HSTR 540.01: Field Course in European Cultural and Intellectual History

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Format

This course is divided between theoretical works and actual models of cultural and intellectual history, but the dividing line between the two categories is not always clear. We begin with some traditional approaches to the subject, move on to Marxist challenges to the tradition, and conclude with a brief survey of postmodernism and its implications for the field of cultural and intellectual history.

Each student will be responsible on a rotation basis for leading a portion of the weekly discussion. Students will write a weekly review of three-to-five pages for each reading, due the day of the discussion. I expect all papers to be handed in on time.

I have structured the course with the European Cultural and Intellectual History field course examination in mind. Students who only want a grade for this seminar and are not interested in field course credit will still have to write the reviews and take the field course examination, which will be given during finals week and then again as needed. All students who want field course credit should take the exam as soon as possible.

Topics and Readings

28 January  Organizational Meeting

4 February  Traditional Approaches

    Alexis de Tocqueville, *The Old Regime and the French Revolution* (Doubleday)

11 February  Traditional Approaches

    Jacob Burckhardt, *The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy* (Penguin)

18 February  The Marxist Challenge to the Tradition

    Karl Marx, *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844* and *The Communist Manifesto* (Prometheus Books)

25 February  The Tradition after Marx

    Johan Huizinga, *The Autumn of the Middle Ages* (University of Chicago)
4 March  The Tradition after Marx


11 March  The Tradition after Marx

Karl Mannheim, *Ideology and Utopia: An Introduction to the Sociology of Knowledge* (Harcourt Brace)

18 March  Marxism and Cultural History


25 March  Marxism and Cultural History


Spring Break 30 March-3 April

8 April  Marxism and Cultural History


15 April  The Frankfurt School and Cultural History

Jürgen Habermas, *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere* (MIT Press)

22 April  Postmodernism: Origins

Alan Megill, *Prophets of Extremity: Nietzsche, Heidegger, Foucault, and Derrida* (University of California)

29 April  Postmodernism

Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish* (Knopf)

6 May  Critique of Postmodernism

Examination: Monday, 11 May, 2:00-6:00