SWARTHMORE COLLEGE  
HISTORY 3A

HISTORY OF MODERN EUROPE, 1789-1918

THE AGE OF REVOLUTION AND COUNTERREVOLUTION

Bob Weinberg Office Hours: MW 2-4 and By Appointment

Trotter 218

8133

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This course introduces you to the impact of the French Revolution on European politics, society, and culture from 1789 to the end of World War I and the Bolshevik seizure of power in Russia. Topics include: the revolutionary tradition; industrialization and its social consequence; the emergence of liberalism, feminism, socialism, nationalism and state building; conservatism; the rise of mass society, and world war. Readings will consist of documents, articles, and monographs.

I make no attempt to narrate the history of the period. Instead I focus on a variety of themes and problems in order to illustrate certain key features of European history since the late eighteenth century. The course also introduces you to history as an academic discipline and exposes you to to the various ways practitioners of history write about and interpret the past.

I mix lectures and discussion, and it is imperative that you keep up with the assigned readings so you can participate actively in class.

All students are expected to read the College’s policy on academic honesty and integrity that appears in the Swarthmore College Bulletin. The work you submit must be your own, and plagiarism will be penalized. Any work suspected of violating the policy of academic honesty and integrity will be subject to prosecution by the College Judiciary Committee. When in doubt, check with me.

In addition, I will not accept late papers and will assign a failing grade for the assignment unless you notify me and receive permission to submit the paper after the due date. Class attendance is required, and unexcused absences will result in a lower grade (perhaps failure) in the course.

All articles and documents are available on Moodle. In addition, the following books are on reserve in McCabe Library and are available for purchase.

Fyodor Dostoevskii, *Notes from Underground*

Maureen Healy, *Vienna and the Fall of the Habsburg Empire: Total War and Everyday Life in World War I*

John Merriman, *Massacre: The Life and Death of the Paris Commune of 1871*

Mark Steinberg, *Voices of Revolution, 1917*

Evgenii Zamiatin, *We*

**Requirements:**

**Three six-page papers**. I will give you four opportunities during the course of the semester to select which three assignments you want to complete. Each paper is worth 20 percent of your grade.

**Final exam**, which counts for 30% percent of your grade.

**Class attendance and participation**, which count for 10% of your grade.

**August 29:** Introduction to the Study of History

**August 31:** The Enlightenment

Alan Lightman, “The Enlightenment”

Lynn Hunt, ‘The Many Bodies of Marie-Antoinette: Political Pornography and the Problem of the Feminine in the French Revolution”

**September 2:** Europe in the Eighteenth Century—The *Ancien Régime*

E. P. Thompson, “The Moral Economy of the English Crowd”

**September 5**: 1789—The Year of Revolution

Abbe Sieyès, “What is the Third Estate?”

“Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen”

Malcolm Gladwell, “Historical Outbreaks of Panic Linked to Rye Bread”

Text, 750, 752-761

**September 7**: The Revolution Picks Up Speed

Documents on the Sans-Culottes

Text, 761-763

**September 9**: Heads Roll

Documents on the Terror

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, “The General Will”

Lynn Hunt, “The Imagery of Radicalism”

Text, 763-770 and 770-777

**September 12**: Who is a Citizen? Women, Jews, and Colonial Subjects

Olympe de Gouges, “The Declaration of the Rights of Woman”

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, “Sophie”

Documents on Women and Citizenship

**September** 14: Who is a Citizen? (continued)

Documents on Jews and Citizenship

Documents on Slavery and Citizenship

Text 758 and 777-779

S**eptember 16**: Napoleon and Revolution in Retrospect

Robert Darnton, “What was Revolutionary about the French Revolution?”

Text, 780-783 and 787-805

S**eptember 19**: Restoration of the Old Regime

Text, 805-809 and 823-825

**September 21**: The Industrial Revolution

Andrew Ure, “Decent Working and Living Conditions”

Friedrich Engels, “Industrial Manchester”

Report on Child Labor

Text, 829-840

**September 23**: The Age of Isms—Conservatism and Liberalism

Edmund Burke, “Reflections on the French Revolution”

Joseph De Maistre, “Of the Divine Influence in Political Constitutions”

John Stuart Mill, “On Liberty” and “On Property”

Samuel Smiles, “Self Help”

Text, 853-854

**September 26**: The Age of Isms—Socialism and Marxism

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*

Text, 854-857

**September 28**: The Age of Isms—Nationalism

Johann Gottlieb Fichte, “Address to the German Nation”

Giuseppe Mazzini, “Conversion to Nationalism,” “Young Italy,” “The Duties of Man,” and “To the Young Men of Italy”

Ernest Renan, “What is a Nation?”

