

## The History of Democracy in Europe 1789-2000

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*The History of Democracy in Europe, 1789-2000* explores the uneven history of democracy in modern Europe. Almost two hundred years after French revolutionaries celebrated the victory of liberty and democracy, Europeans still struggled to free themselves from authoritarian rule. From the French Revolution to the European Union, the course investigates how Europeans supported democratic reforms and resisted conservative and authoritarian efforts to restrict liberty. It also examines how conservative and authoritarian regimes, from the Napoleonic Empire to the Soviet-controlled German Democratic Republic, used the institutions of democracy to justify the exclusion of the people from political power. Students will analyze democratic institutions, revolutions, and popular movements in order to understand the development of democracy in modern Europe. They will also be introduced to key political ideologies, including liberalism, socialism, conservatism, and fascism. Finally, the course will consider what the history of European democracies can teach us about Europe's future in the twenty-first century.

### **Requirements**

1. Attendance and participation in lectures and discussion sections (15%)
2. Two six (6) page papers (25% each)
3. One midterm (15%)
4. One final exam (20%)

### **Required Books:**

A course reader will be made available with most readings. Students are required to purchase the following books for the course, all of which will be available at the bookstore.

1. John Stuart Mill, *'On Liberty' and Other Writings*
2. Max Aub, *Field of Honour*
3. Joan W. Scott, *Parité!: Sexual Equality and the Crisis of French Universalism*

**I. Introduction to Problems in the History of Democracy – Week of August 26<sup>th</sup>**

1. The Idea of Democracy in Eighteenth-Century Europe

Readings: No Readings

**II. The French Revolution: The First Republic and the Terror – Week of September 2<sup>nd</sup>**

1. Labor Day – No Class
2. The Revolution of 1789: The Estates General and Representative Government
3. The Radical Revolution: Revolutionary Activism and the Terror

Readings: Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen; Olympe de Gouges, “Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the Female Citizen”; Joseph de Maistre, *Considerations on France*

**III. Ending the Revolution: The Napoleonic Empire – Week of September 9<sup>th</sup>**

1. The 18<sup>th</sup> Brumaire and the Consulate: A Democratic Coup d’état?
2. The Napoleonic Plebiscite and Opposition under the Empire
3. Reading Discussion

Readings: Isser Woloch, *Napoleon and His Collaborators*, “Living with the Erosion of Liberty”; Benjamin Constant, *The Spirit of Conquest and Usurpation and Their Relation to European Civilization*

**IV. Constitutional Monarchy in the Early Nineteenth Century – Week of September 16<sup>th</sup>**

1. French Constitutional Monarchy and Elite Liberalism
2. The Reform Act of 1832 and the Chartist Movement in Great Britain
3. Reading Discussion

Readings: Dorothy Thompson, *The Early Chartists*, “Chartist Pamphlets”; Félicité de Lamennais, *Words of A Believer*

**V. Industrialism, Democracy, and Socialism – Week of September 23<sup>rd</sup>**

1. Grassroots Democracies: Worker Associations in Britain and France
2. The “Social Question” and the Emergence of Socialism
3. Reading Discussion

Readings: Victor Considérant, *Principles of Socialism: Manifesto of Nineteenth-Century Democracy*; Friedrich Engels, *The Condition of the Working-Class in England in 1844*

**FIRST PAPER DUE: September 25<sup>th</sup>**

**VI. The Revolutions of 1848 and Authoritarian Reactions – Week of September 30<sup>th</sup>**

1. 1848 in France: The Social Republic and Napoleon III
2. 1848 in Germany: Liberalism and the Failure of Democratic Reform in Germany
3. Reading Discussion

Readings: Karl Marx, *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte*; Alexis de Tocqueville, *Recollections: The French Revolution of 1848*

**VII. Democracy in Late Victorian England – Week of October 7<sup>th</sup>**

1. The Reform Act of 1867 and Parliamentary Politics
2. The British Suffragette Movement
3. Reading Discussion/Midterm Review

Readings: John Stuart Mill, *The Subjection of Women*

**VIII. Democratic Reforms in Imperial Germany and Tsarist Russia – Week of October 14<sup>th</sup>**

1. Bismarck's Experiment with Universal Suffrage and Parliamentary Politics in Imperial Germany
2. The Russian Revolutions of 1905 and 1917
3. Fall Study Break – No Class

Readings: Nicholas II, "The October Manifesto"; Georgy Gapon, *The Story of My Life*

**IX. The Weimar Republic and the Rise of National Socialism – Week of October 21<sup>st</sup>**

1. Midterm
2. Parliamentary Politics, Popular Democratic Culture, and Conservative Movements in Weimar Germany
3. The Collapse of the Weimar Republic and the Rise of Hitler

Readings: Carl Schmitt, *The Crisis of Parliamentary Democracy*; Begin Reading - Max Aub, *Field of Honour*

**MIDTERM: October 21<sup>st</sup>**

**X. The Spanish Civil War and Spanish Democracy after Franco – Week of October 28<sup>th</sup>**

1. The Second Republic and the Spanish Civil War
2. The End of Franco's Regime and the Transition to Democracy
3. Reading Discussion

Readings: Finish Reading - Max Aub, *Field of Honour*

**XI. The Federal Republic of Germany – Week of November 4<sup>th</sup>**

1. Escaping the Nazi Past: The Creation of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Adenauer Era
2. The German Student Movement of the Late 1960s
3. Reading Discussion

Readings: Robert G. Moeller, *War Stories: The Search for A Usable Past in the Federal Republic of Germany*; Martin Klimte, *The Other Alliance: Student Protest in West Germany and the United States in the Global Sixties*

**XII. Conservatism and Social Democracy in Twentieth-Century Europe – Week of November 11<sup>th</sup>**

1. The Conservative Model: Gaullism and May 1968
2. The Swedish Model: Social Democracy and the Welfare State
3. Reading Discussion

Readings: Daniel Singer, *Prelude to Revolution: France in May 1968*; The Situationists, “On the Poverty of Student Life”

**XIII. The European Union – Week of November 18<sup>th</sup>**

1. EU Institutions and Democracy on an International Scale
2. National Referendums and the Democratic Deficit in the EU
3. Reading Discussion

Readings: The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union; Tony Judt, *A Grand Illusion?: An Essay on Europe*

**SECOND PAPER DUE: November 20<sup>th</sup>**

**THANKSGIVING BREAK**

**XIV. Soviet Eastern Europe and 1989 – Week of December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

1. The Communist One-Party System and the Façade of Democracy
2. Opposition in Soviet Eastern Europe and 1989
3. Reading Discussion

Readings: Shana Penn, *Solidarity’s Secret: The Women Who Defeated Communism in Poland*; *The Lives of Others* (Film)

**XV. European Democracies in the Twenty-First Century – Week of December 9<sup>th</sup>**

1. European Democracies in the Twenty-First Century: Problems of Representation and Integration
2. What is the Future of Democracy in Europe?

Readings: Joan W. Scott, *Parité!: Sexual Equality and the Crisis of French Universalism*