

The College of Charleston

Dr. Stuart Knee

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Office Hours: MWF 11-11:50 a.m.; MW 1-1:50 p.m.

Fall 2008

History 102.002,003

Syllabus: Modern Europe

Description

This course is designed to acquaint students with developments in Western Civilization since 1715, providing them with the understanding of the cultural, economic, political, diplomatic, social and intellectual tradition of Europe. On the basis of such study, the twenty-first century may be more sensitively understood.

Objectives

This course will enable student to

1. Recognize facts
2. Distinguish facts from opinions
3. Use but not abuse generalizations
4. Conceptualize and theorize
5. Relate theory to practice and
6. Relate the abstract to the concrete

These skills will be sharpened by reading, completing writing assignments, exam preparation and understanding key terms in the historian's vocabulary. The ultimate goal of this course is for students to demonstrate the extent to which they have developed analytic, study and written skills.

Requirements and Grading

Five tests, two to be taken in class and three at home, each worth 1/5 of your grade. The three to be taken at home will each be a two page maximum(or less), typed, double-spaced essay on the topics listed below:

TAKE HOME ESSAY #1

DUE: September 26; no extentions

TOPIC: What is the meaning of Carl Becker's book title, The Heavenly City of the 18th Century Philosophers?

*Caution #1: If you exceed the two page maximum length, you lose a grade.

*Caution #2: You lose a grade for a late submission

*Caution #3: You may use an additional source or two if you wish, in order to illuminate your thesis, but if you do, you must cite the source(s) in your essay. Failure to do so is plagiarism

TAKE HOME ESSAY #2

DUE: October 31; (no extensions)

Topic: What is the significance of Joseph Conrad's title, The Heart of Dark of Darkness?

*Caution #1: If you exceed the two page maximum length, you lose a grade.

*Caution #2: You lose a grade for a late submission

*Caution #3: You may use an additional source or two if you wish, in order to illuminate your thesis, but if you do, you must cite the source(s) in your essay. Failure to do so is plagiarism

TAKE HOME ESSAY #3

DUE: December 5 (no extensions)

Topic: What does Abzug's title mean? Who tells the story? What is the "Double Vision" of Chapter 1? Explain the differing reactions of Patton, Eisenhower, Agee, the American soldiers and the German people. What is the significance of the Epilog?

*Note: Same Cautions (1, 2, 3) apply

Class attendance is important. More than three (3) unexcused absences will result in grad deflation or withdrawal.

Required Texts

1. Mark Kishlansky, Patrick Geary and Patricia O'Brien, Civilization in the West (hereafter abbreviated CW), 7th ed., Vol. II: Since 1555. New York: Pearson/ Longman, 2008.
2. Katharine J. Lualdi, Sources of The Making of the West (hereafter abbreviated S); Peoples and Cultures, Since 1500, 2nd ed., Vol. II: Since 1340, A Concise History. Boston: Bedford / St. Martin's, 2005.
3. Carl L. Becker, The Heavenly City of the Eighteenth Century Philosophers. New haven: Yale University Press, 1978.
4. Joseph Conrad, Heart of Darkness, ed. Robert Hampson. NY: Penguin, 1995.
5. Robert H. Abzug, Inside the Vicious Heart. New York: Oxford University Press, 1985.

Weekly Assignment Schedule

Week of:

8/27: Introduction (Advice: Read Becker)

9/1: The Enlightenment and the Philosophes
CW, Chap.19
S Chap.15

9/8: The French Revolution: Background and Aspirations
CW, 20
S, Chap.16

9/15: The French Revolution: Achievements
W, Chap. 18

9/22: (**Due September 26: Take Home Test #1**) The Napoleonic Era
The Congress of Vienna to 1848
CW, Chap.22
S, Chap. 17

9/29: Great Britain 1815-1914
CW, Chap. 21, pp. 698-700, 720-721

10/6: **MID-TERM EXAMINATION IN CLASS on October 10** based on all class notes since the beginning of the term and the following readings:
(1) CW, Chaps. 19-22, 698-700, 720-721
(2) S, Chaps. 15-17
France– Empire and Republic (Advice: Read Conrad)
S, Chap. 18

10/15: Italy Unites; Habsburg Monarchy & Ottoman Empire
CW, Chap. 23

10/20: The German Empire
W, Chaps. 23

10/27: Czarist Russia (**Due: October 31 Take Home Test #2**)

11/3: Industrial, Scientific and Cultural Movements of the 19th century: Marx and His Religion: Imperialism

CW, Chap. 24 and 25

S, Chap. 19

11/10: World War I,

W, Chap. 26

S, Chap. 20 (Advice: Read Abzug)

11/17 & 11/24: Between the Wars–Soviet Russia; Fascism Democracies in Crisis

CW, Chap. 27

S, Chapter 21

12/1: World War II

CW, Chapter 28 (**Due: December 5 Take Home Test #3**)

S Chapters 22

12/8: Europe Since 1945

CW, Chapters 29 and 30

S, Chapters 23 and 24

The Final Exam will cover all class notes and text assignments since the in-class Midterm, and the following readings:

CW, Chapters 23-30

S, Chapters . 18-24

