

HI 358 - Twentieth-Century Intellectual & Cultural History
Professor James Johnson

Fall, 2019

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

Office hours: Tuesdays 3:30-5:00, Wednesdays 2:00-4:00, 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 and 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:

Four essays (5-6 pages) - 80%
Reader's log - 10%
Participation - 10%

Attendance is required in every class. For each multiple of two 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.

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 or substantially restating the work of another person or persons in any oral or written work (printed or electronic) without citing the appropriate source." A more detailed discussion with examples appears elsewhere in the *Code* (see <https://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code/>). It is your responsibility to read this material 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.

Faculty-in-Residence Open Hours. I am a faculty member in residence at South Campus. Once a week I host an open house, with music, good conversation, and something tasty to eat. I hope you'll drop by. Wednesdays, 6-9 p.m., 522 Park Drive, Rm. 121.

Required Readings

Charles Baudelaire, *The Parisian Prowler* (University of Georgia Press)
F. T. Marinetti, *Critical Writings* (Farrar, Straus, Giroux)
Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* (Harcourt)
José Ortega y Gasset, *The Revolt of the Masses* (Norton)
Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents* (Norton)
George Mosse, *Nazi Culture* (University of Wisconsin)
Primo Levi, *The Drowned and the Saved* (Vintage)
Czestaw Milosz, *The Captive Mind* (Vintage)
Albert Camus, *The Myth of Sisyphus and Other Essays* (Penguin Modern Classics)*

Schedule of Classes

Sept. 3 - Introduction to the Class, Themes in the *Fin de Siècle*

Sept. 5 - Discussion: Baudelaire, *The Parisian Prowler* (Preface, Introduction, Appendix; 1-56)

Sept. 10 - Discussion: Baudelaire, *The Parisian Prowler* (57-128)

Sept. 12 - Modernism, the Visual Arts, and Music
Essay topics distributed

Sept. 17 - Discussion: Marinetti, *Critical Writings* (Introduction, 5-59)

Sept. 19 - Discussion: Marinetti, *Critical Writings* (60-72, 85-8, 219-52)

Sept. 24 - The Generation of 1914 (please read opening 10 pages of Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*)

Sept. 26 - Discussion: Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* (1-90)

Oct. 1 - The War's Aftermath (please read the opening 8 pages Gasset's *Revolt of the Masses*)
Essay #1 due

Oct. 3 - Discussion: Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* (91-194)

Oct. 8 - Discussion: Ortega y Gasset, *Revolt of the Masses* (1-96)
Essay topics distributed

Oct. 10 - Discussion: Ortega y Gasset, *Revolt of the Masses* (97-190)

* Barnes & Noble stocks Camus's *The Rebel* for this course. Please refrain from buying it. Instead, you may buy *The Myth of Sisyphus and Other Essays* (Vintage), available Amazon.com in both new and used copies.

Oct. 15 - No class (substitute Monday class)

Oct. 17 - Discussion: Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents* (Chapters 1-4)

Oct. 22 - Freud's world

Essay #2 due

Oct. 24 - Discussion: Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents* (Chapters 5-8)

Oct. 29 - Weimar German and the Rise of Nazism (please read Introduction to Mosse, *Nazi Culture*)

Oct. 31 - Discussion: Mosse, *Nazi Culture* (1-16, 133-62)

Essay topics distributed

Nov. 5 - Discussion: Mosse, *Nazi Culture* (162-96, 319-35)

Nov. 7 - Discussion: Levi, *The Drowned and the Saved* (Preface, Chapters 1-3)

Nov. 12 - Discussion: Levi, *The Drowned and the Saved* (Chapters 4-8)

Nov. 14- Olivier Messiaen, *Quartet for the End of Time* (required reading on Blackboard, Richard Powers, *Orfeo*)

Essay #3 due

Nov. 19 - Discussion: Milosz, *The Captive Mind* (1-80)

Nov. 21 - Discussion: Milosz, *The Captive Mind* (191-222)

Nov. 26 - Existentialism (please read the opening 7 pages of Camus, *The Myth of Sisyphus*)
Essay topics distributed

Nov. 28 - No class

Dec. 3 - Camus, *The Myth of Sisyphus* (3-65)

Dec. 5 - Camus, *The Myth of Sisyphus* (66-96, 119-23)

Dec. 10 - The Postmodern World

Dec. 13 - Essay #4 due at noon via e-mail