Mosse Fest 2014

November 17 – November 18
7:00-8:30 PM
The Fluno Center, 601 University Ave. – Parking Available in Underground Garage

Table of Contents:
1. Mosse Fest 2014 Program 1-2
2. Selected Bibliography of Works About George L. Mosse 3-5
3. Annotated Lecture Notes, “Week of Concern,” 1969. 6-7
4. European Culture Since 1870, Fall 1979 Syllabus. 8
5. Film List for History 514, Fall 1979. 9

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mosseprogram.wisc.edu
Mosse Fest 2014 and Mosse Online Course Preview

Monday, November 17th

Introductory Video
Featuring:
Interview: George L. Mosse, First Scholar in Residence
Holocaust Memorial Museum, 1996


Welcome
John Tortorice, Mosse Program Director, Dept. of History

Mosse for Today
Paul Buhle, Affiliate, Mosse Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies

“Everything is Political”: Mosse and Politics
Mayor Paul Soglin

Audience Discussion
Jane Brotman, Paul Buhle, Paul Soglin, Nick Thorkelson, John Tortorice, Dave Wagner
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Tuesday, November 18th

Introductory Video
Featuring:
Interview: George L. Mosse, First Scholar in Residence
Holocaust Memorial Museum, 1996

Continuing Studies Mosse Online Course Preview
Bill Tishler, UW Continuing Studies

Excerpt from Mosse UW Archive Oral History Interview, 1987
Troy Reeves, Director, UW Oral History Program

Mosse, Popular Culture, and Doing “Graphic” History
Nick Thorkelson, Thorkelson Graphic Design and Cartoons
Introduction and Comment, Dave Wagner, Journalist

Audience Discussion

Reception following in the Fluno Atrium
Selected List of Works About George L. Mosse


As you know: week of concern. Discuss the issues.

As all of you know I was, for what it is worth, an opponent of the war of the first hour. But I really have no new light to shed on it. I cannot see that such a discussion would benefit us very much now. I will let you decide what to do - but I feel that I must make clear how I feel about it myself:

If this course is not relevant to you, most of you would have and should have dropped it long ago. The issues of rationalism and its penetration, Enlightenment, Pascal etc. must have spoken to you perhaps more profoundly in a longer range effect then matters of the moment in which I, at least, am not an expert. The word relevance and concern can have deeper meanings: becoming a better person, a more knowledgeable one for one's own actions - that is, after all, what we have been about really.

I am now faced with a dilemma: I will have to cut the course short in any event - and this has nothing to do with business as usual: no discussion of culture as we have done it is business as usual. But I must say the obvious: if I have to cut it still shorter we will not get to evangelism, romanticism and perhaps not even to Rousseau. Whether what you have instead is as valuable is for you to judge. I do understand your frustration but I also know from my own experience that a knowledge of history is best suited to overcome and direct them.

We can now vote if you want to discuss the war or something else or want me to go on. I must say that if you are going to discuss something I am not qualified, then you must delegate someone to preside. I regard the teaching function as one were I only play a role if I am qualified to do so.
It is in this view which starting, or better, ending with
the natural morality of the Enlightenment, nevertheless does
transcend it with his theory of religious evolution.

Now Lessing was above all a dramatist. And it were these ideas
which he put on the stage with his Nathan the Wise (1779). A
play which shocked. Now the plot of this famous play is, I dare
say, known to you. How it plays in Palestine at the times of
the Crusade. How the leading figures are Crusader, the Sultan
and Nathan the Jewish merchants and his daughter. How the
daughters nanny finds out that she is really a Christian and
tells this to the captive crusador who denounces this crime
( the Jew educating a Christian girl) to the Sultan. Here the
stage is set. religious differences led to the crusades and
now are about to lead to the fall of Nathan: [wealth, charitable
and good.] It are the Christians who are the villains in this:
the crusador and the Nanny. Here Voltaire would have approved.

It is Nathan who is the hero; and to present a Jew on the
stage in any other than Shylock fashion was unheard of, even
in the tolerance of the Enlightenment the old stereotype went
on. But Lessing was consequent: he broke it. But is Nathan a
Jew? Only by birth for he has reached in his conduct the third
stage of religious development (virtue is natural to him.)

For here the famous story of the 3 Rings: Boccaccio's story
brought up to date, or better put into a new framework. Now
in the Decameron it was played up as a clever way to escape a
snare: it was to show how wisdom may be the cause of joy.
In typical Decameron fashion wisdom is here cleverness and
mental alertness and has nothing to do with a world view.
How different Lessing uses the identical story of The Jew
and Sultan Saladin.
The following books are to be read, whole or in large part:

George L. Mosse, The Culture of Western Europe, 2nd edition. This is also on reserve. Please read pages 203-401 as soon as possible, as necessary background for the course.

Gustav Le Bon, The Crowd (Books I and II)
Andre Gide, The Immoralist
Fontane, Jenny Treibel
Karl Kautzki, The Class Struggle
Freud, Five Lectures on Psychoanalysis
_____, Dora, The Analysis of a Case of Hysteria
Hall and Nordby, A Primer of Jungian Psychology
George L. Mosse, Nazism
Renzo de Felice, Fascism
George L. Mosse, Nazi Culture
Wedekind, "Springs Awakening" (only on reserve)
Brecht, "The Measure Taken" (only on reserve)

I. Fin de siecle
   The Portable Nietzsche (pages as above)
   Fontane, Jenny Treibel

II. The Rediscovery of the Body and of the Unconscious
    Gide, Immoralist
    Wedekind, "Springs Awakening"
    Freud, Five Lectures and Dora
    Primer of Jungian Psychology

III. Culture of Mass Politics
    Le Bon, The Crowd

IV. Socialism
    Karl Kautzki, The Class Struggle
    Brecht, "The Measure Taken"

V. The War Experience

VI. Fascism
    De Felice, Fascism
    G. L. Mosse, Nazism and Nazi Culture
FILM SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2: YOUNG TORLESS (VÖLKER SCHLÖNDORFF)
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9: THE BLUE ANGEL (JOSEPH VON STERNBERG)
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17: THE GRAND ILLUSION (JEAN RENOIR)
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8: THE CABINET OF DR. CALIGARI (ROBERT WIENE)
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15: BERLIN (WALTER RUTTMANN)

ALL SCREENINGS WILL BEGIN AT 7:30 PM.
ROOMS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS

History 514
Film Festival
FREE!
FREE!

"Um das zu sehende
Federmann, sichtbar zu machen."
Brecht
Der Dreigroschenprozess (1931)