

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

BLHS 109: The Nineteenth Century

Fall 2015

Thursdays 6:30-7:30

Professor:

Andrew Wackerfuss

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Office: N/A

Office Hours: Online and by appointment

I. Course Objectives and Goals

After this class student should be able to:

1. Understand the basic historical chronology of the period 1789-1914.
2. Explain historical cause and effect as it relates to the 19th century.
3. Relate the historical trends of the 19th century to the modern era.
4. Comprehend the differences in interpretation in major schools of historical thought
5. Understand the legacy of the French Revolution, Romanticism, modernization, industrialization, liberalism, socialism, nationalism, and imperialism.
6. Link political and social developments to parallel developments in the arts, literature and philosophy.
7. Analyze and contextualize primary source readings.
8. Develop and defend their arguments using textual and factual evidence.
9. Develop an arguable thesis and support it using clear concise writing.

II. Format

This online course will meet in two virtual venues: a course blog, and a video conference.

Students will find the course blog at the following address:

<https://blogs.commonsgeorgetown.edu/blhs-109-fall2015>

Each Friday, a post will appear on the course blog outlining the topics for the week, as well as a second post for the weekly reading. Additional posts may appear in the following days

to add other content to the main topics. These posts are required reading, as well as required participation (see following section). On Thursday, we will meet virtually for a live session using blackboard's "collaborate" feature.

All students must therefore have reliable internet access, speakers, and if possible a microphone and camera.

III. Discussion Readings

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, <i>The Sorrows of Young Werther</i>	ISBN-10: 0812969901
François-René de Chateaubriand, <i>Atala-René</i>	ISBN-10: 0520002237
Wolfgang Schivelbusch, <i>The Railway Journey</i>	ISBN-10: 0520059298
Mary Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i>	ISBN-10: 0141439475
John Stuart Mill, <i>On Liberty</i>	ISBN-10:
Marx et. Al., <i>The Communist Manifesto and other Revolutionary Writings</i>	ISBN-10: 0451527100
Henrik Ibsen, <i>A Doll's House</i>	ISBN-10: 0140441468
Friedrich Nietzsche, <i>Thus Spoke Zarathustra</i>	ISBN-10:
Joseph Conrad, <i>Heart of Darkness</i>	ISBN-10: 0141441674

IV. Requirements and Grading

Participation (25%)

Attendance and participation is mandatory for all students.

Liberal studies classes place great value on participation. Our virtual format does not change this. **One unexcused absence** will result in a corresponding reduction of 5% of your total grade. **Two unexcused absences** will result in $2 \times 5\% = 10\%$ reduction of your total grade, significantly increasing your chances of failing the course.

In accordance with BALS program policy, THREE absences for any reason may result in a failing grade for the course

Excessive Tardiness (defined as more than 20 minutes) will be counted as an absence.

Continued Tardiness (defined as being tardy between 5-20 minutes) for more than two classes will count as an absence.

Work obligations are NOT EXCUSED.

Discussion questions and online participation

As part of your participation grade, students must submit 1-2 questions on the readings each week. These questions must be posted on the course blog by Monday evening. Students must then read through their colleagues' questions and discuss them over the course of the week. *These blog questions and discussion comments will count as graded written work.*

Virtual weeks will also feature short quizzes to test basic knowledge of the online content. Quizzes of other varieties will appear as well, mostly with the aim of identifying key concepts, people, places, etc., as well as reviewing meta-issues such as terminology, writing style, plagiarism, etc. These quizzes are pass/fail, and can be taken as many times as needed.

Online quizzes, discussion questions, blog comments will all contribute to the participation grade, which together with attendance and participation in session meetings will comprise 25% of the final grade.

Written Assignments

(75%)

In addition to online writings that count toward your grade, there will be two four-page papers and a longer final research paper.

Short papers: You will receive in advance a set of essay topics drawn from discussion readings, from which you will choose one to write. The essays will be works of analysis, with a clearly argued thesis. They are not to be book reports. They should present your interpretation of a given issue based on evidence from the text and sound reasoning. Each will be 4-5 pages, and will each be worth 20% of your final grade.

Final paper: This essay will be on a topic of your own choosing with instructor permission. These papers should be done in typical research fashion using both primary and secondary sources and done according to either MLA or Chicago Manual of Style format. It should be 10 pages in length, and will be worth 35% of your final grade.

Failure to complete ANY of these assignments may result in failure of the course.

