**Introduction:**

This course runs from the fall of the Bastille to the end of World War II—two moments where the European Continent stood at the precipice of a new order. Between these moments of great change, we’ll look at the dreams that politicians, artists, and working people formed about the future and the way they understood the past. We’ll study this period as both a discrete historical moment and as a dynamic era in which modern society emerged.

The course covers broad questions about the boundaries of Europe and the relationships among different kinds of histories. Where did “Europe” begin and end? How did industrial change and political upheaval feed off each other? How did new ideas of religious, sexual, and social boundaries intersect with political developments? What remnants of the nineteenth-century order survived the cataclysm of two world wars? Each of these questions will be interrogated in the course of the semester.

While our discussions will primarily be based on primary sources, our course textbook, John Merriman’s *History of Modern Europe Vol. 2* offers a background to lectures and discussions. Visual sources will be emphasized in lecture, and there will also be several films you are required to watch.

**Course Books for Purchase:**

The following five books are available at the Penn Bookstore and will also be on reserve at Van Pelt Library. Other materials will either be distributed to you in class or made available on the course Canvas site.

- Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (Dover Thrift Edition)
- Karl Marx, *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte* (Int’l Pub)
- George Bernard Shaw, *Major Barbara* (Penguin Classics)
Assignments: Participation (10%), midterm exam (30%), take-home final (25%), film review (10%), primary source analysis (15%), response paper (10%)

Response Paper: Prior to our discussion of Karl Marx’s book *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte* you will be asked to write a short (2–3 page) response paper to one of a list of questions posted on the Canvas site. Consider this a warm up for your primary source paper!

Film Review: We will watch three films in the course of the semester (Luchino Visconti’s *Il Gattopardo*, Claude Berri’s *Germinal*, and Jean Renoir’s *La Grande Illusion*). For one of these films, write a review (4 pages) in which you reflect on choices made by the director, screenwriter, designers, and actors on how to represent historical themes and ideas touched on in this course.

Primary Source Analysis: You are required to identify a primary source that we have not read for class but that intersects with one of the subjects or themes we’ve discussed in class. You will write a 4–5 page primary source analysis, in which you explain how the source sheds light on and influences our understanding of a major trend in European history in this period.

Late Assignments Policy:

Late assignments will be docked a third of a letter grade for each day they are late (e.g., from an A to an A- on the first day the paper is late, to a B+ on the second, etc.).

Disabilities:

If you have a disability that means you need extra time to take the midterm or any other accommodations, please let me know at the beginning of the semester.

Other Course Policies:

Under no circumstances is anyone permitted to make a recording of any portion of the class.

Plagiarism of any kind is completely impermissible and will result in a failing grade. In your response papers, film reviews, and primary source papers, please ensure that all material taken from outside sources is properly cited.
Course Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction

August 27th: Course Introduction
August 29th: The Fall of the Old Regime and the Revolution in France

Reading (for the 29th): Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen (1789)
Abbé Sieyès, “What is the Third Estate?” (1789)

Week 2: The French Revolution

September 3rd: Terror and Total War: The French Revolution in Europe
September 5th: The Age of Napoleon—Conflict and Integration

Reading: Merriman, Ch. 12
Edmund Burke, Reflections on the Revolution in France (1790) (Excerpts)
Maximilien Robespierre, On the Principles of Political Morality (1794) (Excerpt)
J.G. Fichte, Seventh and Eighth Addresses to the German Nation
(http://ghdi.ghi-dc.org/pdf/eng/12_EnlightPhilos_Doc.8_English.pdf)

Week 3: Restoration and Romanticism

September 10th: Plus ça change?: The Congress system and the conservative ascendancy
September 12th: Revolutionary Aesthetics: Romanticism, the Gothic, and the Picturesque

Reading: Merriman, Ch. 13
Mary Shelley, Frankenstein (Entire)
Prince Metternich, “Political Confession of Faith” (1820) (Selections)

Week 4: Reform and Technological Change

September 17th: Reform in Britain, France, and Russia
September 19th: Trains: Annihilating Space and Time

Reading: Merriman, Ch. 15
Benjamin Constant, “The Liberty of the Ancients and the Moderns” (1819)
Stendahl, The Red and the Black (1830) (Chs. 1–7)
Piotr Chadayev, “Apology of a Madman” (1837) (ONLINE)
The People’s Charter (1838) (In class)
Week 5: Convulsions of Class and Gender

September 24th: The Industrializing Environment
September 26th: Separate Spheres?

