HUMANITIES 404: MODERN EUROPEAN HERITAGE

Professor: Dr. Erich W. Skwara  
Office: AL-634  
Telephone: 619-594-6488 (with voice mail), or 619-594-5186 (Department Office)  
E-mail: eskwara@mail.sdsu.edu (Caution: I am checking my e-mails only once per week and exclusively while on campus.)  
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 14.00 - 15.00 hours, or by prior appointment

BOOKS REQUIRED:

Five Great English Poets, an Anthology. Dover Edition  
Friedrich NIETZSCHE: Twilight of the Idols and The Antichrist (SDSU bookstore or any edition of the latter text - we only read The Antichrist)  
Franz KAFKA: The Metamorphosis and Other Stories (Dover Thrift Edition)  
Albert CAMUS: The Stranger (also newly translated as The Foreigner) (SDSU bookstore or any edition)  
Erich Wolfgang SKWARA: Black Sails, a novel, Ariadne Press

Ours truly is a fascinating but in many ways also an overwhelming course. In order to keep afloat both intellectually and organizationally, we will proceed selectively through the varied fields of history, the arts, the sciences, philosophical ideas, and our general state of human affairs. While we discuss certain topics at detail in the classroom, you will be required to READ AND STUDY OTHER ISSUES AS DIRECTED ON YOUR OWN - and these readings will be in equal measure required examination knowledge. We will cast our glance at some of Europe's and the Western World's major achievements and failures over a period of some two hundred years, we will attempt to examine Modernity and the very foundations of our own existence. What better moment to do so than in these earliest moments of this Third Millennium of whose future we know nothing. We will discover that two hundred years are not much time in the context of our collective human experience. Let us therefore embark on a journey toward and through ourselves, where only our individual involvement and enthusiasm (or anxiety) can do justice to the issues.

We will work with TWO VOLUMES of a (six volume total) textbook which contains the essential facts and provides a rich source of informational, illustrative and otherwise quite pertinent texts, supplemented by rich and helpful picture material. You must therefore always bring the textbook at issue to our class meetings, because we will work with the pictures and text excerpts provided therein. ---- In addition to these basic volumes, you must read the FIVE major primary works of literature and philosophy stated above. They capture, each in its unique way, their time and its spirit exquisitely. You will have to write a PERSONAL BOOK OR READING REPORT (- an individual, diary-like evaluation