaia)

Thursday: Graduate student book review or historiographical essay due

Week 13: April 26-38

The New Imperialism

Reading:

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* (pp. 9-13, 61-148; Appendix C, docs. 1-17, Appendices E, F, G) (The Conrad appendices, except the photos, are available on ER if you have a different edition of the book.)

Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold’s Ghost*, chap. 9 (ER)

Week 14: May 3-5

The New Woman

Thursday: PAPER DUE

Week 15: May 10-12

Europe on the Eve of the Great War

FINAL EXAMINATION Thursday, May 19 (10:45 am - 1:15 pm)

PAPER ASSIGNMENTS

Each paper should be 5-6 pp., typed (12-point font) and double-spaced with normal margins. Staple it in the upper left-hand corner and include page numbers. Citations of quoted material can be informal (e.g. pp. nos. in parenthesis after the quotation), but all material taken from another source (including the internet!) should be put in quotation marks and cited appropriately. The paper should advance an argument that answers one of the questions below, using specific examples and evidence from the assigned readings. You are not expected to do outside research. If you hate all the paper topics and have a better idea, see me.

Paper due March 3

- 1) Both Self-Help and Mrs. Beeton's Book of Household Management are examples of advice or prescriptive literature; that is, they told the emerging middle classes how to behave and how to succeed. Compare and contrast the advice given by these two books with the conditions described by Elizabeth Gaskell in Mary Barton.
- 2) Mary Barton is an example of the "condition of England" novels that became popular in the 1830s and 1840s. To what extent does Elizabeth Gaskell suggest in this novel that England is divided into "two nations" of rich and poor? Does she believe that those nations ever be reconciled and if so, how?
- 3) Using the historical documents provided in the appendices of Mary Barton, examine the extent to which Elizabeth Gaskell's fictional world reflected (or did not reflect) historical reality.
- 4) Imagine that the utopian socialists (you may choose two or three to consider) and Marx and Engels were called upon to solve the problems of the characters in Mary Barton. What solutions would they propose? (You may write this either as an analytical piece or in a more creative format.)

Paper due May 5

- 1) How do the memoirs by the women revolutionaries in Five Sisters reflect the problems faced by the Russian radical movement in the 1870s and 1880s? Do they mirror any of the issues or attitudes found by Turgenev in the 1850s?
- 2) To what extent does Heart of Darkness condemn of European imperialism in Africa? Use specific examples from the text to show the ways in which Conrad criticized or accepted the standards of late 19th-century imperialism.