

Module code: MOD007939	Version: 1 Date Amended: 04/Feb/2021
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1. Module Title
Battles, Barricades and Ideas - Historians and Europe's Age of Revolution

2a. Module Leader
Sean Lang

2b. School
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education and Social Sciences

3a. Level
5

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:			

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

This module explores the history of Europe, from the French Revolution to the First World War, through the works of major historians. You will study the period and its major themes via a collection of classic works of history, some older, some more recent, by historians including Eric Hobsbawm, AJP Taylor, Jonathan Steinberg, Richard Evans, Margaret Macmillan and Christopher Clark. Through their work we will look at Europe in the age of the French Revolution and Napoleon; at conflict and rivalry between the European powers, from the Crimean War through the wars of Italian and German unification to the conflicts of the early twentieth century; at major individuals like Napoleon III and Bismarck; and at international rivalry within Europe and beyond, culminating in a study of the historical debate surrounding the outbreak of the First World War. Through discussion and debate learning will be focused on the differing interpretations put forward by different historians, with an emphasis on close reading and critical analysis. module is specifically designed to help you move from learning the events and factual details of a period, towards direct engagement with contrasting interpretations and debates. You will be actively engaged in discussions, working both individually and in small groups, and will subjects the chosen texts to close, informed and critical analysis.

6b. Outline Content

On this module you will study the works of number of major historians specialising in the history Europe from the French Revolution to the First World War. This will include:

- Eric Hobsbawm's *The Age of Revolution* and the debate surrounding the French Revolution and Napoleon, and revolutionary activity across Europe in 1848-9
- AJP Taylor's *The Struggle for Mastery in Europe, 1848-1918* and the contrast with more recent accounts of nineteenth-century power politics, including Richard Evans's *The Pursuit of Power*.
- Denis Mack Smith's *The Making of Italy* and the contrast with accounts by Beales and Biagini.
- Michael Howard's *The Franco-Prussian War* and accounts of major individuals, including Steinberg's biography of Bismarck and Strauss-Schom on Napoleon III
- Revolutionary pressure in tsarist Russia, using Richard Pipes's *Russia under the Old Regime*.
- The debate on the outbreak of the First World War, focusing on the contrast between Fischer's *Germany's War Aims in the First World War* and Christopher Clark's *The Sleepwalkers*.

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

None.

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate knowledge of the major events, themes, ideas and developments in the history of Europe from the French Revolution to the outbreak of the First World War.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Show understanding of the historiographical debate surrounding the development of nineteenth century Europe and of specific individuals and events from within the period.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Assimilate academic arguments, to subject them to critical analysis and, where appropriate, to compare them with other accounts of the same events or developments.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Engage in constructive debate and dialogue on historiographical issues, working both individually and in small groups, both orally and using digital recording as a medium.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	0	None	None
Other teacher managed learning	24	1-4	1 x 2-hour seminar per week, based on set texts
Student managed learning	126	1-4	Self-directed reading and research time, assessment preparation, team work on assignments
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Practical	1-4	40 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

15-minute recording (for pairings of 2 students) or 20-minutes (for 3 students) of discussion comparing two different historians; recording to include both individual and group contributions, equivalent to 1,000 words

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Coursework	1-3	60 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Critical analysis of one of the set historians' texts, 2,000 words

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:

- (a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
- (b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]