

## EUROPEAN INTELLECTUAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY

History 348  
Sarah Curtis

Spring 2009  
Thursday 4:10-6:55

### **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) (abbreviated as CL on the schedule)

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*, 2d ed (Broadview) (This is the 1818 edition.)

H. G. Wells, *The Time Machine*, (Broadview)

Sigmund Freud, *Five Lectures on Psycho-analysis* (Norton)

George Orwell, *1984* (Signet)

\*Also on reserve at the library.

### **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 Sartre. (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 from my web page.

### **OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Tuesday, 3:00-4:30; Thursday, 2:00-3:30; and by appointment

office location: Science 267

phone: (415) 338-2250

e-mail: [scurtis@sfsu.edu](mailto:scurtis@sfsu.edu)

website: <http://bss.sfsu.edu/scurtis>

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

In general, I will lecture for the first half of the course and we will discuss that week's readings after the break. 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, please phone or e-mail me in advance and if you miss more than one class, your discussion grade will suffer. I also reserve the right to give short writing assignments or quizzes if a substantial portion of the class is not completing the reading assignments prior to the discussion.

There will be three writing assignments (due March 12, April 16, and May 21) 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. There will be no exams.

Graduate students will be expected to write longer papers (7-9 pp.) and help lead discussions.

## **GRADING:**

Grades will be determined as follows: each writing assignment 25%, class participation 25%. Papers turned into me by Thursday of the same week will be penalized one-half grade (e.g. A to A-), the following Tuesday one full grade (A to B). **Papers more than one week late will not be accepted** without proof of illness or natural disaster.

If you are unable to complete the course requirements by the end of the semester, it is your responsibility to withdraw from the course. I will issue no instructor-initiated withdrawals or incompletes. Incompletes are reserved for serious medical excuses or other emergencies (with documentation) within the last three weeks of the semester. The last day to drop a course without a "W" is February 20; the last day with a "W" (except in extreme circumstances) is April 24. Students who wish to take the course CR/NC can change their grading status via "My SFSU" before March 20 .

## **SCHEDULE:**

**January 29**                      **Introduction**

**February 5**                      **The Age of Reason**

Kant, "What Is Enlightenment?"

(<http://www.english.upenn.edu/~mgamer/Etexts/kant.html>)

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

(<http://www.hti.umich.edu/d/did/>)

**February 12                    Education of Man (and Woman)**

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

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

Wollstonecraft, "Vindication of the Rights of Woman," chap. 2, paragraphs 1-28  
(<http://www.bartleby.com/144/2.html>)

**February 19                    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>)

**February 26                    Sense or Sensibility**

Performance by the Alexander String Quartet

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein or the Modern Prometheus*, pp. 45-244

**March 5                         Romanticism**

"Romantic Poetry" (CL)

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

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

Chateaubriand, "Génie du Christianisme" (ER)

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

Brentano, "Letter to Goethe" (ER)

Beethoven, "Letter to Bettina Brentano" (ER)

**March 12                         Marx and Darwin                    PAPER DUE**

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)

**March 19                         Progress and Its Discontents**

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

**March 26                         SPRING BREAK**

**April 2                             The Modernist Revolt**

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

Nietzsche, "The Genealogy of Morals" (CL)

Nietzsche, "Loneliness and Its Possibilities" (ER)

