



HISTORY 544.01E
COLLOQUIUM: GRADUATE READINGS IN MODERN EUROPE
COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2014

Instructor: Dr. Sharon Kowalsky

Office Location: Ferguson Social Sciences 105

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 10:00-11:00, and 2:30-5:00, or by appointment

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COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the wide range of research questions and historiographical debates which occupy historians of Europe from approximately 1789 to the present. Readings will concentrate on the French Revolution; ideas and movements such as liberalism, socialism, nationalism, imperialism, feminism, and modernism; industrialization; war and society; mass media and popular culture; and the rise and fall of Communism.

Course Materials:

The following required books are available at the bookstore:

- Wolff, *Inventing Eastern Europe: The Map of Civilization on the Mind of the Enlightenment* (Stanford U Press, 1994) ISBN 978-0804727020, \$30.95
- Israel, *A Revolution of the Mind: Radical Enlightenment and the Intellectual Origins of Modern Democracy* (Princeton University Press, 2011) ISBN 978-0691152608 \$14.23
- Bell, *The First Total War: Napoleon's Europe and the Birth of Warfare as We Know It* (Mariner Books, 2008) ISBN 978-0618919819, \$15.95
- Hull, *Absolute Destruction: Military Culture and the Practices of War in Imperial Germany* (Cornell University Press, 2006) ISBN 978-0801472930, \$25.95
- Clark, *Struggle for the Breeches: Gender and the Making of the British Working Class* (University of California Press, 1997) ISBN 978-0520208834, \$34.95
- Ruthchild, *Equality and Revolution: Women's Rights in the Russian Empire, 1905-1917* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2010) ISBN 978-0822960669, \$27.95
- Scurr, *Fatal Purity: Robespierre and the French Revolution* (Holt, 2007) ISBN 978-0805082616, \$20.00
- Pipes, *A Concise History of the Russian Revolution* (Vintage, 1996) ISBN 978-0679745440, \$17.95
- Goldhagen, *Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust* (Vintage, 1997) ISBN 978-0679772682, \$17.95
- Browning, *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland* (Harper Perennial, 1993) ISBN 978-0060995065, \$14.99
- Snyder, *Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin* (Basic Books, 2010) ISBN 978-0465002399, \$29.95
- Brown, *A Biography of No Place: From Ethnic Borderland to Soviet Heartland* (Harvard University Press, 2005) ISBN 978-0674019492, \$25.00

Any additional materials will be distributed in class by the professor or made available to students through eCollege.

Note: I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus as necessary over the course of the semester.

Student Learning Outcomes:

This course will teach students to evaluate and analyze materials, and to understand different historians' interpretations of events. By the end of the semester, students should be able to: *identify and compare different authors' interpretations of specific historical events, topics, or trends in modern Europe.*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Attendance and Participation

For all discussions, students are expected to come prepared to engage with the assigned material. This means preparing the assignment before class and bringing the reading material to class. I expect all students to participate actively in our class discussions and to contribute their thoughts, ideas, and questions to our collective exploration. I especially encourage you to bring your questions to class. I will create, and expect you to uphold, an intellectual environment in the classroom where we can listen to and consider others' arguments and opinions with an open mind and where we respect viewpoints other than our own.

Your participation grade will be based on your engagement in our class discussions and be guided by the following rubric:

- A = Always prepared, frequently participates, rarely absent
- B = Always prepared, participates only when called on, rarely absent
- C = Usually prepared, rarely speaks, rarely absent
- D = Often unprepared, several absences
- F = Usually unprepared, frequent absences

Written Assignments

This semester's major written work will be a historiographical essay on a topic of the student's choice related to the readings and topics covered in the course. Students will also complete two comparative book reviews over the course of the semester, due the Monday after the relevant topic is discussed. Details of the written assignments are available on the eCollege site.

Grading

Grades for the semester will be determined according to the following breakdown:

Historiography Essay	40%
Book Reviews	20%
Participation	40%

Your grades for written work will be determined based on the following rubric:

- A = Mastery of reading and class material; factual accuracy; thoughtful, historical argumentation demonstrating ability to synthesize and/or some originality of thought; technically clean
- B = Good to excellent command of most reading and class material; accuracy; good level of historical argumentation; reasonable thesis statement
- C = Good command of class material; accuracy; ability to articulate a historical point of view, even if it is not compelling or is poorly reasoned

D = Poor command of required assignments; errors; ahistorical or narrow reasoning

The grading scale used for this course is as follows:

90-100 =	A
80-89 =	B
70-79 =	C
60-69 =	D
59 or less =	F

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS, ACCESS, AND NAVIGATION

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course:

Word Processing:

You will need access to a word processor and printer to prepare written exams and research projects. You should be able to insert footnotes in your papers.

eCollege:

This course is web-enhanced through eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To access eCollege you will need an internet connection, preferably high speed, and your CWID and password. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, please contact Technology Services at 903-468-6000 or helpdesk@tamu-commerce.edu. To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.tamu-commerce.edu/login.aspx>. eCollege will be used to send you announcements and reminders, to post grades, and to provide access to course materials (except required readings) such as handouts and assignments. In addition, eCollege will be the primary means for me to communicate with you outside the classroom. Be sure that you can access the email account the university has on record for you. You should get into the habit of checking the eCollege site for this course on a daily basis.