Text, 849-853

**September 30**: Crisis at Mid-Century—1848

Text, 858-869

**FIRST PAPER DUE ON SEPTEMBER 30 BY 5 PM**

**October 3**: No Class

**October 5**: Russia in the Mid-Nineteenth Century

Terence Emmons, “The Peasants and Emancipation”

**October 7**: Nationalism Turns to the Right—Unification of Germany and Italy

Otto von Bismarck, “Iron and Blood”

Text, 873-879 and 881-889

**October 17**: State and Society in the Nineteenth Century

Text, 844-849, 891-897 and 911

**October 19**: The Modern State and Mass Society

Text, 915-924, 945-954 and 979-980

**October 21**: The Paris Commune

John Merriman, *Massacre: The Life and Death of the Paris Commune of 1871*

Watch for Class *The Paris Commune* (Access via Tripod: <http://fod.infobase.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?wID=102939&xtid=2466>

**October 24**: The Jewish Question

Wilhelm Marr, “The Victory of Judaism over Germandom”

“Protocols of the Elders of Zion”

Text, 980-985

**October 26**: Learning to Use the Library: Sarah Elichko, Social Sciences Librarian

**October 28:** The Rational Animal?

Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Notes from Underground*

**SECOND PAPER DUE ON OCTOBER 26 BY 5 PM**

**October 31**: Racism and the Imperial Realm

Watch for Class: *Namibia: The Genocide of the Second Reich* (60 minutes)

<http://search.alexanderstreet.com.proxy.swarthmore.edu/view/work/2658154>

*Congo: White King, Red Rubber, Black Death* (90 minutes)

<http://fod.infobase.com.proxy.swarthmore.edu/p_ViewVideo.aspx?xtid=110337>

Ch’ien Lung, “Letter to George III”

“The Letter of Commissioner Lin to Queen Victoria”

Jules Ferry, “Speech Before the French National Assembly”

Jawaharlal Nehru “British Rule in India”

Ho-chi Minh “Declaration of Independence of the Republic of Vietnam”

Text, 847-849, 895-899 and 924-933

**November 2**: The Woman’s Question

Emmeline Pankhurst, “Why We Are Militant”

Hubertine Auclert, “La Citoyenne”

Alexandra Kollontai, “Women and the Family in the Communist State”

Text, 964-966 and 975-978

**November 4**: What Do We Mean by Modernity?

Vanessa Schwartz, “The Morgue and the Musée Grévin: Understanding the Public Taste for Reality in Fin-de-Siècle Paris”

Text, 933-942, 959-964, and 965-974

**November 7**: Reform or Revolution?

Eduard Bernstein, “Evolutionary Socialism”

Rosa Luxemburg, “Social Reform or Revolution”

Vladimir Lenin, “What is to Be Done?”

Text, 906-911

**November 9**: The War to End All Wars

Watch for Class: *The Grand Illusion* (Two hours)

Text, 985-988, 990-999, and 1003-1014

**November 11**: Revolutionary Stirrings in Russia

**November 14**: The Cataclysm of War

Maureen Healy, *Vienna and the Fall of the Habsburg Empire: Total War and Everyday Life in World War I*

Denis Winter, “The Strain of Trench Warfare”

Ernst Junger, “Storm of Steel”

**November 16**: The Collapse of Tsardom and the Bolshevik Seizure of Power

Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution* (chapters one and two)

Mark Steinberg, *Voices of Revolution* (Start reading)

**November 18**: No Class

**THIRD PAPER DUE ON NOVEMBER 18 BY 5 PM**

**November 21**: Understanding the Bolshevik Seizure of Power

Leon Trotsky, “The Peculiarities of Russia’s Development”

Ronald Suny, “Revising the Old Story”

**November 23**: Picking Up the Pieces

Text, 1019-1028

**November 28**: The Meaning of Revolution

Mark Steinberg, *Voices of Revolution*

**November 30**: Reflections on the War

Sigmund Freud, “The Disappointments of War”

Peter Holquist, "Information Is the Alpha and Omega of Our Work: Bolshevik Surveillance in Its Pan-European Context”

**December 2**: What’s In Store for Us?

Evgenii Zamiatin, *We*

**FOURTH PAPER DUE ON DECEMBER 7 BY 5 PM**

**FINAL EXAM SET BY REGISTRAR**