HIS 3931 Syllabus
“Crisis in Modern Europe and the Intelligentsia”
Spring 2007

The 20th century was the bloodiest in European history, punctuated by two world wars and dominated by several of the most brutal states the world has ever known. It was only at the very end of the century that the triumph of capitalist democracies in Europe was assured. And yet it began as a century of promise and hope, with technological revolutions and a belief in the possibility of human emancipation. In this course, we will look at the “crisis of modernity,” the ways in which thinkers and political actors came to terms with the cataclysms of violence and fundamental changes to daily life that characterized the times. In particular, we will look at how intellectuals contributed to these events and understood their own place in the modern world.

We will look at such diverse topics as: the formation of the modern nation; the reaction of French thinkers to anti-Semitism in the infamous Dreyfus affair; revolutionary utopianism, efforts to create a “new world,” and especially the fateful role of radical thinkers in the Russian Revolution; the attraction of anti-Democratic fascist, Communist, and national-chauvinist ideologies; and the impassioned debates over the role of the “public intellectual” today.

The course is aimed at students with some background in European and World history. You will be graded on the basis of class participation (20%); the writing of four brief response papers over the course of the semester (15%); an in-class midterm (25%); and a final group presentation and summary paper (40%).

This is an upper-level lecture and discussion course, and you will be expected to have done the reading assignments and participate fully in the class discussion. Attendance is mandatory, and you must be on time, prepared, and courteous to everyone in the room. The participation portion of the grade will be adversely affected after four absences, except in extraordinary circumstances.

All required texts are available at Orange & Blue Textbooks, as is the Course Packet which contains substantial required readings. While Mazower’s Dark Continent will serve as the closest thing this course will have to a textbook, those students who wish to purchase the two recommended survey texts might find the general histories in them a useful supplement to the thematic topics that we will cover in this course. The other recommended texts will serve as a starting point for the research that students will do in compiling their group research later in the quarter.

Required Texts
Mark Mazower, Dark Continent: Europe’s Twentieth Century
Nicholas Berdyaev, The Origins of Russian Communism
George L. Mosse, The Fascist Revolution
Evgenyi Zamyatin, We
Julien Benda, The Treason of the Intellectuals
Czeslaw Milosz, The Captive Mind

Course Packet
Recommended survey texts
Robin W. Winks and Joan Neuberger, Europe and the making of modernity, 1815-1914
Robin W. Winks and R. J. Q. Adams, Europe, 1890-1945: Crisis and Conflict
Robin W. Winks and John E. Talbott, Europe, 1945 to the Present

General Policies
UF Students are expected to adhere to the standards of academic honesty – most of all, to avoid plagiarism and cheating. The Statement on Academic Honesty is available online at [http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.php](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.php)

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students office. The Dean of Students will provide documentation to the student who will then provide this to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Readings and Assignment Schedule
[There may be minor changes in the assigned readings each week, which will be announced in advance.]

Week 1 (Jan. 8th, 10th, & 12th): The Crisis of Modernity. Knowledge and Society.
Readings: Condorcet, excerpts of Progress of the Human Mind (Electronic Reserves); Karl Marx, excerpts of The Communist Manifesto (ER); Fyodor Dostoyevsky, excerpts of Notes from Underground (ER).

Week 2 (Jan. 17th & 19th): What is the Intelligentsia? and What Should it Be?
Readings: Jeremy Jennings and Tony Kemp-Welch, “The Century of the Intellectuals: from the Dreyfus Affair to Salman Rushdie,” (Course Packet); Friedrich Nietzsche, excerpts of “We Scholars,” from Beyond Good and Evil (CP); Antonio Gramsci, excerpts of The Prison Notebooks (CP); Carl Boggs, Intellectuals and the Crisis of Modernity, p. 11-36 (CP).


Week 3 (Jan. 22nd, 24th, & 26th): The Origins of the Russian Intelligentsia
Readings: Isaiah Berlin, “The Role of the Intelligentsia” (CP); Alexander Herzen, “Young Moscow,” excerpts from My Past and Thoughts (CP); Berdyaev, Origins of Russian Communism, p. 7-93.

Week 4 (Jan. 29th, 31st, & Feb. 2nd): Engagement, Commitment, and Individuals: French Intellectuals during and after the Dreyfus Affair
Readings: David Drake, French Intellectuals and Politics from the Dreyfus Affair to the Occupation, chapter one (CP); Emile Zola, “Letter to France” and “J’accuse!” (CP).
Film: The Life of Emile Zola (1937).

Week 5 (Feb. 5th, 7th, & 9th): Intellectuals and Nationalism. The Origins of Fascism.

Readings: Ernest Gellner, excerpts from *Nations and Nationalism* (CP); Houston Stewart Chamberlain, excerpts from *Foundations of the Nineteenth Century* (CP); and Mosse, *Fascist Revolution*, p.55-93, 117-35.

Week 6 (Feb. 12th, 14th, & 16th): The Radical Intelligentsia and its Critics in Revolutionary Russia

Readings: Berdyaev, *Origins of Russian Communism*, p.94-188; V. I. Lenin, excerpts from *What is to be Done?* (CP); Semen Frank, “The Crisis of the Old Intelligentsia,” from *Vekhi/Landmarks* (CP).

[Optional: Stuart Finkel, “Purging the Public Intellectual: The 1922 Expulsions from Soviet Russia” (CP)]

Third Response Paper – February 16th.

Week 7 (Feb. 19th, 21st, & 23rd): Crisis of Faith: The First World War


Week 8 (Feb. 26th, 28th, & March 2nd): Crisis of Faith: Utopia or Dystopia?


Week 9 (Mar. 5th, 7th, & 9th): Crisis of Faith: The Treason of the Clerks?

Readings: Benda, *Treason of the Intellectuals*.

Mid-Term Exam on March 5th

Spring Break


Readings: Mazower, *Dark Continent* p.41-103, 138-81; Mosse, *Fascist Revolution* p.1-44; Benito Mussolini and Giovanni Gentile, “Foundations and Doctrines of Fascism” (CP); brief excerpts from Hitler and Alfred Rosenberg (CP).

Selection of Final Presentation Groups

Week 11 (Mar. 26th, 28th, and 30th): The Pill of Murti-Bing – the Communist Seduction


Fourth Response Paper – March 30th
Presentation Prospectus Due April 6th

Week 13 (Apr. 9th, 11th, & 13th): Presentation Workshops
Readings: Mazower, Dark Continent, p. 395-403.

Week 14 (Apr. 16th, 18th, & 20th): Presentations
Group Presentations (20 min. each) Week of April 16th

Presentation Summary Papers Due April 30th