

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 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, *A Concise History of Modern 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, 2 - 4 p.m. for lecture/discussions and on Thursday evenings in B 228 to see a film - screenings at 7:30. That film and the weekly reading will be discussed the following Tuesday in class.
- 2.. Instructor's office hours: Tu 3-5, Th 11-noon in D307 and by appointment. I can always be reached by email: rr@hss

Weekly Schedule:

- Jan. 4: WHAT IS EUROPE? WHAT IS THE MODERN AGE?
- 6: Screening: *Modern Times*
- MARX AND THE MODERN
- Jan. 11: Read: Marx, *Communist Manifesto* (sections I and II; skim III and IV)
Mason, 41-92 (13-40 recommended)
Brown, 1-39; Molyneux, "Modern"; Wartenberg "Modern Times",
(website)
- 13: Screening: *Metropolis*
- FREUD AND THE IRRATIONAL
- 18: Read: Freud, *Five Lectures*
Mason, 193-230
Elsaesser, "Interpreting *Metropolis*"; Kracauer, "Caligari"
(website)
- 20: Screening: *Battleship Potemkin*
- 20: **1ST PAPER DUE: 1000 words. Topic tba.**
- RUSSIAN REVOLUTION
- 25: Read: Brown, 40-134 (website, reserve)
Bordwell "Eisenstein"; LoBrotto, "Editing - Russian Montage"
(website)
- 27: Screening *Open City*
- NAZISM
- Feb 1: Read: Mason, 149-62
Mark Mazower, "Hitler's New Order," Bauman, "Modernity,
Racism, Extermination," and "The Uniqueness and Normality of
the Holocaust"; Bendersky, 9; Bondanella (all website)
- Feb. 3: Screening: *Dr. Strangelove*

COLD WAR

- 8: Read: Mason, *Revolutionary Europe*, 163-178
Suid, "The Pentagon and Hollywood" (website)
Hobsbawm, "The Cold War" (website)

- 10: Screening: *Battle of Algiers*

DECOLONIZATION

- 15: Read: Memmi, *Colonizer and Colonized*
Joan Mellen, "Analysis of *Battle of Algiers*"; Bignardi, "Making of
Battle of Algiers" (website)

- 17: Screening: *If . . .*

- 17: **2ND PAPER DUE: 1000 WORDS. Topic tba**

CULTURAL REVOLUTION

- 22: Reading: Daniel, *Year of Heroic Guerrilla*, chaps 1-3, 5-7, 9-11
Rosenstone, "Times a Changin'" (website)

- 24: Screening: *Cleo from Five to Seven*

FEMINISM

- March 1: Read: Friedan, *Feminine Mystique*, pages tba
De Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*; Ungar, "Cleo" (website)

- 3: Screening: *Before the Rain*

- March 8: POST SOVIET EUROPE - END OF THE MODERN AGE?
Read: Mason, 179-216; Rosentone, "Manchevski", Synopsis
(website)

Tu MARCH 15 - NOON. FINAL PAPER DUE: 2000 word essay: topic TBA