



Europe since the French Revolution

Term:	Spring 2024
ECTS credits:	6
Lessons per week:	2 x 90 min
Language:	English
Instructor:	James Thomson
Form of study:	Lecture + class discussion

Prerequisites

Proficiency in English and a willingness to learn.

Course description

This course will examine the “dual revolutions” (industrial and political) that transformed Europe from the late 18th century and continue to affect the continent to this day. We will follow historian Eric Hobsbawm’s thematic approach to the “long 19th century” (1789-1914) and then other sources in the 20th century, while focusing on specific events, locations and ideas to explore the ways in which high politics, economics, technology and individual lives changed in the two centuries between approximately 1750 and 1950.

Course objectives

- To provide students with a basic historical framework, one that will help them make sense of modern Europe’s politics and society.
- To explore how historians study and interpret past events and processes, and to observe how our understanding of the past is subject to continuous revision.

Office Hours

Upon request, by agreement.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

Attendance and active involvement in all classes.

Timely completion of all assignments, whether written, reading or other.

Demonstration of an active and positive attitude towards the subject, the tutor, and other students.

Evaluation criteria:

30% **Attendance and active participation** in classes, seminars, debates; preparedness

40% **Written assignments:** essays, weekly papers

30% **Other examinations:** tests, quizzes, presentations



Grading System

A – excellent:	100-93%
B – very good:	92-84%
C – good:	83-74%
D – satisfactory:	73-63%
E – sufficient:	62-51%
Fx – fail:	50-0%

Passing a course assumes that a student was not absent at more than 4 lessons.

Texts

Mandatory readings

As provided by the tutor (approx. 10-15 pages per week for first-year class).

Recommended readings

Hobsbawm, E. J. (1962). *The Age of Revolution: Europe 1789-1848*

Hobsbawm, E. J. (1975). *The Age of Capital: Europe 1848-1875*

Hobsbawm, E. J. (1987). *The Age of Empire: 1875-1914*

Evans R. J. (2017). *The Pursuit of Power: Europe 1815-1914*

Kershaw, I. (2015). *To Hell and Back: Europe, 1914-1949*

Snyder, T. (2010). *Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin*

Rady, M. (2020). *The Habsburgs: The Rise and Fall of a World Power*

Topics

Week 1 – Introduction, revolutionary context

Week 2 – Revolution I (French political)

Week 3 – Revolution II (British industrial)

Week 4 – Wars (revolutionary, Napoleonic)

Week 5 – Ideas (liberalism, nationalism)

--- READING WEEK ---

Week 6 – Revolution III (1848-9)

Week 7 – Economic transformation (capitalism and its discontents)

Week 8 – Habsburg Europe

Week 9 – Social transformation (inc. the changing role of women and minorities)

Week 10 – World War I

Week 11 – New nation states

Week 12 – The rise of the modern state

Week 13 – World War II

Week 14 – Historians and historiography