

EUROPEAN CIVILIZATION: THE MODERN AGE

Course Description: This course is a somewhat 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 takes as some of its texts 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*
H3c Course website

Course Requirements:

1. Three formal essays, totalling (as in all Hum classes) 4000 words.
2. Class participation. Each student must email to the instructor (rr@hss) by noon 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, and 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 evening at 7 p.m. for lecture/discussions and on Thursday evenings in Baxter Lecture Hall to see a film - screenings at 7:30. That film will be discussed the following Tuesday in class.
- 2.. Instructor's office hours: Tu 3-5, Th 11-noon in D307 and by appointment.

Weekly Schedule:

- Jan. 5: WHAT IS THE MODERN AGE?
Screening: *Modern Times*
- Jan. 10: MARX AND THE MODERN
Read: Marx, *Communist Manifesto* (sections I and II; skim III and IV)
Mason, *Revolutionary Europe*, 41-92 (13-40 recommended)
BRIEF PAPER: What is modern about Modern Times? (250 words)
- 12: Screening: *Metropolis*
- 17: FREUD AND THE IRRATIONAL
Read: Freud, *Five Lectures*
Mason, 193-230
Elsaesser, "Interpreting *Metropolis*" (website)
- 19: Screening: *Battleship Potemkin*
- 19: 1ST PAPER DUE: 1000 words. Topic tba.**
- 24: RUSSIAN REVOLUTION
Read: Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution*,
LoBrotto, "Editing - Russian Montage" (packet)
26: Screening *Open City*
- 31: NAZISM
Read: Mason, *Revolutionary Europe*, 149-62
Mark Mazower, "Hitler's New Order," Bauman, "Modernity, Racism, Extermination," and "The Uniqueness and Normality of the Holocaust" (all website)
- Feb. 2: Screening: *Dr. Strangelove*

COLD WAR

- 7: Read: Mason, *Revolutionary Europe*, 163-178
Suid, "The Pentagon and Hollywood" (website)
Hobsbawm, "The Cold War" (website)
- 9: Screening: *Battle of Algiers*

DECOLONIZATION

- 14: Read: Memmi, *Colonizer and Colonized*
Joan Mellen, "Analysis of *Battle of Algiers*" (website)
- 16: Screening: *If . . .*

16: 2ND PAPER DUE: 1000 WORDS. Topic tba

CULTURAL REVOLUTION

- 21: Reading: Daniel, *Year of Heroic Guerrilla*, pages tba
- 23: Screening: *Cleo from Five to Seven*

FEMINISM

- 28: Read: Friedan, *Feminine Mystique*, pages tba
De Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, (website)
- March 6: Screening: *Before the Rain*

- 8: END OF THE MODERN AGE?
Read: Mason, *Revolutionary Europe*, 179-216

Th MARCH 16 - NOON. FINAL PAPER DUE: 2000 word essay: topic TBA