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NINETEENTH CENTURY EUROPEAN CULTURE AND SOCIETY

The nineteenth century in Europe witnessed the birth of the modern, but what constituted the modern is often contested and fiercely debated. This course won't solve these issues, but it will offer a basic understanding of the "transitional" nature of European culture in the era, from the transformation of cultural power from the court to other entities, to the contested schools and fields of artistic endeavor; Romanticism, Impressionism, Symbolism, academic and avant-garde, town and country, center and periphery, lofty ideals and gutter art.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Eric Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger, *The Invention of Tradition*
Robert Jensen, *Marketing Modernism in Fin-de-Siècle Europe*
John Lukacs, *Budapest 1900*
Jerrold Seigel, *Bohemian Paris*
Jonathan Sperber, *Revolutionary Europe 1780-1850*
Robin W. Winks and Joan Neuberger, *Europe and the Making of Modernity 1815-1914*

EXAMINATIONS:

There will be a mid-term and a final. The final will not be comprehensive. Each exam will consist solely of essay questions, which will come from a list supplied before the exam. Exams are graded on factual content, but also on the originality of analysis.

ESSAYS:

Two book reviews, and a bibliographic essay (including a short oral presentation of your essay topic) is required. You will write one book review on one of our four specialized course texts (Hobsbawm, Jensen, Lukacs, Seigel), and one book review on a novel chosen from a list that I will provide. Your bibliographic essay will address a particular aspect of European culture whether regional, national, or pan-European. The topic of the bibliographic essay is chosen in consultation with me, and must be made by the fourth week of classes. At the end of the fourth week, you must turn in a one-page paper with your topic title and a bibliography of possible sources. By mid-term prepare to give a progress report on your topic. To eliminate confusion, both a book review template and sample example of a bibliographic essay will be supplied.

All papers are to be typed. Hand written and late papers will not be accepted, and each written assignment must conform to standard, grammatical rules. Unreadable papers will be handed back to the student with the expectation that the offense to the feelings of the English language will be rectified. Grades are based on clarity, analysis, understanding of the subject, and creativity. Original ideas that can be supported with evidence are always welcome.

GRADES:

This course has all the traditional elements: tests, papers, and attendance. But, more is required. This course calls for student participation: through engagement with the texts and vocal presentations. Grades will be based on exams (40%), papers (40%), and class participation (20%). Obviously, attendance will be a plus factor in determining your grade. Attendance and absences will be recorded and evaluated according to The University of Texas at Dallas guidelines. Attendance is taken into consideration when a student has earned a borderline grade. A student that has not been present, nor has shown any interest in participating in class, earns a grade based solely on their written work. Students who are present physically and mentally can positively affect their grade through their willingness to engage with the material, the professor, and their classmates.

All written work must be original; plagiarism or cheating will result in a failing grade. Missed exams cannot be made up without appropriate documentation (i.e. a doctor's note on office stationery, an official letter from the University, etc.). Disruptive or unscholarly behavior has no place in the classroom and will not be tolerated.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

August 24 – Introduction to the Course, Themes, Topics

August 31 – Ancien Regime Europe & Revolution

Sperber 1-146: Winks & Neuberger 1-10: Hobsbawm & Ranger 1-42

September 7 – Napoleon, Counter-Napoleon & Neoclassicism

Sperber 147-207: Hobsbawm & Ranger 43-100

September 14 – Nationalism, romanticism and its discontents

First Book Review due: bibliographic topic due

Sperber 265-322: Winks & Neuberger 11-63: Seigel 3-30

September 21 – The advent of the Ism's.

Sperber 363-431: Winks & Neuberger 93-182: Seigel 31-58

September 28 – The growth of cities and city culture

Sperber 208-264: Winks & Neuberger 64-92: Seigel 59-96: Lukacs 29-66

October 5 – Midterm & Bibliographic Essay Progress Report

October 12 – Official culture: The academy & other institutions

Winks & Neuberger 183-228; Seigel 97-149; Jensen 3-48; Lukacs 67-107

October 19 – Realism, Naturalism, & Impressionism

Novel Book Review due

Winks & Neuberger 229-256; Seigel 150-212; Jensen 49-137;
Lukacs 3-28

October 26 – No class

November 2 – The elitist reaction: Symbolism and Art Nouveau

Seigel 215-268; Hobsbawm & Ranger 263-308; Lukacs 108-136;
Jensen 138-200

November 9 – The politics of Cultural Despair and Decadence

Winks & Neuberger 257-288; Seigel 269-335; Lukacs 137-181;
Jensen 201-263

November 16 – Towards a new rebellion: Expressionism & the Avant-garde

Winks & Neuberger 289-318; Seigel 336-365; Jensen 264-276

November 23 – Degeneration & war

Bibliographic Essays & Oral presentations due

Winks & Neuberger 319-358; Seigel 366-398; Lukacs 182-226

November 30 - Final