History H104
European History From Napoleon to the Present, Spring 2010
Monday-Wednesday, 10:10-11, Chem 033

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Democracy, nationalism, imperialism, feminism, liberalism, fascism, socialism, communism: these are words we use in everyday discourse, but do we really know what they are, and how they look in practice? What are the causes of world wars, revolutions, and authoritarian regimes, and how do people make them happen, experience them, and bring them to an end? There are many approaches to these questions; one of the best is through the history of modern Europe, where these ideas and practices have found such intense expression, and whose wars and revolutions have shaped the world. In this course, we will examine the major trends of European history from the late eighteenth century through the Iraq War. We will keep our focus on comparative themes, rather than on the details of individual countries. Not the least of the goals of this course is to understand just why European History is still such a central part of any curriculum.

The semester will be broadly divided into two parts. The first, covering the period from the French Revolution to the eve of World War One, will examine the rise of social identities fostered by industrialization, socialism, and nationalism. The second half will look the twentieth century as one distinguished by the use of ideologies in revolutions, wars, and international relations.

Learning Objectives: By the end of the semester, you should be able to:
• understand the essential themes and central events of two centuries of European history, and explain their significance.
• understand the role of causation in history, and recognize the difference between description and argument in historical writing.
• synthesize information from a larger chronological or geographical span in order to formulate a historical argument.
• recognize the perspective (time, place, and social position) of a primary source document, and use it in making an argument.
• compose an essay in clear and logical writing, with appropriate reference to sources.

Text: John Merriman, A History of Modern Europe, part 2 (3rd ed.). If you decide to save money by purchasing the 2nd edition, you should plan to take a look at the last chapter in particular of the 3rd edition, as it has been substantially revised. Other chapters have also been revised, and you should remember that you will be responsible for knowing material covered in the 3rd edition.
The discussions each week will focus on themes complementary to those covered in lecture, and will be based upon additional readings, available on Oncourse. Papers and exams will be graded by your AI, under my supervision.

Requirements:
Midterm exam, 15%
Final exam, 25%.
Short papers; you must write three of four, and you must write the first paper. (if you write all four, the lowest grade will be dropped); each counts for 15% of the final grade.
Discussion attendance/participation: 15%.

Paper assignments. (Honors students please note that your topics may be somewhat different; refer to your discussion syllabus)

- Each paper must be a minimum of three full pages long.
- Each paper must include a title; page numbers; and standard margins/spacing. It should be spell-checked and proofread.
- Papers must contain direct reference, in the form of short quotes or paraphrasing, to assigned primary sources, and must consist entirely of your own work.
- Footnotes and bibliography are unnecessary; in-text reference, in parentheses, is sufficient. When page numbers are provided, please note them.
- Rough drafts (complete drafts only, please) are accepted no later than 4PM on Monday of the week the paper is due, by email to Prof. Kenney.


Read carefully the statements made by workers in the early Industrial Revolution (in the Oncourse “Resources” folder for Week 3), and choose several as a basis for discussion. What similarities in life experience or worldview are evident among these workers? If appropriate, draw attention to differences as well. Then, turn to the document by Engels (a chapter from his book, The Condition of the Working Class in England). How does he analyze the situation of the workers, and what kinds of solutions does he imply?
You should be sure you know who Engels was when he wrote Condition. Please provide, at the end of your paper, a list of any print or web source you consulted (other than the textbook).

