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HSTR 540.01: Field Course in European Cultural and Intellectual History

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History 540 Syllabus
(Field Course in European Cultural and Intellectual History)

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
Max Weber, *Essays in Sociology* (Oxford University Press)
- 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
Georg Lukács, *History and Class Consciousness* (MIT Press)
- 25 March Marxism and Cultural History
Antonio Gramsci, *Prison Notebooks: Selections* (International Publishers)
- Spring Break 30 March-3 April
- 8 April Marxism and Cultural History
Pierre Bourdieu, *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgment of Taste* (Harvard University Press)
- 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
Tony Judt, *Past Imperfect: French Intellectuals, 1944-1956* (New York University Press)

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