Essays are due electronically on the date given, and should be turned in by the beginning of class. Papers will be penalized by a 1/3 grade reduction for each day they are late. Make-up examinations and incompletes will be considered only with advance permission by the student's Deans Office prior to the scheduled exam. It is your responsibility to fill out the appropriate paper work and get the approval for an incomplete as well as decide on a final

date to complete the assignments outstanding. Incompletes are not granted for anything but extraordinary reasons as decided by the professors and Deans.

V. Class Schedule / Weekly Topics

3 September Week 1

Introduction to the Course

Discussion: Syllabus, Writing Assignments, Major Themes

10 September Week 2

Romanticism I: Introduction

Discussion: Goethe, *The Sorrows of Young Werther*

17 September Week 3

Romanticism II: Art and Politics

Discussion: Selected poetry; Chateaubriand, *Atala and René*

24 September Week 4

The Industrial Revolution: Social Impact

Discussion: Shelley, *Frankenstein*

1 October Week 5

The Industrial Revolution: Technology and Society

Discussion: Schivelbusch, *The Railway Journey*

8 October Week 6

Political Ideologies: Liberalism and Utilitarianism

Discussion: Mill, *On Liberty*

15 October Week 7

Political Ideologies: Marxism and Socialism

Discussion: Marx, *The Communist Manifesto and Related Documents*

22 October

Week 8

Wackerfuss

Nationalism and Unification: Italy and Germany

Discussion: Wagner, Verdi, and musical nationalism (online reading and listening)

29 October

Week 9

Private Life: Women and Family in the Nineteenth Century

Discussion: Ibsen, *A Doll's House*

PAPER # 2 DUE

5 November

Week 10

The Crisis of Reason?

Discussion: Nietzsche, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*

DROP DEADLINE 6 NOVEMBER

12 November

Week 11

Paper Conferences

Discussion: Individual consultation on final paper topics

19 November

Week 12

The fin-de-siècle

Discussion: *Against Nature / J'accuse*

3 December

Week 13

Imperialism and war

Discussion: Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

The Final Paper is due on the date the Registrar has scheduled for a final exam: _____

Boilerplate: Standard to All Georgetown Courses

Disabilities

If you are a student with a documented disability who requires accommodations or if you think you may have a disability and want to inquire about accommodations, please contact the Academic Resource Center at 202-687-8354 or arc@georgetown.edu.

Turnitin.com

Students acknowledge that by taking this course all required papers can be submitted for a Textual Similarity Review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com site.

Extreme weather, Emergencies, and Instructional Continuity

During inclement weather or other emergencies on a day when we are scheduled to meet face-to-face, check the university's Web site or call (202) 687-7669 for information on whether the university is open. If the university is open, this class will meet. If the university is closed, this class will meet through distance means such as online videoconferencing; check your e-mail for a message from me on how we will proceed in that situation. Due dates for written assignments submitted through Blackboard will not be changed due to campus closings.

The university recently has acquired the capability to send text messages and recorded messages about emergencies to cell phones and other mobile devices. Sign up on MyAccess.

Georgetown Honor System

All students are expected to follow Georgetown's honor code unconditionally. We assume you have read the honor code material located at <http://scs.georgetown.edu/academic-affairs/honor-code>, and in particular have read the following documents: Honor Council Pamphlet, What is Plagiarism, Sanctioning Guidelines, and Expedited Sanctioning Process. Papers in this course will all be submitted to turnitin.com for checking. Submitting material in fulfillment of the requirements of this course means that you have abided by the Georgetown honor pledge:

In the pursuit of the high ideals and rigorous standards of academic life, I commit myself to respect and uphold the Georgetown Honor System: To be honest in any academic endeavor, and to conduct myself honorably, as a responsible member of the Georgetown community, as we live and work together.

Plagiarism

In accord with university policy, all incidents of suspected plagiarism or other Honor Code violations will be reported to the Honor Council without fail.

If the Honor Council finds that a student has plagiarized or has violated the Honor Code in any other way, the student will receive a grade of F for the course.

Policy Accommodating Students' Religious Observances

The following is university policy:

Georgetown University promotes respect for all religions. Any student who is unable to attend classes or to participate in any examination, presentation, or assignment on a given day because of the observance of a major religious holiday or related travel shall be excused and provided with the opportunity to make up, without unreasonable burden, any work that has been missed for this reason and shall not in any other way be penalized for the absence or rescheduled work. Students will remain responsible for all assigned work. Students should notify professors in writing at the beginning of the semester of religious observances that conflict with their classes.

Grading Scale

93 and above =	A
90-92=	A-
87-89=	B+
83-86=	B
80-82=	B-
77-79=	C+
73-76=	C
70-72=	C-
67-69=	D+
60-66=	D
59 and below=	F