

EUROPEAN INTELLECTUAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY

History 348
Sarah Curtis

Fall 2011
T 4:10-6:55

Course objectives:

This course surveys the intellectual and cultural history of Europe from the Enlightenment through the present day. It will examine changes in European thought from the rationalism of the "age of reason" to the belief in science and progress in the nineteenth century to the crisis of modern thought in the twentieth. Special attention will also be paid to the ways in which artistic movements like romanticism and modernism have paralleled and reflected intellectual trends, and how both intellectual and cultural history have reacted to the changing European social and political landscape.

Reading:

This course depends entirely on reading from primary sources, some in entirety and others in excerpt. The following books are available for purchase at the bookstore. The particular editions may matter, since some of the books have other documents that I have also assigned. I recommend buying the books since you will need to consult them frequently.

*Edgar E. Knoebel, *Classics of Western Thought*, vol. 3, *The Modern World* (4th ed., Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich) (abbreviated as CL on the schedule)

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*, 2d ed (Broadview) (This is the 1818 edition.)

H. G. Wells, *The Time Machine*, (Broadview)

Sigmund Freud, *Five Lectures on Psycho-analysis* (Norton)

George Orwell, *1984* (Signet)

*Also on reserve at the library.

Electronic reserves and websites:

Some of the readings are available on electronic reserves at the library. They can be accessed via the internet on campus or at home at the following address: <http://eres.sfsu.edu/> (or by the link on the library web page or my web page). The password for this course is Locke. (If you are having trouble logging in, check that you have capitalized and correctly spelled the password.) These readings are indicated on the schedule with the abbreviation ER. This semester the library is also making these readings available on iLearn.

Some readings are directly accessible on the web, in which case the URL is given in the syllabus. There are also links from my web page.

Office hours and contact information:

Tuesday, Thursday 1:30-3:00; and by appointment

office location: Science 267

e-mail: scurtis@sfsu.edu

phone: (415) 338-2250

website: <http://bss.sfsu.edu/scurtis>

Course requirements:

In general, I will lecture for the first half of class and we will discuss that week's readings during the second half. Careful reading and participation in discussions is one of the requirements for this course and therefore attendance also matters. If you have to miss a class, please phone or e-mail me in advance and if you miss more than two, your discussion grade will suffer. I will be checking attendance after the break. I also reserve the right to give short writing assignments or quizzes if a substantial portion of the class is not completing the reading assignments prior to the discussion.

There will be three writing assignments (due October 4, November 8, and December 13) of 5-6 pp. each, based on the readings and the material we cover in class. Topics for these assignments will be handed out in class. There will be no exams.

I will raise your participation grade by one half grade (e.g. A- to A) if you attend one cultural event in San Francisco that reflects the time period covered in this class. For example, you could go to a local museum (DeYoung, Legion of Honor, SFMOMA) to view their permanent collection or special exhibit. You could also attend a concert, opera, or play. (If funds are a problem, museums generally provide free admission once a month.) I have put a few possibilities on the last page of the syllabus. For credit, I will need a copy of the admission ticket plus a one-page write-up on how the experience related to what you learned in this course by November 29.

Graduate students enrolled in the course for upper-division credit will be expected to write longer papers (7-9 pp.) and write one extra book review, due November 29. Graduate students enrolled concurrently in History 799 (1 unit) will instead complete a 15-20 pp. historiographical essay in addition to the assignments on this syllabus, also due November 29. Please see assignment sheet for more details.

Grading:

Grades will be determined as follows: each paper 25%, participation 25%. Papers turned into me by Thursday of the same week will be penalized one-half grade (e.g. A to A-), the following Tuesday one full grade (A to B). **Papers more than one week late will not be accepted** without proof of illness or natural disaster. Students who wish to take the course CR/NC can change their grading status via "My SFSU" by October 18.

If you are unable to complete the course requirements by the end of semester, it is your responsibility to withdraw from the course. I will issue no instructor-initiated withdrawals or incompletes. Student-initiated incompletes are reserved for serious medical excuses (with documentation) or other natural disasters within the last three weeks of the semester. The last day to drop a course without a "W" is September 6, and the last day to withdraw with a "W" (except in extreme circumstances) is November 15.

Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor. The Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC) is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. The DPRC is located in the Student Service Building and can be reached by telephone (voice/TTY 415-338-2472) or by e-mail (dprc@sfsu.edu).

Schedule:

August 23 Introduction

Encyclopedia, "The Philosopher" (handout)

August 30 The Age of Reason

Kant, "What Is Enlightenment?"

