

Department: HISTORY

Course number: 3412 W

Course title: Intellectual and Social History of Europe in the Nineteenth Century

Credits: 3

Contact Person: Daniel Caner

Q/W: W

Catalog Copy: HIST 3412W [258W]. Intellectual and Social History of Europe in the Nineteenth Century
LANSING, DINTENFASS

Prerequisite: ENGL 105 or 110 or 111 or 250.

Course Information: The course explores the history of European thought in its social context in the nineteenth century. The aims of the course are 1) to introduce students to the fundamental issues in nineteenth-century intellectual and social history; 2) to introduce students to the tools and approaches used by historians in researching, writing, and discussing historical topics; and 3) to give students the opportunity to hone their analytical and, most importantly, their writing skills. Readings will consist largely, possibly even exclusively, of primary sources such as document collections, memoirs, diaries, newspapers, novels, correspondence, art, architecture, and philosophical, political, social and economic treatises. The format of the class is a mixture of lecture and discussion.

W Criteria

An especially effective way of understanding both the fundamentals and the subtleties of European thought is analyzing particular ideas or themes in a written assignment. Writing papers enables students

to build on the class discussions and to engage the texts on a deeper and more substantive level. HIST 258W will require students to write two papers, a short paper (5-7 pages) in which students analyze and compare two primary sources and a term paper (10-12 pages) on a topic to be determined by discussions between the instructor and the student. Each paper will be revised based on instructor comments as well as on the comments of the student,s peers. The first paper will also be used as a writing template for the rest of the semester, in that the instructor will prepare a checklist of writing problems for each student, and expect them to work on these problems throughout the semester. At least fifty percent of the student,s grade will be based on the two papers; no student will pass the course without first having demonstrated satisfactorily writing on all of the final papers. Writing instruction in HIST 258W will consist of individual conferences, written commentary, peer-review as part of the class discussions, formal instruction to the class, and individual conferences with the students. The syllabus will inform students that they must pass the "W" component of the course in order to pass the course.