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

Spring, 2017

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

Office hours: Mondays 3:00-5:00, Thursdays 1:00-2:30, 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 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 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.

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**

Jan. 20 - Introduction to the Class, Themes in the *Fin de Siècle*

Jan. 23 - Modernism and the Visual Arts

Jan. 25 - Discussion: Mann, “Death in Venice” (1-25)
Essay topics distributed

Jan. 27 - Discussion: Mann, “Death in Venice” (26-51)

Jan. 30 - Discussion: Mann, “Death in Venice” (52-73)

Feb. 1 - The Generation of 1914

Feb. 3 - Marinetti, from *Critical Writings* (5-46)

Feb. 6 - Marinetti, from *Critical Writings* (47-72)

Feb. 8 - Marinetti, from *Critical Writings* (85-88, 219-52)

Feb. 10 - Modernism and Music

Feb. 13 - Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* (1-80)

Feb. 15 - Essay #1 due; discussion of two essays

Essay topics distributed

Feb. 20 - No class (Presidents’ Day)

Feb. 21 - (Monday schedule) Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* (139-94)

Feb. 22 - The War’s Aftermath: Soviet Bolshevism and Italian Fascism
Recommended reading: Mann, “Mario and the Magician,” from *Death in Venice*

Feb. 24 - Ortega y Gasset, *The Revolt of the Masses* (1-37)

Feb. 27 - Ortega y Gasset, *The Revolt of the Masses* (38-67)

March 1 - Ortega y Gasset, *The Revolt of the Masses* (68-114)
March 3 - Essay #2 due; discussion of three essays

March 13 - Freud's World
Essay topics distributed

March 15 - Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents* (Chapters 1-2)

March 17 - Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents* (Chapters 3-5)

March 20 - Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents* (Chapters 6-8)

March 22 - Weimar Germany and the Rise of Nazism
Recommended reading: Mann, "Disorder and Early Sorrow," from *Death in Venice*

March 24 - No class

March 27 - Mosse, *Nazi Culture* (ix-xl, 1-16)

March 29 - Mosse, *Nazi Culture* (133-63, 177-85)

March 31 - Mosse, *Nazi Culture* (241-61, 319-35)

April 3 - Essay #3 due; discussion of three essays

April 5 - Levi, *The Drowned and the Saved* (Preface, Chapters 1-3)

April 7 - Levi, *The Drowned and the Saved* (Chapters 4-6)

April 10 - Levi, *The Drowned and the Saved* (Chapters 7-8, Conclusion)

April 12 - Olivier Messiaen, *Quartet for the End of Time*
Required reading from Richard Powers, *Orfeo* (posted on Blackboard Learn)

April 14 - Postwar Europe & Existentialism

April 17 - No class (Patriots' Day)

April 18 - (Monday schedule) Camus, *The Myth of Sisyphus* ("An Absurd Reasoning")

April 19 - Camus, *The Myth of Sisyphus* ("The Absurd Man")

April 21 - No class

April 24 - Camus, *The Myth of Sisyphus* ("Absurd Creation," "The Myth of Sisyphus")
Essay topics distributed

April 26 - Postmodernism

April 28 - Foucault, *Discipline and Punish* (1-31)

May 1 - Foucault, *Discipline and Punish* (135-56, 184-94)

May 3 - Essay #4 due; three essays discussed