

Hist 595: Later Modern Europe

Prof. Domitrovic

Fall 2007

Welcome to this seminar on Europe from the pre-WWI era to the present. We shall be discussing any number of issues, from art to war and genocide to economics. The reading list is such that none of us may be reading the same books, but we will all be reading in the same general area.

Here's how the course works. Every two or three weeks, we do some reading in a topic area. You can choose the reading, as outlined below. Meanwhile, on Blackboard, I'll be posting comments and "lectures." My aspiration is to do most of the lectures via video, but if we run into technical snags, I'll type them out. You talk on the Discussion Board – and do talk volubly! (I shall post on the d-board too, but PLEASE do not let my posting squelch your posting. Believe me, there's no party line, or silence in my presence, that needs to be maintained.)

Here are the first two topics and reading lists. As the course goes on, and I get to know your interests – and hear your suggestions – we can flesh out the reading lists for topics C-E.

Topic A. (Week 1-3) The *fin-de-siecle*

Reading. Choose ONE of the following books:

For something in art and aesthetics:

- John Lukacs, *Budapest 1900*
- John Richardson, *A Life of Picasso: Vol. I: 1881-1906*
- Deborah Silverman, *Art Nouveau in fin-de-siecle France: Politics, Psychology, and Style*
- Deborah Silverman, *Van Gogh and Gauguin: The Search for Sacred Art*
- Carl Schorske, *Fin-de-siecle Vienna*

For something on religion, politics, society:

- David Blackbourn, *Marpingen: Apparitions of the Virgin Mary in Nineteenth-Century Germany*
- Alison Frank, *Oil Empire: Visions of Prosperity in Austrian Galicia*

Or a *cri de coeur* and a primary source:

- Isak Dinesen, *Out of Africa*

Topic B. (Weeks 4-5). The Great War.

Choose one from among:

- Niall Ferguson, *The Pity of War*

- Modris Ekstiens, *Rites of Spring*
- John Keegan, *The First World War*

Topic C. The Russian Revolution. Choose one:

- Richard Pipes, *A Concise History of the Russian Revolution*
- Terry Martin, *The Affirmative-Action Empire*

Topic D. Naziism and 'fascism.' Choose one:

- John Lucas, *The Duel*,
- Gavriel Rosenfeld, *The World Hitler Never Made*
- Norman Davies, *No Simple Victory*

Topic E. Trade, diplomacy, and the gold standard. Choose one:

- Robert A. Mundell, "A Reconsideration of the Twentieth Century"
- Selections of Tony Judt, *Postwar*

Requirements:

As goes writing, you have two options. Either you write three 7-10pp. thought-piece papers, or one 7-10pp. thought-pieces and one 15-20pp. research paper. If you do the former, one of the papers must be in topic area E. If the latter, the thought-pieces must be done before E and the paper handed in at the end of term.

Dues dates: any time during the section following you may hand in a paper for the previous section. E papers due at end of term.

It's also required – it's more than required, it's the lifeblood of the course – that we all keep up a robust and topical presence on the discussion board.