Class code: HIST-UA9012 – 001

Instructor Details: Hagai M. Segal

Class Details: Fall 2017
Modern Europe

Prerequisites: None.

Class Description: A survey of Europe from 1789 to the present. Investigates the political, social, economic, and cultural developments that shaped and continue to shape the modern age. Emphasis is on the evolution of the nation-state, on industrialization and its impact on society and politics, and on the intellectual responses to the rapid changes these developments inspired. Topics include Europe and the French Revolution; the rise of the nation-state, 1848-1914; the impact of totalitarian ideologies on 20th-century Europe, and Europe today.

Seminars/lectures, involving examinations of texts and sources and class discussion. Audio visual aids (video, etc).

Desired Outcomes:
1. Examining changes since the 18th Century in European social, economic, cultural and political structures, locating Europe’s place in world history and its development.
2. Cultivating as a consequence an understanding of the historical origins and development of modern states, society, political systems, and key ideologies / schools of thought.
3. Become acquainted with the different approaches, theoretical frameworks, and methodologies that historians utilise to investigate historical topics and history itself.
4. Developing critical faculties, the ability to analyse and contextualise key events, ideas and concepts, while becoming accustomed and skilled in related discussion and debate.

Assessment Components:
Class contribution – 5%; Coursework – 50% (Short paper : 20%, Essay : 30%); Class Presentation – 15%; Final examination – 30%.

Failure to submit or fulfil any required course component results in failure of the class.

Assessment Expectations:
Grade A: A-quality work is based on a range of primary and secondary sources, but it will go beyond those sources to draw its own conclusions. An A-quality essay will also be elegantly structured and very well argued and written.

Grade B: B-quality work is well organized, using a close analysis of its sources to make a useful point, backed up with some secondary material. Conversely, a B-quality paper may be as original, even adventurous, as an A-grade paper, but only merit a B because it is badly-structured or poorly written.

Grade C: C-quality work fulfils the basic conditions of the assignment. It has an argument and demonstrates a basic understanding of the subject, but this is not supported by close or wide reading. A C-quality essay may contain obvious gaps or internal contradictions and it may also be structured in a confusing way or full of grammatical errors.

Grade D: D-quality work lacks an argument and its point is unclear. It may often leap from subject to subject without a smooth transition. A D-quality essay may simply summarise material without analysis. Serious grammatical
flaws or unreadability can result in a D being awarded to a paper that would otherwise have earned a C.

**Grade F:** An F is only awarded to a paper which barely tries to tackle its subject. It will have no argument and show little acquaintance with the relevant texts. Any paper which is plagiarized, incomprehensible or incomplete will earn an F.

NYU in London uses the following scale of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

- A=94-100
- A-=90-93
- B+=87-89
- B=84-86
- B-=80-83
- C+=77-79
- C=74-76
- C-=70-73
- D+=67-69
- D=65-66
- F=below 65

Where no specific numerical equivalent is assigned to a letter grade by the class teacher, the mid point of the range will be used in calculating the final class grade (except in the A range, where 95.5 will be used).

**Required Text(s)**


*(All the above are paperbacks, quite reasonably priced, and easily purchased through NYU-London’s recommended bookshop. New and quality used editions of all of these texts are also easily and cheaply purchased (often new for below the above stated prices) on online book retailers [including Amazon.com and Amazon.co.uk], though we we advise that you do purchase new or nearly-new copies.)*

**Supplemental Texts(s) (not required to purchase as copies are in NYU-L Library)**

You are not required to purchase these texts, but they are also very useful resources if you do wish to consult other sources as you prepare for classes, and for the purpose of reference/quotiation for your papers/essays.


**Additional Requirements**

**Readings and Discussion:** In each session we will examine and discuss primary documents and secondary works. Active participation is both encouraged and expected, for learning is a collaborative endeavor. Participation is however not about who says the most or who is most forceful, but rather is about dialogue, meaningful questioning
and enquiry, developing knowledge, and listening and responding to the comments and opinions of others.

**Week to week readings** : Each week a list of ‘Topics For Class Discussion’ will be provided for the following week. These should be taken into consideration when undertaking the required reading/preparing for the following class, for these will form the basis of class discussion. It is essential that the required reading is also undertaken as advised.

**Class Presentation** : From Week 4, two students each week will give together a short (max. 10 minutes) presentation on a pre-assigned subject, accompanied by a one page summary to be given to the Professor. Each student will do one such presentation during the course. This presentation will represent 15% of your final grade.

**Communications** : You will receive regular important communication regarding the course via your NYU e-mail account. Please ensure you thus check your e-mail on at least a weekly basis.

