

**EUROPEAN CIVILIZATION:
IDEOLOGIES AND IMAGES OF THE MODERN AGE**

Course Description: This course takes an unusual approach to the history of Europe on three counts. First, it widens the scope of European civilization to include the United States. Second, its strategy is to highlight certain historical topics / themes which still resonate today. Third, it uses as some of its sources feature films, which are meant to exemplify how certain cultural tensions, problems, and themes are reflected in that marker of the modern world: the mass media.

Readings:

Sigmund Freud, *Five Lectures on Psychoanalysis*

Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*

David S. Mason, *Revolutionary Europe*

Albert Memmi, *Colonizer and Colonized*

Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique*

Robert Daniel, *The Year of the Heroic Guerrilla*

Hum 3c Course website: <https://courses.hss.caltech.edu/Fall2009/Hum-H003c>

Course Requirements:

1. Four formal essays, totalling (as in all Hum classes) 4000 words.
2. Class participation. Each student must email to the instructor (rr@hss) by 8 a.m. on Tuesdays a *substantive question for discussion* on the weekly reading assignment. Your questions will in part be used as a basis for class discussion. The student should be prepared to answer the question s/he asks. Everyone is expected to come to class prepared to talk about both the weekly reading and film.
3. Attendance. Students are expected to attend class regularly. More than one unexcused absence can result in an F.

Course Strategy / Office hours:

1. Class will meet on Tuesday at 1 p.m. in D117 for lecture/discussions and on Thursday evenings in B228 at 7 p.m. for a screening of a film that will be discussed the following Tuesday in class. There will be no screening the last week of class, and no class meetings Thanksgiving week.
- 2.. Instructor's office hours: Tu, Th - 11-noon in D307 and by appointment. I can always be reached by email: rr@hss.

Weekly Schedule:

- Sept. 29: WHAT IS EUROPE? WHAT IS THE MODERN AGE?
- Oct 1: MARX AND THE MODERN
Screening: *Modern Times*
- 5: PAPER DUE: What is Modern about *Modern Times*? (250-300 words)**
- 6: Read: Marx, *Communist Manifesto* (sections I and II; skim III and IV)
Brown, *Rise and Fall*, 1-39 (website, reserve)
Mason, *Revolutionary Europe*, 41-92 (13-40 recommended)
Molyneux, "Modern Times," Wartenberg "Modern Times"
(website)
- 8: FREUD AND THE IRRATIONAL
Screening: *Metropolis*
- 13: Read: Freud, *Five Lectures*
Mason, 193-230
Elsaesser, "Interpreting *Metropolis*," Kracauer, "Caligari"
(website)
- 15: RUSSIAN REVOLUTION
Screening: *Battleship Potemkin*
- 19: PAPER DUE: 800 words. Topic tba.**
- 20: Read: Brown, 40-134 (website, reserve)
Bordwell "Eisenstein" (website)
- 22: NAZISM
Screening *Open City*
- 27: Read: Mason, *Revolutionary Europe*, 149-62
Bendersky, Nazi Germany, chapters 1, 8, 9 (website, reserve);
Mark Mazower, "Hitler's New Order," Bauman, "The Uniqueness
and Normality of the Holocaust" (all website)

- Oct. 29: COLD WAR
Screening: *Dr. Strangelove*
- Nov 3: Read: Mason, *Revolutionary Europe*, 163-178
Suid, "The Pentagon and Hollywood" (website)
Hobsbawm, "The Cold War" (website)
- 5: DECOLONIZATION
Screening: *Battle of Algiers*
- 10: Read: Memmi, *Colonizer and Colonized*
Joan Mellen, "Analysis of *Battle of Algiers*"; Bignardi "The Making of the Battle for Algiers"(website)
- 12: CULTURAL REVOLUTION
Screening: *If . . .*
- 16: PAPER DUE: 1000 WORDS. Topic tba**
- 17: Read: Daniel, *Year of Heroic Guerrilla*, chaps. 1-3, 5-7, 9-11;
Rosenstone, "The Times They Are a Changin'" (website)
- 19: FEMINISM
Screening: *Cleo from Five to Seven*
- 24 - 26 Thanksgiving Week: No class meeting or screening***
- Dec 1: Read: Friedan, *Feminine Mystique*, chaps. 1-3, 12-14
De Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, (website)
- 3: POST SOVIET EUROPE - END OF THE MODERN AGE?
Read: Mason, *Revolutionary Europe*, 179-216

Dec. 10 - NOON. FINAL PAPER DUE: 2000 word essay: topic TBA