

# History 120: The History of Europe, 1815-Present

Lecture: MWF 8:50-9:40 am

Location: 1651 Mosse Humanities

Instructor: Dr. Ben Shannon

Email: [btshannon@wisc.edu](mailto:btshannon@wisc.edu)

Office: 5269 Mosse Humanities

Office Hours: W 3:00-5:00 pm (and by appt.)

TA: Meghan O'Donnell

Email: [meodonnell@wisc.edu](mailto:meodonnell@wisc.edu)

## Course Description

The nineteenth and twentieth centuries witnessed the spectacular rise and fall of European influence over world affairs. From the promise of political liberty and technological advancement to the realities of authoritarianism, genocide, and world wars, this period raises important questions about the relationship between reason and emotion, science and religion, technology and progress, and the individual and society. Through an examination of the political, cultural, and intellectual developments of modern Europe, this course will demonstrate how the tensions that shaped the past continue to influence our understanding of the present.

## Course Objectives

Upon completing this course, students should be able to:

- Identify key concepts and themes in the history of Europe, 1815 to the present
- Analyze primary sources related to European history and understand their significance
- Construct arguments by comparing two or more primary source documents
- Clearly communicate information, both verbally and through the written word

## Student Workload

This 4-credit course meets as a group for 4 hours per week (according to UW-Madison's credit hour policy, each 50-minute class counts as one hour). The course also carries the expectation that you will spend an average of at least 2 hours outside of class for every hour in the classroom. In other words, in addition to class time, plan to allot an average of at least 8 hours per week for reading, writing, preparing for discussions, and/or studying for quizzes and exams for this course.

## Grades

Grades are based on the following scale:

100-93 = A  
92-88 = A/B  
87-83 = B  
82-77 = B/C  
76-70 = C  
69-60 = D  
59-0 = F

Final grades will be calculated accordingly:

Source Analysis (500 words) = 5%  
Final Paper (1200 words) = 20%  
Midterm Exam = 25%  
Final Exam = 25%  
Discussion = 25%