INTRODUCTION

Our course will focus on three of the critical eras that dominate the history of Europe since the mid-eighteenth century: the era of the Enlightenment, French Revolution and Napoleon; the nineteenth-century era of industrialization and Victorian culture, and the era of total war and tyranny, 1914-45.

We will read the work of some leading contemporary historians, make use of a range of primary sources, and focus on some of the pivotal individuals who have helped determine the direction of modern history: Robespierre, Napoleon, Marx, Lenin, Stalin, Churchill, Hitler and Franklin Roosevelt. We will also consider the historical insights shed by some of the most celebrated documentary films of the twentieth century.

SYLLABUS

PART ONE:  ENLIGHTENMENT, FRENCH REVOLUTION AND NAPOLEON

July 5    Introduction.

The Enlightenment

July 6    The Enlightenment, concluded.

Course Pak, ch 1.  Linked to the course at ccpaks.com

July 7    The French Revolution: Outbreak and Liberal Stage

William Doyle, The French Revolution, pp. 1-80
Course Pak, ch. 2.  Linked to the course at ccpaks.com

July 12   Robespierre and the Teror

Doyle, pp. 81-108
Course Pak, ch.3.

July 13   Napoleon

Course Pak, ch. 4
PART TWO: THE VICTORIAN ERA

July 14 The First Industrial Revolution and Its Consequences

Course Pak, ch. 5, 6

Marx and Engels, The Communist Manifesto, all but 3, parts 1 and 2.

July 19 Victorian Forces: Separate Spheres, Nationalism, Terrorism

Hendrik Ibsen, A Doll’s House

Course Pak, ch. 7, 8

Midterm Essays Due

PART THREE: TOTAL WAR AND TYRANNY, 1914-1945

July 20 The First World War: Outbreak to 1916

Michael Howard, The First World War, ch 1-4

Course Pak, ch. 8, 9

Watch 30 minutes of “Battle of the Somme”. UTUBE

July 21 The War Concluded, The Peace

Howard, ch. 5-9, appendices

Course Pak, ch 10

Watch “Funeral of the Unknown Warrior”, 1919 Pathe newsreel, UTUBE (5 mins)

July 26 The Russian Revolution: Lenin to Stalin

Course Pak, ch. 11

July 27 Fascism and National Socialism: Hitler and Mussolini

Course Pak, ch. 12

Watch 30 minutes of “Triumph of the Will”, UTUBE.

July 28 The Second World War: Churchill and Hitler


Course Pak, ch. 13

Watch Humphrey Jennings, “London Can Take It” (9 mins) UTUBE
Aug 2                      Total War in the East and Nazi Defeat
Assignment continued

Aug 3                      The Holocaust
Wladyslaw Szpilman, The Pianist

Aug 4                      Final Essays Due

Purchase:
Course Pak. This is a collection of maps, documents, short reviews of important books, short articles by leading historians and narrative accounts of major events. It is available by phone at 800-254-PAKS, or by internet order. Delivery takes about three business days. While you are waiting for delivery, you may read the first two assignments online. They are linked to www.CCPaks.com. There is also a copy of the Course Pak on Library Reserve in the basement of the Lowenstein building.

Marx and Engels, The Communist Manifesto. 0-7178-0241-8
Hendrik Ibsen, A Doll’s House. 978-0199536191
John Lukacs, The Duel. 0-89919-967-4
Wladyslaw Szpilman, The Pianist. 978-0312263768

Your Grade:
1. 1. Timely reading and class participation, 20%
2. 2. Midterm Essays based directly on the assigned reading, 40%
3. 3. Final Essays based on material assigned after the midterm essays. 40%

Attendance and Class Policy: In summer one unexplained absence is excused. Inform the instructor if you miss class because of illness or another contingency which may be excusable.