



**School of Humanities and Social Sciences**

**HIS 301-AIX 1**

**Europe, from the Invention of Cinema to Trench Warfare**

**202425 Fall**

## Course Details

---

**Credit Hours: 3**

**Days: Tuesday & Thursday**

**Time: 2:00pm-3:25pm**

**Prerequisites:** This course is suitable for an undergraduate student who has successfully completed at least 3 semesters of College-level course work. Successful completion of ENG 101 or equivalent, and 6 credit hours above the 100-level (introductory) in the arts, or the humanities are strongly recommended; or instructor permission

## Instructor Information

---

Michel Lantelme

**Email:** Michel.Lantelme@iau.Edu

**Additional Information:**

Office hours by appointment

## Course Description

---

This course will examine the major social, economic, artistic, political and diplomatic developments in European history from 1870 to 1918. It will concentrate primarily on the historical experience of France, Germany, and Russia, with occasional attention paid to other European nations.

Four particular themes will be explored:

- The idea of nation and the emergence of nationalism.

- European politics, from Anarchism to Marxism.
- Cultural history: the evolution of European Arts
- The Consequences of the wars on the European perception of History.

## Course Objectives

---

- The main objective of the course is to acquire general knowledge of European history between 1870 and 1918, in its cultural, social, economic, and political aspects. The period between 1870 and 1918 is a turning point: during that time, Europe went from the peak of its power and prestige ('Belle Époque') to the beginning of its downfall. The second objective is to contribute to a better understanding of European conception of history.

## Learning Outcomes

---

Students will:

- Explain the consolidation of key 19th-century ideologies, and their effects in Europe
- Describe the reasons for the growing conflict between European nation-states in the later nineteenth century
- Describe the variety of artistic achievements during the Belle Epoque
- Explain what led to European Imperialism in the late nineteenth century
- Describe the cultural impact of World War I

## Instructional Methods and Activities

---

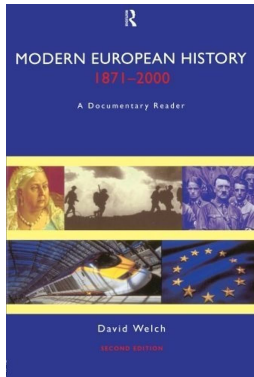
An interdisciplinary approach will be favoured. A study of the international context and background will precede a closer focus on selected European key issues. In addition to the common curriculum, students will be encouraged to choose, deepen, and share their own personal "take" on European history. This means that each student, according to his/her personal interest, will focus on a particular issue and a particular dimension (social, economic, artistic, cultural or political). Reading is central to the study of history. It is crucial that you complete all reading assignments on schedule. The class will include:

a) Lectures

- b) Presentations, discussions
- c) Written archives, visual documents
- d) Movies and documentaries

## Primary/Required Textbooks and Materials

---



### **Modern European History**

**Authors:** David Welch

**Publisher:** Routledge

**Publication Date:** 1999

**Electronic course packet provided by the professor**

## Assessment, Evaluation, and Grading

---

- 20% Mid-term exam (MCQ, fill-in-the-blanks, essay)
- 20% Final exam (MCQ, fill-in-the-blanks, essay)
- 20% Assignments
- 10% 3-page paper (Times, 12, double space), presenting and analyzing a site or a monument of the period in Paris, due week 5 (1)  
(list of topics provided by the professor)
- 25% A research project (12-15 pages plus bibliography) due no later than Week 12 (1) and a 20mn oral presentation in class on Europe during the period (chosen in agreement with the professor; examples from past semesters: the Armenian genocide, memorials to WWI, the influence of Freud on society &

science, the Moroccan crisis, the Berlin conference, the Spanish flu, etc.)

5% Active and regular participation

## Grading System/Grade Distribution

---

Grading System/Grade  
Distribution

U.S	ACM	French Equivalent
95-100%	A	17-20
90-94%	A -	16
88-89%	B+	15
84-87%	B	14
80-83%	B-	13
78-79%	C+	12
74-77%	C	11
70-73%	C-	10
68-69%	D+	9
64-67%	D	8
60-63%	D-	7
0-59%	F	0-6

## Attendance

---

One of the primary requirements this semester is that you attend class. This is not a lecture class; it's essential that you come to class on time, be prepared for the lesson, and be ready to participate in discussions and activities. Attendance will be part of your final grade. Any absences can harm your final grade. It will be up to the student to manage and communicate with professors about their absences. For every absence, your final grade may be lowered by one half-letter grade (B+ to become a B, B to become B-, and so on). ACM-IAU professors are empowered to impose academic sanctions (including a lowered grade or even failure) upon

students for unexcused absences, frequent tardiness, work submitted late, or any other actions or behaviors that violate ACM's academic standards and policies.

NB: Students will be presenting their research on site. As all IAU/ACM study trips, the study trip to Paris is mandatory; it is fully part of the curriculum as it includes guided tours and site visits.

