

HISTORY / CHARTER

NINETEENTH CENTURY HISTORY

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The aim of the course is to have students reflect on the processes of political and social transformation in nineteenth-century Europe, between the end of the Napoleonic wars and the “age of the masses” that took shape in the early twentieth century.

The analysis will focus on the interconnected development of political regimes and organisations (persistence and reform of multinational empires, building of nation-states, second wave of colonialism), political cultures and tendencies (liberalism, conservatism, democracy and socialism) and forms of political mobilisation (revolts and insurrections; formal and informal politicisation; military, religious and voluntary engagement; etc.).

In this course, political history is understood in the broad sense, in light of the economic, social and cultural changes that affected nineteenth-century societies, albeit at varying rates. Europe is considered in neither a homogeneous nor an isolated or self-centred manner. We will look at the tensions and conflicts that divided Europe and at collective representations of its borders and limits; European expansion will be situated in the context of nineteenth-century “globalisation” and its interactions with America, Africa and Asia.

While remaining focused on a well-defined central issue, the course will integrate recent research contributions (including transnational history, imperial history and global history) and will confront students with the primary sources from which the historical narrative and analysis are developed.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Demonstrate broad knowledge of the political history of the nineteenth century from their classes and reference manuals;
- Read and discuss set texts written by historians (in French and English), and demonstrate knowledge of some of the main historiographical debates on the period;
- Establish a bibliography on a specific topic;
- Prepare and deliver an oral presentation;
- Write a clear, rigorously organised dissertation;
- Draw on knowledge of history to understand current events.

COURSE CONTENT

1. The words and pace of the nineteenth century

Introductory session to present the course's main lines (approaches, concepts, geographical areas and periodisation).

- The century of modernity?
- A laboratory of contemporary political cultures
- Nation-states, empires and globalisation: the course's central issues

2. From Napoleonic Europe to restored empires (around 1815)

This session will offer a brief look at Napoleon's imperial project before presenting 1815 as a moment of reaffirmation of the continental empires (against revolutionary aspirations and national demands) and consolidation of British power.

- The French Restoration will serve to illustrate the contradictions of the counter-revolutionary project.
- Europe under Napoleonic rule
- The Vienna Congress and redefinition of the European order
- Ambiguities of the counter-revolutionary project: the example of the French Restoration

3. From empires to nation states? Perspectives on independence in the Americas

This session will highlight the connections between the history of Europe and of the Americas, from the independence of the United States to the formation of the new nation-states of Latin America. Students will reflect on Europe's borders, the relations between empires and nation-states, and the comparative history of state-building processes on either side of the Atlantic.

- Collapse of the European empires
- Building the new American republics
- Societies marked by slavery

4. The thwarted rise of liberalism in Europe in the 1820s-1830s

This session will reflect on the establishment of liberalism as a political idea, a form of regime (parliamentarianism and constitutionalism) and a cultural tendency. Liberalism will be studied in a comparative European context, including the abortive uprisings in Spain, Naples and Russia, the repressive measures taken by the great powers of the Congress of Vienna, and the liberal- and national-inspired revolutionary wave, from Greek independence to Belgian independence via the July Revolution and the failure of the Polish insurrection.

- The assertion of liberalism
- Liberal movements: uprising and repression
- 1830, a transnational revolution

5. The emergence of the Social Question

This session will focus on the social and political contradictions of the liberal period of the 1830s-1840s, using the British and French examples in particular. It will present the social impacts of the first industrialisation and, more especially, the various responses to the emergence of the Social Question (liberal philanthropy, social Christianity, early socialism)

and to the forms of political mobilisation that sought to challenge the new liberal order (British chartism, workers' revolts, republican mobilisations, etc.).

- The "industrial revolution" under debate
- The Social Question and its political implications
- Liberalism and democracy: a troubled history

6. 1848, a shift towards modern Europe?

This classic session presents the revolutions of 1848 in a European context (the role of exile, circulation and international volunteering) with emphasis on the meeting of national, liberal and democratic aspirations, as well as the tensions among them, illustrated by the case of France and the repressions in Austria, Hungary and Italy (among others).

- The revolutionary wave of 1848
- The Second French Republic: a telling example A European failure?
- Repression and legacies

7. The manufacture of nation-states: Germany, Italy & Japan

The 1850s and 1860s were marked by the formation and strengthening of several nation states against a backdrop of war (the Crimean War, Italian Wars, Austro-Prussian War, Civil War, etc.) and the centralisation of state resources. The session will draw students' attention to the processes of nation-state formation, particularly the institutions and vehicles that contributed to the nationalisation of various societies. Meiji-era Japan will serve as a counterpoint to minimise the specificity of the Western European experience of state building.

- War and state formation in the 1850s & 1860s
- Nationalisation of societies
- The nation-state, a European monopoly? The case of Meiji-era Japan

8. France, an imperial nation-state

This session will apply the central theme of the course to the history of the Second Empire and the Third Republic, addressed together rather than separately. It will question the notion of the "republican model" through its relationship with the period prior to 1870, its international integration and its imperial project.

- The Second Empire is an empire
- From Empire to Republic
- A republican "model"?

9. The persistence of multinational empires

Echoing Session 7, this comparative analysis of the Ottoman, Austro-Hungarian and Russian empires aims to have students reflect on the persistence and centrality of multinational empires in the history of Europe post-1850, stressing these contested political entities' capacity for reform and reorganisation from the 1860s through the 1880s.

- The Ottoman Empire in the Concert of Europe: forced integration
- Austria-Hungary and the nationalities question
- The Russian Empire and the dilemmas of liberalisation

10. Nations and internationalism in the age of the “first globalisation”

Nations and empires formed and transformed in a context of intense circulation of capital, goods and people, which historiography names—probably unduly—the “first globalisation”, a phenomenon strongly influenced by British power and its free-trade imperialism.

Internationalisms and nationalisms developed in concert, opening up new possibilities for expression and political protest in the late nineteenth century.

- The “first globalisation”
- International scientific and technical cooperation
- Internationalist political cultures

11. Imperial globalisation

This session examines the new overseas colonial empires that developed from the 1860s, the relations between imperialism and colonialism, and the commercial, economic and financial variants of European imperial domination (using the case of China).

- New European expansionism in Africa and Asia
- Domination, colonisation and administration
- Informal imperialism: the case of China

12. The age of the masses: democratisation and militarisation of European societies

The last session underlines the tensions and conflicts that characterised Europe at the end of the century, between the assertion of democratic politics and mass culture, the expansion of the revolutionary phenomenon (in Russia and in Turkey, in particular), and the anti-modern and nationalist reactions of the 1890s-1900s.

- The politics of the masses
- The empires in the face of constitutional revolutions
- European rifts

COURSE FORMAT

The course is taught over 48 hours in the first semester (S1) and consists of:

- **Lectures (24 hrs)**
- **Methodology seminars (24 hrs)**

EVALUATION

The course is worth 6 ECTS and is assessed as follows:

- **Continuous assessment** in the methodology seminars (2/3 of the total mark);
- **Final written exam** (*dissertation*) on the lecture content (1/3 of the total mark).