First midterm (20% of your final grade)

History 104: Europe from Napoleon to the Present

Write all your answers in a bluebook. Please write legibly. If we cannot read it, you will not get credit for it.

PART ONE (20%): Identify five (5) of the following items and briefly indicate the significance each has for modern European history. Your answer for each item should be only a few sentences long. Remember we are concerned with the quality and relevance of your response. (Each answer is worth 4% of your grade on this exam.)

- demographic revolution
- Frankfurt Parliament
- Lourdes
- Luddism
- metric system
- Pius IX
- realpolitik
- separate-spheres ideology
- “springtime of the peoples”
- Whigs

PART TWO: Comment on four (4) of the following eight passages or images. [Each comment is worth 20% of your grade on this exam.] In your comment, you should explain the text’s or image’s broad significance for the history of nineteenth-century Europe. What is the context in which it was produced? What effect did it have on that context? What, if anything, is important in the author’s choice of word and imagery? Each of your comments should be a short but substantive essay, filling at least one page in a bluebook.

1. Antoine-Jean Gros, Napoleon Visiting the Plague stricken at Jaffa, 1799 (1804).

2. “A lady has a right, in her own house, to run upstairs or to a letter-box, to sing across the hall, to call to her husband upstairs, and do many other things she would not do in the house of another lady, or with strangers round her. You should remember that, as long as you are in service, you are always in the house of another, and have strangers round you, and should not think, therefore, that because your mistress chooses to let her voice or step be heard, you are at liberty to do the same.”


3. “The question of nationality can only be resolved by destroying the treaties of 1815, and changing the map of Europe and its public Law. The question of Nationalities, rightly understood, is the Alliance of the Peoples; it is the balance of powers based upon new foundations; it is the organization of the work that Europe has to accomplish.”

   Giuseppe Mazzini, “Europe, its Conditions and Prospects” (1852).
4. “We are also convinced that society may be saved, if the Governments face the truth, if they free themselves from all illusion, if they join their ranks and take their stand on a line of correct, unambiguous, and frankly announced principles. By this course the monarchs will fulfill the duties imposed upon them by Him who, by entrusting them with power, has charged them to watch over the maintenance of justice and the rights of all… Placed beyond the passions which agitate society, monarchs are called upon … to show themselves as they really are, fathers invested with the authority belonging by right to the heads of families.”

Klemens von Metternich, “Political Confession of Faith” (1820).

5. “For the Polish nation is not dead! Its body, indeed, is in the tomb, but its soul has ascended from the surface of the earth—that is, from public life—to the abyss, or domestic life - to the homes and hearths of those who endure distress and oppression in their country, and far from their country, in order to be the witness there of their suffering and of their misery. And on the third day, the soul shall return to its body; and the nation shall rise from the dead; and shall free all the nations of Europe from slavery.”

Adam Mickiewicz, Books of the Polish Nation (1832).

6. “The bourgeoisie cannot exist without constantly revolutionizing the instruments of production, and thereby the relations of production, and with them the whole relations of society. Conservation of the old modes of production in unaltered form, was, on the contrary, the first condition of existence for all earlier industrial classes. Constant revolutionizing of production, uninterrupted disturbance of all social conditions, everlasting uncertainty and agitation distinguish the bourgeois epoch from all earlier ones. . . . All that is solid melts into air, all that is holy is profaned, and man is at last compelled to face with sober senses his real conditions of life…”


7. “Mouret spent three hundred thousand francs a year in catalogues, advertisements, and bills. For his summer sale he had launched forth two hundred thousand catalogues, of which fifty thousand went abroad, translated into every language. He now had them illustrated with engravings, even accompanying them with samples, gummed between the leaves. It was an overflowing display; The Ladies’ Paradise became a household word all over the world, invading the walls and the newspapers.”

Emile Zola, The Ladies’ Paradise (1883).

8. “The pilgrims also flowed towards Marpingen in such numbers that the military sentries gave up their opposition in despair, and during August of last year from 10,000 to 20,000 arrived every day. Among them were the Archduke Charles of Austria and his wife… The Government is apparently powerless to do any more than throw ridicule on what it calls ‘the Marpingen swindle.’”

The Marpingen Apparitions, as reviewed in The Dublin Review (1878).