This course explores European history through the dramatic events of the nineteenth century, from the Napoleonic Wars to the birth of New Imperialism. A period which would shape the destiny of the continent in ways few could have imagined, leaving a heavy mark on the world beyond. An era forged on the battlefields of Europe, where conflict was never far from the horizon, and where political giants stalked the corridors of power, from Napoleon to Metternich; Victoria to Bismarck. Yet an era too of the rise of the people, where thoughts of progress and freedom were ever in the air, turning subjects into citizens, and empires into nations. Above all else a time of global transformation as the winds of change swept through the continent, leaving Europe itself as the apparent master of the world. Yet with great power would come great fragility and division, sowing the seeds for the troubled century to come.

Units:

- Introduction: Key Dates & Themes. Mapping Change.
- An Unholy Alliance? International Peacemaking and the Metternich Effect
- The European Spring: The 1848 Revolutions and the Nationalist Challenge
- The Fight for the Franchise: Radicalism and Reform in Victorian England
- Revolution from Above: Tsarist Russia and the Legacy of Crimean War
- A Date with Destiny: Romantic Nationalism and the Unification of Italy
- The Political Architect? Bismarck and the Unification of Germany
- A New World Order: International Relations and the Rise of New Imperialism
- Concluding Thoughts
Background Reading:
(Note: Titles and authors provided by Dr. Watson, publishers and ISBNs suggested by the Graham School)


Tutor Biography:

Dr Kate Watson, Senior Associate Tutor, has taught for the Department for Continuing Education, and other university programmes for almost twenty years. She has lectured and published on a wide range of topics, focussed on the development of modern British and European History.