

Seminar in European History  
History 533  
Spring 2012

Wednesday, 4:15-6:45pm  
Office Hours: Monday, 12:30-1:30pm  
and Wednesday, 2:00-3:00pm or by appointment

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This seminar in European social and cultural history explores the meaning and uses of political culture in the modern era. Student research may focus on any period of European history from 1700 to the present. Political culture will be broadly defined to include the production and the reception of political discourses (visual and textual) as well as the practice of politics (from voting to protest movements). Students are free to explore any aspect of European politics/political culture, from government activities and political organizing to the impact of cultural forms (music/literature/religion) on politics. During the first month of class, we will analyze a variety of approaches to the study of political culture based on common readings. The rest of the semester will be spent engaged in individual research projects. Students will read and comment on each others' papers. The goal of the course is to produce an article-length (25-30 pages) research paper. It is expected that students can read the appropriate foreign languages needed to do their research.

During the first month of class, as we discuss various approaches to the study of politics and political culture, you should decide on a topic and identify relevant primary and secondary sources. On **February 15** you should be prepared to give a brief (10 minutes) presentation on the topic that explains your perspective, the questions you seek to answer, and your methodology. You will also hand in a four-page description of the topic and your approach as well as a preliminary bibliography of primary and secondary sources. There will be a brief (10 minutes) class discussion after each presentation designed to offer suggestions for improvement. Students will submit a first draft of their essays on **March 27**. First drafts will be distributed to the entire class via email. A hard copy will be distributed to the professor and a predetermined critic (another student) for the formal, in-class, discussion of the research essay. Each student will provide a formal critique of one research paper in a ten-minute presentation, which will be followed by a class discussion. These presentations will take place on **April 4 and April 11**. Student-critics must provide a written critique of the paper (2-3 pages) as well as give a formal oral critique in class. Students will then have the opportunity to rewrite their essay to address various criticisms. The final paper is due **April 30**. During the course of the seminar, students are expected to meet periodically with the professor to discuss their projects. **Final grades for the course will be determined as follows: 25% for participation in class discussions and oral presentations and 75% for the research-based paper.**

Required Texts:

There are no required books for the class. Common readings consist of scholarly articles. Most of these articles are available on line through Jstor and other full-text databases. It is the responsibility of the student to download and print these articles in PDF format and read them

before the class meets. You should bring the articles to class as well. These articles are noted in the syllabus with an asterisk (\*). Finally, there is one book chapter that is not available online. This reading is available in PDF format on Blackboard under the link labeled "course documents." This reading is noted in the syllabus as (BB).

Academic dishonesty will be penalized by failure for the course. A student who engages in any form of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will also be asked to leave the graduate program.

Schedule of Class Meetings and Assignments:

### Week One

18 January - Defining the Goals for the Class

Introduction to course and assignments

### Week Two

25 January - Microhistory as Method: the Case Study as window to social and political processes

- \* William Chase, "Microhistory and Mass Repression: Politics, Personalities, and Revenge in the Fall of Béla Kun," The Russian Review, vol. 67 (July 2008), pp. 454-483. [**Available from Academic Search Premier**]
- \* Anna Clark, "Queen Caroline and the Sexual Politics of Popular Culture in London, 1820," Representations, no. 31, Special Issue: The Margins of Identity in Nineteenth-Century England (Summer, 1990), pp. 47-68. [**Available from Jstor**]
- \* Stephen C. Bruner, "Leopoldo Franchetti and Italian Settlement in Eritrea: Emigration, Welfare Colonialism and the Southern Question," European History Quarterly, vol. 39, no. 1 (2009), pp. 71-94. [**Available from Academic Search Premier**]

### Week Three

1 February - Political Culture and Representation: The Production and Reception of Political Discourses (textual and visual)

- (BB) Thomas W. Laqueur, "Bodies, Details, and the Humanitarian Narrative," in Lynn Hunt, ed., The New Cultural History (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1989), 176-204.
- \* Mary Ashburn Miller, "Mountain, Become a Volcano: The Image of the Volcano in the Rhetoric of the French Revolution," French Historical Studies, vol. 32, no. 4 (Fall 2009), pp. 555-585. [**Available from Academic Search Premier**]
  - \* Gregory Shaya, "The *Flâneur*, the *Badaud*, and the Making of a Mass Public in France, circa 1860-1910," American Historical Review, vol. 109, no. 1 (February, 2004), pp. 41-77. [**Available from Jstor**].

### Week Four

8 February - Political Culture and Practice: Enacting Politics through Action, Behavior and Performance

- \* Margaret Lavinia Anderson, "Voter, Junker, *Landrat*, Priest: The Old Authorities and the New Franchise in Imperial Germany," American Historical Review, Vol. 98, no. 5 (1993), pp.1448-1474. [**Available from Jstor**]
- \* James Epstein and David Karr, "Playing at Revolution: British 'Jacobin' Performance," Journal of Modern History, vol. 79 (September, 2007), pp.495-530. [**Available from Jstor**]
- \* Alf Lüdtke, "People Working: Everyday Life and German Fascism" History Workshop Journal, no. 50 (Autumn, 2000) pp. 74-92. [**Available from Jstor**]

Week Five

15 February - **Oral Presentations**

All students will discuss their research topic and their approach in a 10-minute oral presentation. There will be general discussion and questions after each presentation (10 to 15 minutes).

**Written Material Due:** Four-page description of research topic and approach and a preliminary bibliography of primary and secondary sources.

Week Six

22 February - No Class

Meet individually with professor as necessary

Week Seven

29 February - No Class

Meet individually with professor as necessary

Week Eight

7 March - No Class

Spring Break

Week Nine

14 March - No Class

Meet individually with professor as necessary

Week Ten

21 March – No Class

Meet individually with professor as necessary.

Week Eleven

28 March – **Class does not meet / PAPERS DUE**

**First draft of papers due (distribute a hard copy of the paper to the professor and your designated critic. Send copies via email to the whole class, using blackboard.)**

Week Twelve

4 April – **Class Presentations of First Drafts**

First Group of Papers and Critiques

Four students will do formal critiques of student research papers (10 minutes each). After each critique, there will be a general discussion by the class of the paper (15 minutes). The student-critic will also submit a written critique of the research paper (2-3 pages) to the paper-writer and the professor.

Week Thirteen

11 April – **Class Presentations of First Drafts**

Second Group of Papers and Critiques

Three students will do formal critiques of student research papers (10 minutes each). After each critique, there will be a general discussion by the class of the paper (15 minutes). The student-critic will also submit a written critique of the research paper (2-3 pages) to the paper-writer and the professor.

Week Fourteen

18 April – No Class

Work on rewrites of the paper

Week Fifteen

25 April – No Class

Work on rewrites of the paper

**30 April: Final (Revised) Research Papers Due by 3:00pm in my mailbox.**