## Academic Policies

---

All students are responsible for reading, knowing, and understanding the information pertinent to their areas of study available in the ACM Catalog. The catalog contains requirements for all degree programs, course descriptions, academic policies, and regulations that govern ACM. All parts of the catalog are subject to annual changes as university rules, policies, and curricula change. It is your responsibility to keep informed of such changes; failure to do so will not exempt you from whatever penalties you may incur. Catalogs are published from August through July.

Review the latest catalog at: <https://www.acmfrance.org/academics/catalog>

## Schedule of Classes and Assignments

---

Week 1 (1): Presentation of the course, methodology

### TOPIC 1: EUROPE IN 1870 AND BEYOND

Week 1 (2) Robert Johnson: "Europe in 1870: Nation States, the

Capitalist Economy and Society". p. 1-13

James Joll, "The New Balance of Power" p. 14-

26

Week 2 (1) Napoleon III and the Second Empire / Paris, "capital of the 19th

century" / Émile Zola: the transformations of Paris (*La Curée*) and

Impressionism (*The Masterpiece*) p. 27-

29

### Assignment #1 due

### TOPIC 2: THE 'BELLE ÉPOQUE

Week 2 (2) The Golden Age of Science

New forms of entertainment / Sports / Art Nouveau / Le Train Bleu /  
Guimard / Science, Colonialism & Racial prejudices: Marcellin Boule &  
the Paleontology Institute / Cheddar Man

Week 3 (1) From Painting to Cinema

From the Lumière brothers (*The Arrival of the train*) to Méliès (*A trip  
to the Moon*) / A day at the beach: 1899 / Women in film: Alice Guy /

Cubism / Apollinaire

p. 30-

32

### TOPIC 3: THE RISE OF NATIONALISM

Week 3 (2) The Franco-Prussian war and the end of the Imperial regime / The

1871 Paris Commune / Zola: *I Accuse* and the Dreyfus Affair / Marianne /

Education under the Third Republic (Albert Bettanier)

Welch 19-

30

#### Assignment #2 due

Week 4 (1) From Prussia to Germany: Bismarck & the process of unification

Welch 1-

15

Week 4 (2) Ernest Renan, *What is a Nation?*

#### Assignment #3 due

Week 5 (1) The Eastern Question

Robert Johnson, "The Ottoman Empire"

p. 48-57

Robert Johnson, "The Austro-Hungarian Empire"

p. 58-63

#### Paper #1 due

### TOPIC 4: COLONIALISM

Week 5 (2) James Joll, "Imperialism" / Berlin Conference / 'eugenics' / Namibia

p.64-81

#### Assignment #4 due

**OCT. 5-6    STUDY TRIP TO PARIS, "capital of the Nineteenth Century"**

Saturday: 2-hour guided visit of Orsay Museum, 2-hour guided tour of Pont Alexandre III, Petit Palais, & Notre-Dame du Travail

Sunday: 1-hour guided tour Belle-Epoque Montmartre, 1-hour guided visit of The Méliès Museum

Week 6 (1) Edward Said, *Orientalism* p. 82-95  
Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* p. 96-100

Week 6 (2) Review

Week 7 (1) **MID-TERM EXAM**

**TOPIC 5: LIBERALISM AND ITS ENEMIES**

Week 7 (2) Socialism on the Rise: James Joll, *The Socialist Challenge* p. 101-115  
Anarchism: Joseph Conrad, *The Secret Agent* p. 116-118

**Assignment #5 due**

**TOPIC 6: WORLD WAR 1**

Week 8 (1) Causes, Outbreak, and Consequences of WWI  
The Origins of the First World War and its aftermath / 'Total war' /  
Propaganda / The "Broken Faces" / Animals in WWI Welch 65-  
93

Week 8 (2) The Armenian Genocide (1915) / 1917: Emergence of two  
Superpowers / The Russian revolution Welch 43-  
64

Catherine Merridale, *Lenin on the Train* p. 119-152  
George Orwell's *Animal Farm*

**Assignment #6 due**

.....FALL BREAK.....

Week 9 (1) Film: Sergei Eisenstein, *Battleship Potemkin*

Week 9 (2) The New Face of War

Malraux, *Anti-Memoirs* / Combat gas / Memorials to WWI

p. 153-162

**Assignment #7 due**

Week 10 (1) End of war: November 1918 Kiel mutiny and revolution / the fate  
of Alsace / Staging victory / Abel Gance

Week 10 (2) The Impact of WWI on the Arts

Dadaism / Saussure's Course in General Linguistics

Walter Benjamin, *The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical*

*Reproduction*

p. 163-180

**Assignment #8 due**

Week 11 (1 & 2) Film: Albert Dupontel, *See You Up There*

**TOPIC 7: DEALING WITH LEGACY**

Week 12 (1) The Duty of Remembrance: History going backwards?

Jean Baudrillard, *The Reversal of History. Essays on the End*

p. 198-203

**Research projects due**

Week 12 (2) Conclusion: the End of Europe's Golden Age?

Freud: *Civilization and Its Discontents*

p. 204-208

Paul Valéry: *The European, The Crisis of the Mind*

p. 209-220

**Assignment #9 due**

Week 13 (1) **Oral presentations**

Week 13 (2) Review