Reading: Merriman, Ch. 14
J.S. Mill, The Subjection of Women (1869) (Selections)
Edwin Chadwick, Report on the Sanitary Conditions of the Labouring Classes
(1841) (Short Excerpt—www.victorianweb.org/history/chadwick2.html)

Film: Germinal (dir. Claude Berri)

Week 6: 1848

October 1st: 1848 Revolutions
October 5th: Discussion of Eighteenth Brumaire (Marx response paper due)

Reading: Merriman, Ch. 16
Karl Marx, The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Napoleon (1852) (Entire)

Week 7: Religion

October 8th: Popular Religion
October 10th: NO CLASS (Fall Break)

Reading: Pope Pius IX, “Syllabus of Errors”
Pope Leo XIII, “Rerum Novarum”
Lourdes Documents and Inquiries

Week 8: Liberalism and Nationalism

October 15th: Liberalism and the Cult of Progress
October 17th: German and Italian Unification

Reading: Merriman, Ch. 18
Samuel Smiles, Self-Help (1859) (Ch. 1)
V.I. Belinsky, “Letter to Gogol” (1847)
Alexander Herzen, “The Russian People and Socialism” (1851)
Michel Chevalier, “On the Arguments of the Protectionists” (1852)

Film: Il Gattopardo (dir. Luchino Visconti, 1963)
Week 9: Cities and Politics

October 22nd: Urban Sensation and Spectacle
October 24th: Mass Politics: Socialists, Radicals, and Utopians

Reading: Charles Baudelaire, (selected poems)
Georg Simmel, “The Metropolis and Mental Life” (1903)
G.B. Shaw, Major Barbara (Entire)
Emile Zola, “J’Accuse” (1898)
General Boulanger, “The Program of General Boulanger” (1888)
(https://www.marxists.org/history/france/boulanger/1888/program.htm)

Week 10: Imperialism

October 29th: Imperialism and Anti-Imperialism
October 31st: Imperial Scandals and Civilizing Missions

Reading: Merriman, Ch. 20
Jules Ferry, “Speech Before the Chamber of Deputies” March, 1884
Joseph Conrad, Heart of Darkness (Entire)

Week 11: Fin-de-Siècle

November 5th: MIDTERM EXAMINATION
November 7th: Modernism and Disenchantment

Reading: Merriman, Ch. 21

Week 12: World War I and the Russian Revolution

November 12th: The July Crisis and the Great War
November 14th: The Russian Revolution

Reading: Merriman, Ch. 22, 24
Vera Figner, Memoirs of a Revolutionary (Chs. 1-3)
Willy-Nicky Telegrams
(https://www.marxists.org/history/france/boulanger/1888/program.htm)

Film: La Grande Illusion (dir. Jean Renoir, 1937)
Week 13: Interwar Europe

November 19th: The Peace of 1919
November 23rd: Fellow Travelers of the European Far Right

Reading: Merriman, Ch. 23
J.M. Keynes, *The Economic Consequences of the Peace* (Selections)

Week 14: World War II

November 26th: World War II (Primary Source Paper Due)
November 30th: NO CLASS--THANKSGIVING BREAK

Reading: Merriman, Chs. 25
George Orwell, *Homage to Catalonia* (Chs. 1, 7, and 10)
Jean-Paul Sartre, “Anti-Semite and Jew” (1944) (Part 1)
Charles Maurras, *An Affair of State* (1933) (Excerpt)
(https://www.marxists.org/history/france/dreyfus-affair/maurras.htm)
Adolf Hitler, “Appeal to the German People” (Radio Address, Jan., 1933)
(germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=3940)

Week 15: From Total War to Postwar

December 3rd: Genocide, Displacement, and Memory
December 5th: Building a New Europe from the Rubble: Forward and Backward from 1945 (Film Review due)

Reading: Merriman, Ch. 26
Peter Weiss, *The Investigation* (Selections)

Take-home Final Exam distributed Dec. 5th. Due Dec. 19th at 5 PM by email.