Paper #2. Due February 17/18, in your discussion. Topic TBA

Paper #3. Due March 24/25, in your discussion. Topic TBA

Paper #4. Due April 14/15, in your discussion. Topic TBA
Lecture Schedule
Mon. 1/11: Introduction to history, and to Europe
Mon. 1/18: No class: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Wed. 1/20: Napoleonic Europe Merriman, ch. 13
Mon. 1/25: The Industrial Revolution
Wed. 1/27: Socialism Merriman, ch. 14
Mon. 2/1: Liberalism, Romanticism, Nationalism
Wed. 2/3: The Revolutions of 1848 Merriman, 15-16
Mon. 2/8: National Unifications and Awakenings
Wed. 2/10: Political Reform and Revolution Merriman, 17-18
Mon. 2/15: Europe Becomes Modern
Wed. 2/17: Social Change and Modernism Merriman, 19-20
Mon. 2/22: Imperialism
Wed. 2/24: Origins of the Great War Merriman, ch. 21
Mon. 3/1: Midterm
Wed. 3/3: World War One Merriman, ch. 22
Mon. 3/8: The Russian Revolution
Wed. 3/10: Stalin’s Soviet Union Merriman, ch. 23
-------------SPRING BREAK-------------SPRING BREAK-------------
Mon. 3/22: The Failure of Democracy in Europe
Wed. 3/24: Fascism in Germany and Italy Merriman, 24-25
Mon. 3/29: World War II
Wed. 3/31: The Holocaust Merriman, ch. 26
Mon. 4/5: Rebuilding Europe; The Cold War Begins
Wed. 4/7: Economic Prosperity Merriman, ch. 27
Mon. 4/12: Decolonization
Wed. 4/14: 1968 and new social movements Merriman, ch. 28
Mon. 4/19: Opposition to dictatorships
Wed. 4/21: The fall of communism Merriman, ch. 29
Mon. 4/26: Europe Falls Apart, again
Wed. 4/28: Europe Comes Together Merriman, ch. 30

Discussion Topics
• Why Europe?

• Should Napoleon have won?

• What was the “working class”, and why did it matter? Paper #1 due.

• Who are the Revolutionaries?

• Is Nationalism inevitable?

• How is 'Modern' Different? Paper #2 due

• Review

• Why is World War One a Shock?

• Why Communism?

• Why Fascism? Paper #3 due

• Moral challenges of total war

• What are the stakes in the Cold War?

• What's wrong with the Cold War? Paper #4 due

• Why did Communism fall?

• Why is Europe important today?

FINAL EXAM is Friday, May 7th, 10:15AM-12:15PM in this classroom.
Course Policies and Guidelines:

Extensions on papers will only be granted by prior arrangement, due to a documented family or medical emergency. Technical problems (cars and computers) are your own responsibility. If a paper is turned in late without prior arrangement, one full grade will be deducted every day (weekends included), beginning on the due date; papers turned in late on the day due will lose one-third of a grade.

Contact: You are expected to have and to use your IU email address. Be sure to check it for messages relating to class. Some announcements may be posted to the Oncourse site as well.

Classroom conduct: Please come to lectures and discussions prepared to listen and participate. To do well in this class, you should plan to attend every lecture. Please be on time to class, and do remember that your attendance and attention is a courtesy to your fellow students and to me. Be aware that sporadic attendance through the semester will also affect your grade. You should do the reading assigned before class.

Electronics: No electronics of any kind may be used in class; this includes laptops as well as cell phones or anything with headphones or a screen.

Disabilities: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please contact me as soon as possible. Then, submit to me a letter from Disability Services (Franklin Hall 006, 855-7578, iubdis@indiana.edu) in the first two weeks of class so that I can address your needs.

Religious Holidays: If you anticipate a conflict between this course’s schedule and your observance of a religious holiday, please contact me within the first two weeks of class. You may want first to consult www.indiana.edu/~vpfaa/holidays.shtml

Academic Honesty & Plagiarism
I expect that any work you submit will be fully your own, in accordance with the IU Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct (Part III). Uncited, plagiarized material shall be treated as academically dishonest, and the paper will be assigned an 'F'. I strongly suggest you visit www.indiana.edu/~college/plagiarism/index.shtml - you will find an in-depth discussion of plagiarism there. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Office of Student Ethics.

Resources on writing and referencing: www.iub.edu/~histweb/seminars/index.html. See also www.indiana.edu/~wts/

LAST WORD:
The point of this class is not to stuff a great deal of information into you, but to master the objectives listed on page 1 of the syllabus. The way to succeed is to understand what the big questions are. As you take notes in lecture, read an assigned text, ask yourself: what’s the big picture here? How do the details fit in to a larger argument? Why am I doing this assignment? If you don’t see it, then speak up!