

**History 513.01 European Thought and Culture: The Nineteenth Century**

**Days: MWF**

**Time: 9:30-10:45**

**Room: Journalism (JR) 304**

**Instructor: Kern**

**Office 242 Dulles**

**Office Hours: MW 1:30-2:15 or by appointment**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Survey of major developments in European intellectual and cultural history from 1780 to 1890. We will begin with background on the Judeo-Christian foundation, the seventeenth-century scientific revolution, and the philosophy of the enlightenment, then concentrate on romanticism, positivism, Darwinism, Marxism, utilitarianism, realism, and naturalism, concluding with the existential philosophy of Nietzsche. The major sources are philosophy and literature, with supplementary lectures on art and music. We will conclude with Nietzsche's provocative critiques of Judaism, Christianity, egalitarianism, democracy, socialism, Darwinism, and utilitarianism and his positive philosophy of the superman.

**COURSE FORMAT:** Lectures and discussions. The latter will involve close readings of the assigned texts, and for that reason all students should buy the same edition so they will be able to follow these discussions. You will write three papers on assigned topics based on the readings and class discussions. I emphasize writing and conduct a writing workshop before the first paper. The purpose of the course is to sample the sorts of issues that cultural history treats and explore ways of approaching them. The assigned papers will be an exercise in producing such approaches. The first paper will be on romanticism, drawing from Mary Shelley's Frankenstein. The second paper will be a choice on either Marx or a comparative essay on Flaubert and Dostoevsky, and the third paper will be on Nietzsche.

**GRADING:** First paper (30%), second paper (30%), third paper (30%), class participation 10%, with emphasis shifted toward the latter two papers when students show improvement over their first paper. The papers should be 1800-2100 words (6-7 pages). No late papers will be accepted unless a student is ill or requests an extension for a valid reason before the paper is due.

**ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENT:** All students must be officially enrolled in the course by the end of the second full week of the quarter. No requests to add the course will be approved by the department chair after that time. Enrolling officially and on time is solely the responsibility of each student.

**DISABILITY STATEMENT:** Students who believes that they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should see me after class or contact me privately to discuss their specific needs. Your disability must be documented at the Office for Disability Services (614-292-3307) in room 150 Pomerene Hall. Please be

sure you have contacted them in order to receive accommodation.

Assigned Reading:

Mary Shelley, Frankenstein

Richard Wagner, lyrics from Tristan and Isolde (class handout)

Karl Marx, The Communist Manifesto, plus selections from John Toews edited volume.

Gustave Flaubert, "A Simple Heart"

Fyodor Dostoevsky, Notes from the Underground

Friedrich Nietzsche, Thus Spoke Zarathustra, Books 1-3.

Diana Hacker, A Pocket Style Manual

#### RECOMMENDED READINGS ON ELECTRONIC RESERVE:

Lee Sterrenburg, "Mary Shelley's Monster: Politics and Psyche in Frankenstein"

E. D. Hirsch, "Romanticism and Developmentalism," in The Schools We Need, pp. 69-87.

Auguste Comte, "The Nature and Importance of Positive Philosophy" from Introduction to Positive Philosophy

Charles Darwin, "Recapitulation and Conclusion" from On The Origin of Species,

#### Schedule of Classes

##### WEEK 1

Sept. 22: Foundations of Western culture; Christianity, Plato, Aristotle.

Sept. 24: The Scientific Revolution: Descartes, Galileo, Newton, Locke.

##### WEEK 2

Sept. 27: The Enlightenment.

Sept 29: Enlightenment continued.

Oct. 1: Romanticism.

##### WEEK 3

Oct. 4: Romanticism continued. Romantic art. Discussion of Hirsch, "Romanticism and Developmentalism."

Oct. 6: Discuss Frankenstein, chs. 1-11.

Oct. 8: Discuss Frankenstein, chs. 12-24.

#### **WEEK 4**

Oct. 11: Writing workshop. Read Hacker on Clarity.

Oct. 13: Writing workshop. Read Hacker on Grammar and Punctuation.

Oct. 15: No class.

#### **WEEK 5**

Oct. 18: **FIRST PAPER DUE.** Wagner and Romanticism (audio lecture).

Oct. 20: Auguste Comte and Positivism. Recommended reading, Comte, "The Nature and Importance of Positive Philosophy"; Darwin.

Oct. 22: Darwin. Read On the Origin of Species, "Recapitulation and Conclusion.

#### **WEEK 6**

Oct. 25: Origins of socialism: English classical economics, French utopian socialism, German idealism (Hegel).

Oct. 27: Marx. Read "Introduction" by John Toews, pp. 22-53.

Oct. 29: Discuss The Communist Manifesto in the Toews, plus the following sections in Part Two—Related Documents: Sections 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 22.

#### **WEEK 7**

Nov. 1: Realism and Naturalism.

Nov. 3: Mid nineteenth-century art—The gaze in courtship imagery.

Nov. 5: Discuss Flaubert, "A Simple Heart."

#### **WEEK 8**

Nov. 8: Moral Philosophy of Kant and Mill.

Nov. 10: Discuss Dostoevsky, Notes From the Underground.

Nov. 12: Discuss paper topics on Marx or Flaubert and Dostoevsky.

## **WEEK 9**

Nov. 15: **SECOND PAPER DUE.** Origins of Existentialism. Kierkegaard.

Nov. 17: Nietzsche: Targets of the Critical Philosophy.

Nov. 19: Discuss Thus Spoke Zarathustra, Prologue.

## **WEEK 10**

Nov. 22: Zarathustra, Part I (esp. 25-35, 40-1, 46-54, 58-67, 69-71, 78-9).

Nov. 24: Zarathustra, Part II (esp. 90-102, 113-119, 124-126, 137-142, 145-147).

Nov. 26: THANKSGIVING.

## **WEEK 11**

Nov 29: Zarathustra, Part III (esp. 152-178, 198, 203-04, 215-231).

Dec. 1: Nietzsche and Modernism.

Dec. 3: Concluding Discussion for Final Paper.

Dec. 8: **THIRD PAPER DUE IN LIEU OF FINAL** (my office, 242 Dulles, by 3PM)