

MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY
Graham 423
MWF 12:00-12:50

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TEXTS:

John Merriman, *A History of Modern Europe Volume 2*, Second Edition (Required)

Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto* (Required)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Modern European History is a broad survey of the political, social, cultural and economic development of Western Europe from the era of the French Revolution through the mid-20th century. Topics will include the scientific and industrial revolutions, nation-building, imperialism, social theory, and the two world wars.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students are expected to keep up with the readings and to attend all classes. Final grades will be calculated based on three in-class written examinations, a written book critique, and class participation.

Examinations: Each written examination will be worth a total of 30 (thirty) points. The exams will be made up of two parts. The first part will be the identification of 3 (three) terms which have been covered in class and can be persons, events, legislation, etc. A proper answer for each term will include the factual identification of the term, an example with a complete explanation, and a conclusion which shows the historical significance of the term. In order to do a good job on these answers, typically 8 to 10 sentences (each) of pertinent information is required. Each term will be worth 5 points.

The second part of each exam will be a major essay. It will cover one of the themes discussed in class and will be made up of three inter-related questions. A complete answer to each of these questions including explanations will be required to complete the essay. Typically an essay will cover approximately three to four pages in an examination book. The major essay will be worth 15 points.

Each exam will cover approximately one-third of the course material. There is no cumulative final exam.

EXAMINATION BOOKS (blue books) will be required for each exam.

Book Critique: Each student will select a book on modern European history, read it, and write a 3 to 5 page critique of the book. A critique requires an examination of the author's thesis (why he or she is writing the book and what they are trying to prove), a discussion of the sources used in writing the book (both primary and secondary sources), a BRIEF overview of the subject matter of the book (what it is

about), and an analysis of the effectiveness of the author's presentation (has the author proved his or her point to your satisfaction). The book critique will be worth 10 (ten) points, and is due on MONDAY, APRIL 11.

The book chosen must be in ADDITION to the books required for class. The book MUST be a MONOGRAPH or a BIOGRAPHY. TEXTBOOKS and ESSAY COLLECTIONS ARE NOT acceptable. If the student has any questions about the acceptability of the book he or she chooses, please check with the professor.

Class Participation: Occasionally questions will be asked in class, and students are encouraged to answer questions, ask questions, and make PERTINENT comments. Those students who participate can receive a MAXIMUM of 3 (three) points EXTRA CREDIT for the course. In other words, students who participate regularly can expect 3 points and those who participate occasionally can expect 2 points. Those who participate only once or twice in the term will get 1 point, and those who never participate will receive 0 points extra credit.

Some students are uncomfortable with speaking in class, and as an alternative, a SECOND 3 to 5 page book critique can be written to achieve extra credit. Any student who writes a second book critique will receive 1 point. Whether the student gets 2 or 3 points will depend on the quality of the critique.

WARNING: 3 Points extra credit is the MAXIMUM anyone will receive, so students who participate should not waste their time writing additional critiques AND only ONE additional critique will be accepted.

ATTENDANCE:

I do not take daily attendance, but be warned: All exams will be based on material covered in class. There will be a daily outline on the board from which the terms which appear on the exams will be taken. Students who do not attend classes will not have access to those outlines or terms. THERE WILL BE NO STUDY GUIDES handed out.

There will be, however, a review session in class prior to each exam, so that students who have questions on any particular term or topic can ask them and have things cleared up before the exam.

PLAGIARISM:

Any student found turning in either a paper or an examination that has been copied from another student or another source will receive a grade of zero. In writing the critical reviews, any quotes or portions of the book that are used in the paper MUST be cited.

READINGS:

- 1/10: INTRODUCTION**
- 1/12-1/14: THE FRENCH REVOLUTION (Part One): Merriman, 467-487.**
- 1/17: NO CLASS.**
- 1/19-1/21: THE FRENCH REVOLUTION (Part Two): Merriman, 487-516.**
- 1/24-1/28: NAPOLEONIC EUROPE: Merriman, 517-552.**
- 1/31-2/4: INDUSTRIALIZATION AND SOCIAL CHANGE: Merriman, 553-597.**
- 2/7-2/11: CULTURE, DISRUPTION AND UPHEAVAL: THE REVOLUTION OF 1830: Merriman, 598-669.**
- 2/14: EXAM #1. REMEMBER TO BRING BLUE BOOKS.**
- 2/16-2/18: THE REVOLUTION OF 1848: Merriman, 670-701; Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*.**
- 2/21: DISCUSSION OF THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO (Great Opportunity to pick up Extra Credit Points)**
- 2/23-2/25: THE NATIONAL UNIFICATION OF ITALY AND GERMANY: Merriman, 707-745.**
- 2/28-3/4: VICTORIAN ERA: Merriman, 746-813.**
- 3/7-3/11: SPRING BREAK.**
- 3/14-3/18: THE SECOND INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION: Merriman, 814-857.**
- 3/21-3/23: IMPERIALISM: Merriman, 898-939.**
- 3/25: NO CLASS.**
- 3/28: EXAM #2. REMEMBER TO BRING BLUE BOOKS.**
- 3/30-4/1: BACKGROUND TO WORLD WAR I: Merriman, 943-964.**
- 4/4-4/8: WORLD WAR I: Merriman, 964-1016.**

4/11: BOOK CRITIQUES DUE.
LATE PAPERS WILL BE MARKED DOWN.

4/11-4/15: THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION(s): Merriman, 1017-1055.

4/18-4/22: INSTABILITY, DEPRESSION AND THE RISE OF FASCISM:
Merriman, 1056-1156.

4/25-4/29: WORLD WAR II: Merriman, 1157-1206.

5/2: REVIEW.

FINAL EXAM DATE TBA.

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