(<http://www.english.upenn.edu/~mgamer/Etexts/kant.html>)

Locke, "An Essay Concerning Human Understanding" (CL)

The Encyclopedia Project: one selection of your choice (<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/d/did/>)

September 6 Education of Man (and Woman)

Locke, "Some Thoughts Concerning Education," paragraphs 1-6, 31-40, 56-58, 81-82

(<http://www.bartleby.com/37/1/>)

Rousseau, "On the Origin of Inequality among Men," "On Education" (CL)

Rousseau, "Sophie or The Wife," paragraphs 1249-1279

(http://www.ilt.columbia.edu/pedagogies/rousseau/em_eng_bk5.html)

Wollstonecraft, "Vindication of the Rights of Woman," chap. 2, paragraphs 1-28

(<http://www.bartleby.com/144/2.html>)

September 13 Political Enlightenment

Locke, "Of Civil Government" (CL)

Condorcet, "The Progress of the Human Mind" (CL)

Burke, "Reflections on the Revolution in France" (CL)

Rousseau, "Social Contract"

(<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/Rousseau-soccon.html>)

September 20 Sense or Sensibility

Performance by the Alexander String Quartet

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein or the Modern Prometheus*, pp. 45-244

September 27 Romanticism

"Romantic Poetry" (CL)

Wordsworth, "Preface to the 2nd Edition of the Lyrical Ballads" (ER)

Hazlitt, "Wordsworth and the Lake Poets" (ER)

Chateaubriand, "Génie du Christianisme" (ER)

Baudelaire, "The Salon of 1846: To the Bourgeois" (ER)

Brentano, "Letter to Goethe" (ER)

Beethoven, "Letter to Bettina Brentano" (ER)

October 4 Marx and Darwin

Paper due

Marx and Engels, "The Communist Manifesto" (CL)

Darwin, "The Origin of Species" and "The Descent of Man" (CL)

Wells, *The Time Machine*, Appendix A (1, 2, 3), Appendix B (2, 3, 4, 5)

October 11 Progress and Its Discontents

Wells, *The Time Machine*, pp. 57-156

October 18 The Modernist Revolt

Dostoevsky, "The Brothers Karamazov: The Grand Inquisitor" (CL)

Nietzsche, "The Genealogy of Morals" (CL)

Nietzsche, "Loneliness and Its Possibilities" (ER)

October 25 Relativity and Irrationality

Freud, *Five Lectures on Psychoanalysis* (entire)

November 1 The Legacy of World War I

Modern Poetry (McCrae, Sassoon, Owen, Goll, Yeats, Auden) (CL)

Rivers, "On the Repression of War Experience"

(<http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/comment/rivers.htm>)

Einstein and Freud correspondence, "Why War?"

(<http://www.public.asu.edu/~jmlynch/273/documents/FreudEinstein.pdf>)

(Note: Freud's side of this correspondence is also in CL, "Why War?")

November 8 Modern Art

Paper due

"Cubism (Apollinaire), Futurism (Marinetti), Dada (Tzara)" (ER)

Browse one of these sites for examples of modern art:

Museum of Modern Art, New York: www.moma.org

Centre Georges Pompidou: www.cnac-gp.fr

Tate Gallery, London: www.tate.org.uk

Guggenheim Museum, http://www.guggenheim.org/new_york_index.shtml

Begin Orwell, *1984*

November 15 Totalitarianism

Hitler, "My Struggle" (CL)

Levi, "The Grey Zone" (ER)

Arendt, "Ideology and Terror: A Novel Form of Government" (ER)

Finish Orwell, *1984*

November 22 Thanksgiving Break

November 29 Existentialism

Sartre, "Existentialism" (CL)

De Beauvoir, "The Second Sex" (ER)

Fanon, "Black Skin, White Masks"; "Letter to the Resident Minister"; "The Wretched of the Earth" (ER)

Fanon, "Colonial War and Mental Disorders" (ER) (optional)

Graduate student assignment due

Cultural event summaries due

December 6 Postmodernism

Foucault, "What Is Enlightenment?"

(<http://foucault.info/documents/whatIsEnlightenment/foucault.whatIsEnlightenment.en.html>)

Tuesday, December 13

Final paper due

Some resources for cultural events (not a comprehensive list):

SFMOMA (sfmoma.org)

permanent collection of modern art

The Steins Collect special exhibition through Sept. 6

DeYoung Museum (deyoung.famsf.org)

Picasso special exhibition through Oct. 10

Palace of the Legion of Honor (legionofhonor.famsf.org)

permanent collection of European art

Dutch and Flemish Masterworks through Oct. 2

Pissarro's People starting Oct. 22

Contemporary Jewish Museum (thecjm.org)

Gertrude Stein: Five Stories through Sept. 6

Charlotte Salomon: Life? Or Theater? through Oct. 16

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra (philharmonia.org)

Alexander String Quartet (asq4.com)

San Francisco Symphony (sfsymphony.org)

Morrison Artists Series at SFSU (creativearts.sfsu.edu/morrison) FREE!

San Francisco Opera (sfopera.com)

Theaterworks (in Mt. View) (theatreworks.org)

Sense and Sensibility through Sept. 18