

Critical Issues in European History

Liberty consists in the ability to do whatever does not harm another; hence the exercise of the natural rights of each man has no other limits than those which assure to other members of society the enjoyment of the same rights. (Article 4, Declaration of Rights of Man, 1789)

McBryde 210: MW 2:30-3:45 p.m. (CRN 16181)

Professor Tom Ewing

Office hours: Monday 4:00-5:00, Wednesday 9:00-10:00, Friday 1:00-2:00, and by appointment

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Course website: http://www.majbill.vt.edu/history/ewing/syllabi/Honors_History/Syllabus.htm

This course examines the changing relationship between individuals, communities, and the state in modern European history. Beginning with Enlightenment debates on personal liberty, the origins of societies, and principles of government, students will explore the dialectical relationship between ideas and actions during the tumultuous era of the French revolution, the economic transformations brought by industrialization and imperialism, the emergence of liberalism, socialism, communism, and feminism as ideologies, the mass mobilization, extreme violence, and social dislocation of the twentieth century, and on-going steps toward European unity. At each stage, a combination of primary texts and historical accounts will illustrate changing definitions of individual rights and obligations, the processes of community inclusion and exclusion, and the structure and operation of political power. This course does not presume any previous coursework in European history, but does require a willingness to read challenging texts, to engage in thoughtful discussions, and to explore problems fundamental to an understanding of the modern world. Students must have University Honors status or permission of the instructor to take this course.

Readings: (required)

J. Appleby, et al., eds., *Knowledge and Postmodernism in Historical Perspective*
Routledge, 0415913837

T. Baycroft, *Nationalism in Europe 1789-1945*
Cambridge University Press, 0521598710

R. Bridenthal, et al., eds., *Becoming Visible. Women in European History* 3rd edition
Houghton Mifflin, 0395796253

A. Conklin and I. Fletcher, eds., *European Imperialism*
Houghton Mifflin, 0395903858

S. Fitzpatrick and Y. Slezkine, eds., *In the Shadow of Revolution*
Princeton University Press, 0691019495

M. Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*
Vintage, 0679752552

R. Gellately, N. Stoltzfus, eds., *Social Outsiders in Nazi Germany*
Princeton University Press, 0691086842

J. Gross, *Neighbors. The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland*
Princeton University Press, 0691086672

L. Hunt, ed., *The French Revolution and Human Rights*
Bedford / St. Martins, 0312108028

J. S. Mill, *On Liberty and Other Essays*
Oxford University Press, 0192833847

J. Udovicki, J. Ridgeway, eds., *Burn This House: Making and Unmaking of Yugoslavia*
Duke University Press, 082232590X

Assignments	Due date	Percentage of grade
Participation, including leading discussions		20%
Analytical paper (4 pages) and peer review	January 25	20%
Analytical paper (4 pages) and peer review	February 8	20%
Research project		
Topic statement	February 22	
Outline	March 18	
Draft and peer reviews	April 5	5%
Presentation	April 17-29	5%
Final paper (10 pages)	May 1	30%

Date	Themes	Assignments
January 14	Individuals and communities	
January 16	Enlightenment thought	“Individual and Community”(handout) <i>Knowledge and Postmodernism</i> , pp. 1-60
January 21	Defining citizens	<i>French Revolution and Human Rights</i> , pp. 1-79
January 23	Minority rights	<i>French Revolution and Human Rights</i> , pp. 80-139
Paper due January 25		
January 28	Understanding ideology	<i>Knowledge and Postmodernism</i> , pp. 110-133, 296-308, 324-355
January 30	Constructing communities	<i>Knowledge and Postmodernism</i> , pp. 145-188, 215-255, 279-295, 309-323
February 4	Cultural identities	<i>Nationalism in Europe</i> , pp. 1-89
February 6	Gender and experience	<i>Becoming Visible</i> , pp. 233-325
Paper due February 8		
February 11	Institutions and individuals	<i>Discipline and Punish</i> , pp. 3-194
February 13	Constituting subjects	<i>Discipline and Punish</i> , pp. 195-308 <i>Knowledge and Postmodernism</i> , pp. 408-434
February 18	Liberalism	<i>On Liberty</i> , pp. 5-128
February 20	Tyranny of the majority	<i>On Liberty</i> , pp. 205-345
Topic statement due February 22		
February 25	Feminist movements	<i>Becoming Visible</i> , pp. 327-387 <i>On Liberty</i> , pp. 471-582
February 27	Europe and the world	<i>European Imperialism</i> , pp. 1-137

	Spring Break	
March 11	Colonial contests	<i>European Imperialism</i> , pp. 139-220 <i>Becoming Visible</i> , pp. 389-414
March 13	Progress Reports	
March 18	Progress Reports	Outline due March 18
March 20	War and revolution	<i>In the Shadow of Revolution</i> , pp. 3-165 <i>Becoming Visible</i> , pp. 417-436
March 25	Social transformations	<i>In the Shadow of Revolution</i> , pp. 167-301 <i>Becoming Visible</i> , pp. 438-460
March 27	Authoritarian regimes	<i>In the Shadow of Revolution</i> , pp. 303-434 <i>Becoming Visible</i> , pp. 462-491
April 1	Science and faith	<i>Social Outsiders in Nazi Germany</i> , pp. 3-144
April 3	Normal and deviant	<i>Social Outsiders in Nazi Germany</i> , pp. 145-319
		Draft due April 5
April 8	Crucibles of antagonism	<i>Neighbors</i>
April 10	Geographies of destruction	<i>Burn this House</i> , pp. 1-79, 154-216
April 15	Cohesion and division	<i>Burn this House</i> , pp. 217-366 <i>Becoming Visible</i> , pp. 492-548
April 17	Presentations	
April 22	Presentations	
April 24	Presentations	
April 29	Presentations	
May 1	Europe united	<i>Becoming Visible</i> , pp. 550-574 <i>Knowledge and Postmodernism</i> , pp. 508-538
		Final projects due May 1