History 641
Research Seminar in Modern European History:
Europe from the Periphery

Prof. Jeffrey Auerbach
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Course: History 641
Class #: 17843
Semester: Fall 2010
Time: T 4:20-6:50 pm
Location: SH268

Description: For centuries European history has been told from a European or Western perspective. Scholars know a lot about how Europeans saw themselves and how they portrayed the people and places they came into contact with, but very little about how non-European people viewed Europe, European people, European ideas, and European events. This course seeks to redress this imbalance by looking at modern European history through non-European eyes. During the first third of the semester, the class will read, discuss, and write about selected travel narratives, secondary sources, and theoretical works that explore Europe from non-European perspectives. During the latter part of the semester, each student will research and write a 20-page paper based on primary sources and deliver a brief oral presentation on their findings.

Objectives:
- To explore the historical and historiographical boundaries of European history
- To reflect on non-European perceptions of Europe and Europeans
- To consider the global ramifications of European ideas and events
- To analyze exemplary primary sources and situate them in the context of relevant secondary literature
- To think about how history is produced
- To research and write an original, article-length paper incorporating both primary and secondary sources that has progressed through at least two drafts

Required Texts:
- Susan Gibson Miller, ed., *Disorienting Encounters: Travels of a Moroccan Scholar in France in 1845-1846* (University of California Press, 1992)
- Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Winter Notes on Summer Impressions* (Northwestern, 1988)
Requirements:

• Active, informed, engaged, respectful participation in class discussions (10%)
• A 3-page essay in which you reflect on one sentence (or idea) presented in one of the “Theories of Travel Writing” readings, due Sept. 7 (10%)
• A 3-page analysis of one of the assigned primary sources (As-Saffar, Dostoevsky, or Yukichi), focusing on the author’s portrayal of “The West,” due on the day the text is discussed in class (Sept. 14, Sept. 21, or Oct. 5) (10%)
• A 3-page summary of Dubois, Colony of Citizens in which you discuss the impact of events in Guadeloupe on the French Revolution, due Oct. 12 (10%)
• A primary-source analysis in which you introduce, summarize, analyze, construct discussion questions for, and submit a photocopy of a short primary source (or a short section of one) that relates to your research topic, due Oct. 26 (10%)
• A 20-page research paper based on primary sources on a topic of your choice to be made in consultation with the instructor. This is a multi-part assignment that includes submission of a topic statement and preliminary bibliography of primary and secondary sources by Oct. 5, an introduction by Nov. 16, a first draft by Nov. 30 (two copies please), and final draft by Dec. 14, 5 pm (40%)
• A commentary on a classmate’s draft, due Dec. 7. Please turn in two copies, one to the student whose paper you read, and one to the instructor
• A 10-15 minute oral presentation on the main findings of your research project (10%)

Policies:

• You are expected to attend each class meeting and to arrive on time. More than two absences (for any non-documentated medical reason), or repeated lateness, will result in a failing grade for the course. If you miss a class, you must submit a 3-page summary and analysis of the reading for that week before class begins. Please turn off all pagers and cell phones during class.
• Late assignments will be marked down 1/3 grade per day. All assignments must be completed in order to receive credit for the course.
• Unless otherwise noted, all assignments must be word-processed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins, in a readable twelve-point font. Your name, the date, and the class should appear in the top right corner of the first page. Your paper should also have a descriptive title, centered at the top of the first page. All papers longer than one page must have page numbers on every page except the first page, and must be stapled in the top left corner.
• Any student caught plagiarizing (using another person’s words or ideas without proper acknowledgment) will receive a failing grade for the course and be referred to the Office of Student Affairs for disciplinary action.
• The instructor reserves the right to modify the course schedule or assignments. Students will be given adequate notice of any changes.
Class Schedule

Readings denoted with an asterisk (*) are available online

Part I: Theories

Aug. 24  Introduction: Centers and Peripheries

Aug. 31  The East in the West and the West in the East
          Ian Buruma and Avishai Margalit, Occidentalism
          *Edward Said, Orientalism (Random House, 1978), 1-28

Sept. 7  Theories of Travel Writing
          Stuart Schwartz, ed., Implicit Understandings (Cambridge UP, 1994), 1-9
          *Stephen Greenblatt, Marvelous Possessions (University of Chicago, 1991), 52-85

Part II. Travelers

Sept. 14  Susan Gilson Miller, ed., Disorienting Encounters: Travels of a Moroccan Scholar in France in 1845-1846
          *Nabil Matar, ed., In the Lands of the Christians (Routledge, 2003), xiii-xlviii
          *Bernard Lewis, The Muslim Discovery of Europe (Norton, 2001), 5-9, 295-307

Sept. 21  Fyodor Dostoevsky, Winter Notes on Summer Impressions

Sept. 28  Bibliographic Research and Individual Consultations

Oct. 5  Fukuzawa Yukichi, The Autobiography of Yukichi Fukuzawa

Part III. Events

Oct. 12  Laurent Dubois, A Colony of Citizens: Revolution & Slave Emancipation in the French Caribbean, 1787-1804

Part IV. Research

Oct. 26  Primary Source Analysis Due

Nov. 2-9  Library Research and Individual Consultations

Nov. 16  Library Research and Individual Consultations; Introduction due by 5 pm

Nov. 23  Presentations

Nov. 30  Presentations; First Draft due in class

Dec. 7  Presentations; Peer Comments due in class

Dec. 14  Final Paper Due (hard copy, not emailed) due by 5 pm

Research Paper Timeline:

- A topic statement and preliminary bibliography of primary and secondary sources, by October 5
- A primary-source analysis in which you introduce, summarize, analyze, construct discussion questions for, and submit a photocopy of a short primary source (or a short section of one) that relates to your research topic, by Oct. 26
- The introduction, thesis, and outline of your research paper, by Nov. 16
- A first draft of your research paper, by Nov. 30. Bring two copies to class, one for the instructor and one for a classmate
- A 10-15 minute oral presentation on the main findings of your research project, Nov. 23, Nov. 30, or Dec. 7.
- Comment on a classmate’s draft (and receive comments on your draft), by Dec. 7
- A final draft of your research paper, by Dec. 14