HI 224 - Twentieth-Century Intellectual History

Professor James Johnson

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Department of History, Rm. #403
226 Bay State Road
jhj@bu.edu

Office hours: Wednesdays 2:00-4:00, Thursdays 1:30-2:30, and by appointment

Twentieth-Century Intellectual History explores the major cultural and intellectual currents of the 1900s. It treats artistic, musical, literary, political, and philosophical works in their historical context and attempts to draw connections among events and ideas. Among its large themes are modernism, the discovery of the unconscious, the cultural effects of World War I and World War II, democracy and its critics, totalitarian culture, existentialism, and postmodernism.

Grades will be based on the following proportions:

Three essays (5-6 pages) - 55% (First essay: 15%; Second and Third Essays: 20%)
Midterm exam - 15%
Final Exam - 20%
Participation - 10%

Attendance is required in every class. For each multiple of three unexcused absences your final grade will be lowered one-third (e.g., B becomes B-). Please notify your professor of any illnesses, family emergencies, or other excused absences by email, preferably in advance of your absence.

Laptops are not permitted in class.

The Final Exam is scheduled for Tuesday, May 8 at 9:00 a.m. It will be cumulative and based on the lectures, readings, and discussion. Attendance in all classes is essential for success on the exam.

Academic Conduct. The work you submit in this course must be your own. Presenting the work of others as your own is plagiarism and will be punished by an F for the assignment and possibly for the course, with possible further sanctions by the University Academic Conduct Committee.

The Boston University Academic Conduct Code describes plagiarism as including the following: “copying the answers of another student on an examination, copying or substantially restating the work of another person or persons in any oral or written work without citing the appropriate source, and collaboration with someone else in an academic endeavor without acknowledging his or her contribution.” A more detailed discussion with examples appears elsewhere in the Code (see http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/undergrad-resources/code/#II). It is your responsibility to read these pages carefully and know exactly what constitutes plagiarism.

All websites consulted for use in written work must be acknowledged in your papers. Unacknowledged use of material from the internet will be considered plagiarism and punished as such.
**Required Readings**

Thomas Mann, *Death in Venice and Seven Other Stories* (Random House)
F. T. Marinetti, *Critical Writings* (Farrar, Straus, Giroux)
Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* (Harcourt)
George Mosse, *Nazi Culture* (University of Wisconsin)
Albert Camus, *The Myth of Sisyphus and Other Essays* (Penguin Modern Classics)
Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish* (Vintage)

**Schedule of Classes**

January 17 - Introduction to the Course, Overview of the *Fin-de-Siècle*

January 19 - Musical Modernism in the *Fin-de-Siècle*

January 24 - *Discussion*: Mann, “Death in Venice” (3-73)
**Essay topics distributed**

January 26 - Modernism in the Visual Arts

January 31 - The Generation of 1914 & World War I
  Assigned reading: Marinetti, *Critical Writings* (5-74, 85-88)

February 2 - *Discussion*: Marinetti, *Critical Writings* (219-76)

February 7 - Literary Modernism
  Assigned reading: Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* (3-64)
**Essay #1 due**

February 9 - *Discussion*: Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* (65-133)

February 14 - *Discussion*: Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* (134-94)

February 16 - Weimar Culture

February 21 - MONDAY SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

**Essay topics distributed**

February 28 - Revolutionary Communism, Its Defenders and Detractors
  Assigned reading: Ortega y Gasset, *The Revolt of the Masses* (1-60)

March 1 - *Discussion*: Ortega y Gasset, *The Revolt of the Masses* (61-124)

March 6 - *Discussion*: Ortega y Gasset, *The Revolt of the Masses* (125-90)
March 8 - European Thought on the Eve of World War II

Essay #2 due

March 20 - Freud and the Twentieth Century
   Assigned reading: Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents* (1-52)

March 22 - Discussion: Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents* (53-82)

March 27 - Discussion: Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents* (83-112)

March 29 - Midterm exam

April 3 - Competing Ideologies in World War II
   Assigned reading: Mosse, *Nazi Culture* (xix-xli; 133-63)

April 5 - Discussion: Mosse, *Nazi Culture* (57-91; 235-61; 319-37)
   Essay topics distributed

April 10 - Postwar Existentialism

April 12 - Discussion: Camus, *The Myth of Sisyphus* (32-63)

April 17 - Discussion: Camus, *The Myth of Sisyphus* (64-85, 102-11)

April 19 - Postwar Culture: Music & the Visual Arts

Essay #3 due

April 24 - What is Postmodernism?
   Assigned reading: Foucault, *Discipline and Punish* (3-31)

April 26 - Discussion: Foucault, *Discipline and Punish* (135-69)

May 1 - Discussion: Foucault, *Discipline and Punish* (170-228)

May 8 - Final Exam, 9:00 a.m.