Turnitin:

All written work must be submitted to Turnitin.com. Submissions to Turnitin are made through the dropbox on eCollege. All written work for this course will be turned in through the drop box in eCollege. Please let me know if you have any problems.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor:

Students are encouraged to contact the professor for any and all reasons whatsoever. The more you let me know what is going on with you, the better I can help you out when necessary. Beyond the classroom, the best way to get in touch with the professor is through email. I am also available during my office hours. Please come to talk to me about any concerns you might have and about any problems or issues that arise during the semester. I can be very understanding but only if I know what is going on with you.

Librarian:

Our librarian for Humanities and Social Sciences is Megan Beard. She is available to assist you in your research, whether it is using the library or identifying and locating sources. Please take advantage of this assistance as you need it. Her contact information is as follows:

Megan Beard, Reference Librarian
Gee Library

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Classroom Behavior

All students are expected to observe basic tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct). During class time, I expect your undivided attention. This means turning off cell phones, pagers, iPods, and other devices, and putting away newspapers and other forms of distraction, for the duration of the class period (exceptions will be allowed for emergencies with advance permission of the professor). Please come to class on time and plan to stay for the entire period. Coming late and/or disrupting the learning environment shows disrespect for me, your colleagues, and the educational endeavor in which you are engaged. If you must leave early, please let me know at the beginning of class. I can be very understanding of problems that might arise over the course of the semester, but only if I know what is going on with you. I encourage you to come to my office hours, to get to know me, and to keep me informed of any issues you might have that would affect your performance in this class.

Late Papers

All written assignments are due as indicated in the Course Schedule below or on eCollege. Late assignments may be accepted only with the advance approval of the professor and may be assessed a penalty of one letter grade per week. If you have a problem with a due date because of a specific emergency, please notify the professor in advance or plan to turn the assignment in early. *I can be very understanding and flexible with you, but only if you come to talk to me in advance.* To pass this class, all assignments must be completed. Any missing assignments at the end of the course will result in an overall course grade of D or F.

Academic Honesty

In all courses, we expect that all work that you do and turn in is your own. It is the policy of the University, the History Department, and myself that no form of plagiarism, cheating, collusion, or any other form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. Plagiarism is defined as deliberately taking the words or ideas of someone else and passing them off as your own. Cheating is obtaining unauthorized assistance on any assignment. Collusion is the selling of academic products with the intention that they be submitted to satisfy an academic requirement. Students are expected to uphold and support the highest academic standards at all times. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will automatically fail the assignment in question, will likely fail the entire course, and will be subject to disciplinary action by the University (See Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1,2,3]). Further information on the History Department plagiarism policy can be found on the History Department web page. If you are even unclear about what constitutes plagiarism or academic dishonesty, please ask.

Writing Center

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the resources of the Writing Center for assistance with drafting their papers. The Writing Center is a resource for you. They will not write your paper; they will help you improve your writing skills. If you use the Writing Center, please plan ahead. They can only help you if you see them in advance and have time to incorporate their suggestions into the final paper. More information can be found at <http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/litlang/CSC/>.

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that

provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu
[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

This schedule will guide you through the semester and indicates when your assignments are due. It should be referred to often. I will do my best to adhere to this schedule, but I reserve the right to make adjustments to it during the course of the semester as such circumstances arise.

For the most part, we will spend two weeks on each thematic topic.

January 13: Introduction

January 20: *No Class, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*

January 27: Enlightenment

Wolff, *Inventing Eastern Europe: The Map of Civilization on the Mind of the Enlightenment* (Stanford U Press, 1994)

February 3: Enlightenment

Israel, *A Revolution of the Mind: Radical Enlightenment and the Intellectual Origins of Modern Democracy* (Princeton University Press, 2011)

Comparative Book Review on Enlightenment due February 7

February 10: War

Bell, *The First Total War: Napoleon's Europe and the Birth of Warfare as We Know It* (Mariner Books, 2008)

February 17: War

Hull, *Absolute Destruction: Military Culture and the Practices of War in Imperial Germany* (Cornell University Press, 2006)

Comparative Book Review on War Due February 21

February 24: Gender

Clark, *Struggle for the Breeches: Gender and the Making of the British Working Class* (University of California Press, 1997)

March 3: Gender

Ruthchild, *Equality and Revolution* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1994)

Comparative Book Review on Gender Due March 7

March 10: *No class, Spring Break*

- March 17: Revolution
Scurr, *Fatal Purity: Robespierre and the French Revolution* (Holt, 2007)
- March 24: Revolution
Pipes, *A Concise History of the Russian Revolution* (Vintage, 1996)
Comparative Book Review on Revolution Due March 28
- March 31: Nazism
Goldhagen, *Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust* (Vintage, 1997)
- April 7: Nazism
Browning, *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland* (Harper Perennial, 1993)
Comparative Book Review on Nazism Due April 11
- April 14: *No Class, Passover*
- April 21: Identity
Snyder, *Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin* (Basic Books, 2010)
- April 28: Identity
Brown, *A Biography of No Place: From Ethnic Borderland to Soviet Heartland* (Harvard University Press, 2005)
Comparative Book Review on Identity Due May 2
- May 5: *No Class meeting; **Historiography Papers Due***