### Session 1
**Introduction class** – Intro. to course, intro. to studying modern History, terms and concepts etc.
**Europe by the Eighteenth Century** – A Survey

**Required Reading** –
Europe: A History – Introduction.
Europe: A History – Chapter VIII : Lumen – Enlightenment and Absolutism, c.1650-1789

### Session 2
**The French Revolution** – Causes and Consequences

**Required Reading** –
The Social Causes of the French Revolution

### Session 3
**The Age of Revolt : Rousseau and Paine - Fathers of the Revolutions**

**Required Reading** –
The Philosophy of Paine, by Thomas Edison.

### Session 4
**Industrial Revolution 1750-1830 : From The Farm To The City, From The Plough To The Loom.**

**Required Reading** –
Leeds Woolen Workers’ Petition, 1786 (Against machinery).
Leeds Cloth Merchants’ Letter, 1791. (Supporting machinery).
Working conditions : The Sadler Committee, excerpts.

### Session 5
**The Age of Ideology I : Birth of the ‘Isms’ – The Liberalisms**

**Required Reading** –
Europe: A History – P491 (Utopia).
Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832): Extracts and life.
John Stuart Mill (1806-73): On Liberty (1859), and Liberalism Evaluated (1873), extracts.
Adam Smith: The Principle of the Mercantile System and An Epitome, 1776, from Wealth of Nations.
Session 6

‘Britannia Rules The Waves!’ - Empire, Orientalism + the “Civilizing Mission”.

Required Reading –
Orientalism, Edward Said, excerpts.
History of British Naval Power – The Royal Navy.
Gunboat diplomacy – Accounts of Palmerston + the Pacifico Incident, 1850.
Imperialism : A French Viewpoint - Paul Leroy Beaulieu, 1891, excerpts.

Additional readings –

Session 7

The Age of Ideology II : The ‘Isms’ In Action – 1848, Class Consciousness and Mass Politics.

Required Reading –
Europe: A History – P1303 (Springtime of Nations - The Revolutions of 1846-9)
Documents of the Revolution of 1848 in France
The German 1848 Revolution: A German Perspective.
The Communist Manifesto.

Session 8

‘For King And Country’: The Great War - European Nationalism and the clash of the Great Powers.

Required Reading –
Europe: A History – Chapter XI : Europe In Eclipse – P901 to 914, and P921 to 928
Selection of World War I Poetry – Short poems of Sasson, Owen, Read, Hodgson, Gibson and Larkin.
Woodrow Wilson : The Fourteen Points, Jan 8 1918 (League of Nations formation).

Session 9

Class trip – Imperial War Museum, First World War galleries.

Then...

Marx and The Russian Revolution : Communism in practice?

Required Reading –
Europe: A History – P. 835 to 840, and P. 914 to 921.
The Communist Manifesto.

Session 10

Legacy of WWI, Versailles, Weimar Republic and collapse, rise of Fascism.

Required Reading –
The Versailles Treaty, 1919, excerpts.
Benito Mussolini (1883-1945): What is Fascism?, 1932.
Adolf Hitler, Mein Kampf, 1926, extracts.

Additional Reading –

Session 11

WWII and the Holocaust

Required Reading –
Europe: A History – P1016 to 1045.
The ‘Final Solution’: Wannsee Conference, Protocols + other documents.
“Extermination of the Jewish People”: Heinrich Himmler: Speech to SS Group Leaders at Posen, October 4 1943.
Rudolf Hoess, Commandant of Auschwitz: Testimony, 1946.
Daniel J. Goldhagen: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust, excerpts.

Session 12

New Era, End of Empire – The UN, the Cold War, and ‘The Nuclear Era’.

Required Reading –
Europe: A History – Chapter XII : Divisa et Indivisa – Europe divided and undivided, 1945 – 1991 (to P1117)
Cold War and Détente readings.

Session 13

EEC, EC, EU, Brexit – Economic Europe, Political Europe, United Europe?

Required Reading –
‘So Just What Is Europe?’ article
‘EU gets Belgian president and British foreign minister’ article

Session 14

Conclusion class and Revision session

Session 15

Final examination

Classroom Etiquette

Students are expected to remain in class for the duration of the class.
Toilet breaks should be taken before or after class or during class breaks.
Food & drink, including gum, are not to be consumed in class.
Mobile phones should be set on silent and should not be used in class except for emergencies.

Required Co-curricular

Class trip – Imperial War Museum, First World War galleries (see above).

Your Instructor

Hagai M. Segal is an award-winning academic, consultant and analyst. A political scientist and historian, he has specific expertise in regards the Middle-East and terrorism. A frequent contributor on radio and TV, and an advisor to counter-terror and security agencies across the globe, Segal serves on the London First Security & Policing Advisory Board and Global Risk Network Executive Advisory Committee. He has lectured at NYU in London since 2004.