

## **HI 102 – The Emergence of Modern Europe: Renaissance to the Present**

Spring 2013

MW: 2:00-3:30

Prof. Simon Rabinovitch

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Office hours: Tuesdays 2:30-4:00 and Thursdays, 1:00-2:30 and by appointment

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### **Course Outline**

The goal of this introductory survey course is to give students a strong understanding of the broader trends of modern European history and to prepare them for further study in European history, and history in general. As such, we will focus on a few important themes of European history – such as the growth of the modern state and economy – and also develop some crucial skills for historical research and analysis. The class is also oriented toward understanding various strains of European thought and culture. In each class we will discuss one chapter from the textbook as well as some texts, art, music, or film.

### **Course Websites**

- All required texts not for purchase, assignments, handouts from class, and any essential course documents will be available on blackboard.
- I will also maintain a facebook page for the course where I'll post interesting contemporary news and multimedia. Students are encouraged to "like" the page and to post materials and comments (please, keep it civil). The facebook page can be accessed from the Teaching page of my website, [blogs.bu.edu/srabinov/teaching/](http://blogs.bu.edu/srabinov/teaching/).
- Students are also encouraged to familiarize themselves with the writing and research guides and other multimedia on the Student Resources page of my site [blogs.bu.edu/srabinov/student-research-resources/](http://blogs.bu.edu/srabinov/student-research-resources/).

### **Course Requirements**

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Midterm, 25%. To be held in class, February 27.

Comparative book review (+/- 4-5 pages), 25%. Each student is responsible for writing an analytical book review comparing two books on similar themes, chosen from the "Suggestions for Further Readings" in the textbook. Due on March 25.

Online research guide, 25%. You will write an online research guide (essentially a multimedia annotated bibliography) on a topic pertinent to the class. I will provide more

detailed instructions and help you get started. Research guides will be published on the website <http://blogs.bu.edu/guidedhistory>. For the purpose of grading your guide will be considered complete on April 22, though you will be free to continue to update and upgrade your guides after.

Final examination, 25%. The final exam will be a two-hour open-book exam. For the exam, students will answer two essay questions pertaining to the major themes of the course. Students may bring any notes or books of their choosing to the exam.

Class discussion and preparation. Attendance and informed participation in class discussion is required. Although a grade will not be allocated for participation, in the case of final grades which are borderline good participation may boost a student's grade. Prolonged absence is grounds for failure.

All assignments should be completed independently and plagiarism from any source is unacceptable. In all written assignments be sure to properly credit (using proper citations) all ideas, phrases, statements, arguments, and ideas taken from your sources. Cases of suspected academic misconduct will be referred to the Dean's Office. If they have not already, students should familiarize themselves with the Academic Conduct Code of the College of Arts and Sciences:

<http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/undergrad-resources/code/>

## **Texts**

Text available for purchase at the BU Barnes and Noble:

John Merriman, *A History of Modern Europe* 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (New York: W. W. Norton, 2010).

## **Course Schedule and Assignments**

January 16

Introduction: What is Europe, and where is it?

January 21 – (no class, holiday)

January 23

The Renaissance (Merriman 2)

January 28

The Two Reformations (Merriman 3)

January 30

England and the Dutch Republic (Merriman 6)

February 4

Research Seminar

February 6

The Age of Absolutism (Merriman 7)

February 11

The New Philosophy of Science (Merriman 8)

February 13

The Enlightenment (Merriman 9)

February 18 – (no class, holiday)

February 20 – substitute Monday

The French Revolution (Merriman 12)

February 25

Napoleon and Europe (Merriman 13)

February 27

Midterm examination

March 4

The Industrial Revolution (Merriman 14)

March 6

Liberal Challenges to Restoration Europe (Merriman 15)

Spring break, March 9-17

March 18

The Revolutions of 1848 (Merriman 16)

March 20

The Era of National Unification (Merriman 17)

March 25

The Dominant Powers in the Age of Liberalism (Merriman 18)

Book reviews due

March 27

The Age of European Imperialism (Merriman 21)

April 1

The Great War (Merriman 22)

April 3

Revolutionary Russia and the Soviet Union (Merriman 23)

April 8

The Elusive Search for Stability in the 1920s (Merriman 24)

April 10

The Europe of Economic Depression and Dictatorship (Merriman 25)

April 15 – (no class, holiday)

April 17

World War II (Merriman 26)

April 18 – substitute Monday

Rebuilding Divided Europe (Merriman 27)

April 22

The Cold War and the End of European Empires (Merriman 28)

Online Research Guides due

April 24

Transitions to Democracy and the Collapse of Communism (Merriman 29)

April 29

Film and discussion: Goodbye Lenin!

May 1 – last day of class/exam review