This is a foundation course for doctoral students in the field of modern European history. Its purpose is to introduce students to some of the key topics, questions, problems, controversies and debates that have characterized this field. The bulk of material in this course is new research (published in the last 10 or 15 years), but we will also discuss some of the prevailing concerns of earlier scholarship as well. This course should help you to prepare for future research, as well as for comprehensive exams in modern European history and for teaching survey courses (like Development of Europe II).

Grading and Assignments: This course is based around discussion of the assigned readings each week. For class to be a pleasant and fulfilling experience, you will need to complete all readings before class and come to class prepared to talk about them. To help you prepare, you will be required to post 2–3 pages of comments on each week’s reading to the discussion board of the Sakai site for this class by 6 pm on Wednesday. You must then read all of your colleagues’ postings before Thursday’s class. In addition, each student will be responsible for facilitating two class sessions. This involves preparing a short list of key questions (4 or 5) to submit to the discussion board (also by 6 pm Wednesday) for everyone to think about. You should also create an outline or a plan for how to approach these questions in class, taking into account the comments from your classmates’ postings. You will then lead the discussion for that class.

Grades will be based on your weekly reading responses, your performance in class discussion each week, class facilitations, and a 20 page historiographical essay on a topic of your choosing, preferably one that has some relevance to a probable dissertation topic. Your essay will discuss the state of the field on this topic, including debates, controversies, methodologies, and so on. You should plan to include at least one foreign language source among your references for this assignment.

Assigned reading: It is your responsibility to obtain all readings. Books marked with a * have been ordered at the Rutgers Bookstore. All books listed on the syllabus (even those of which we will only be reading a part) have been placed on graduate reserve at Alexander library. Journal articles can be accessed (and printed out) via Rutgers library resources. Please bring copies of the readings with you to class.

Weekly Topics and Assignments:

September 3 Introduction

September 10 The French Revolution
Leora Auslander, *Cultural Revolutions: Everyday Life and Politics in Britain, North America and France* (University of California Press, 2009), pp. 1–14, 113–165 (ch. 1, 5, 6) (on Sakai)
September 17
The Industrial Revolution and Working Class History

September 24
Empire and the Making of Modern Europe
*Nicholas B. Dirks, The Scandal of Empire: India and the Creation of Imperial Britain* (Harvard [Belknap], 2008)

October 1
Nationalism and Modern Mass Politics
*Pieter Judson, Guardians of the Nation: Activists on the Language Frontiers of Imperial Austria* (Harvard UP, 2006)
Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*, (Verso, 2006) intro and ch. 3 and ch 5. (pp. 1–8, 37–46, 67–82)

October 8
Repressing and Oppressing? Bourgeois Reformers and Social Policy
Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality Vol 1*(Vintage, 1990), 1–49 (on Sakai)

October 15
Gender, Sexuality, and Politics in the Liberal State

October 22
Moving Towards Total War
*Isabel Hull, Absolute Destruction: Military Culture and the Practices of War in Imperial Germany* (Cornell University Press, 2005)
Maureen Healy, *Vienna and the Fall of the Habsburg Empire: Total War and Everyday Life in World War One* (Cambridge University Press, 2004), introduction and ch. 1 (on Sakai)

October 29

Universal Human Rights: Ideals, Realities, Failures
Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, ch. 9 (“The Decline of the Nation State and the End of the Rights of Man”) (on Sakai)

November 5

Stalinism in the USSR
*Stephen Kotkin, Magnetic Mountain: Stalinism as Civilization* (University of California Press, 1997)

November 12

no class (instead we will have class on Dec. 17)

November 19

Nazism (and the possibilities of comparison)
Michael Geyer with Sheila Fitzpatrick, “Introduction: After Totalitarianism,”

November 26

Thanksgiving

December 3

Postwar: the “West”

December 10

Postwar: the “East”
Katherine Verdery, *What Was Socialism and What Comes Next?* (Princeton UP, 1996) ch. 1, 2, and 6 (on Sakai)

**December 17**
The End of Empire?
*Joan W. Scott, The Politics of the Veil* (Princeton UP, 2007), 1–89, 124–150 (all if you have time)