History 158C

Old and New Europe, 1914 to the Present

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Office hours: Tu 12-2pm, 2305 Dwinelle
Class meetings: MWF, 3-4pm, 101 Barker

Course Description

This course examines the political, social and cultural history of Europe in the twentieth century. The story of Europe’s twentieth century is dramatic: from the era of global political and economic dominance to the unparalleled destruction of two World Wars; from the interwar crises of capitalism and democracy to the creation of social democracy and European union; from the reach of vast overseas empires to the remaking of geopolitics through decolonization and Cold War. These transformations raise key questions about the nature of modern society and politics, for example in the comparison between capitalist and communist regimes. We will examine the ways in which the various political ideologies of liberal democracy, fascism, communism, social democracy and neo-liberalism developed in reaction to one another and to the various crises which Europeans faced, and the ways in which societies were transformed through political experimentation. In this period Europe occupied a central place in global history, and we will approach the particular modern society of twentieth-century Europe both as unique in world history, and as centrally influential and important for the world as a whole both then and now.
“This, in my view, is the intellectual sin of the century: passing judgment on the fate of others in the name of their future as you see it, a future in which you may have no investment, but concerning which you claim exclusive and perfect information.”


**Readings**

All assigned reading is to be completed by the beginning of each lecture.

**Required reading list**

The following books are available for purchase at the UCB bookstore, at local new and used bookstores, and online. (Other editions are fine.)

- Sigmund Freud, *A Case of Hysteria (Dora)* (Oxford University Press, 2013)
- George Orwell, *Animal Farm* (Signet Classics, 1996)
- (Optional but recommended) Bonnie G. Smith, *Europe in the Contemporary World, 1900 to the Present* (Bedford/St. Martins, 2007)
- Course reader available for purchase at Zee Zee Copy (2431 Durant Ave., located in the passageway between Bancroft and Durant).

**Films**

In addition to the readings listed above, students are required to view the following two films:

- *Nosferatu: A Symphony of Horror* (1922) by F.W. Murnau
- *Europa* (1991) by Lars von Trier

These films will be the basis for in-class discussions and exam questions. Any student unable to attend the scheduled screening (dates and times tba) should make arrangements to watch the film on her/his own.

**Communication**

The most efficient way to communicate with me outside of class is by email. From time to time I may communicate with the class via e-mail or through bCourses, so please check your university email on a daily basis. I encourage you all to make use of office hours if you have any questions about the course or other concerns.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance

Attendance is required. I do not take roll, but I do periodically assign in-class activities or pop quizzes (keep reading…)

Classroom participation

Although this is a lecture course, it will include ample opportunity for group discussions and intellectual exchange. The most important thing you can do to succeed is to come to class, in particular to in-class discussions, having carefully read and thought about the assigned readings. In the course of class discussions or during lecture, I may ask you to compose—and submit—short written responses to the readings or the ongoing lecture. These responses will be factored into your participation grade.

NOTE: If you miss a classroom discussion due to illness or any other pre-approved absence, you will have the option to prepare a written response to the assigned readings to improve your participation grade. If you are considering this option, please consult with me in advance about the details.

Exams

There will be three exams in this course: two midterms and a final. For the midterms you will be given a study sheet of around 10 questions, five will appear on the in-class examination. The midterms will also include a short in-class essay. The final exam will include 10 questions and a short essay. Please keep in mind that the final exam will draw from the entire course material.

Writing Assignments

Before each in-class discussion, you will be required to submit a 1-page written response. In this response you should formulate your own opinion about any aspect of the assigned reading(s) based on a modest amount of independent research. (Details to follow.)

This course also requires a short book review 4 to 6 pages in length. A detailed set of instructions as well as a list of books to choose from will be provided later in the semester.

GRADES

Course assignments aim to help students improve their critical thinking, reading, and writing skills, as well as to foster the ability to formulate intriguing questions and engage with other viewpoints in a positive and productive manner.
Student evaluation will be based on:

- Attendance and classroom participation (10% of final grade)
- Written responses (20% of final grade)
- Midterm exams (25% of final grade)
- Final exam (25% of final grade)
- Final book review (20% of final grade)

Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent her or him from fully demonstrating her or his abilities, or who wishes to share emergency medical information with me should contact me privately after class, in my office, or by email as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate educational opportunities.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Note. Lecture titles are provisional and subject to change.

We, 20 Jan  Course Introduction

LEGACIES OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY, TO 1918

Fr, 22 Jan  Empires
Mo, 25 Jan  No class today
We, 27 Jan  Capitalism
Fr, 29 Jan  The Unconscious
  Freud, Civilization and its Discontents (1930)
Mo, 1 Feb  The Origins of World War One
  Zweig, “The Rushing Feeling of Fraternity” (1941)
We, 3 Feb  In-Class Discussion (Group A)
  Freud, A Case of Hysteria (Dora)
  *Due: Response #1 posted to bCourses before class*
Fr, 5 Feb  In-Class Discussion (Group B)
Freud, *A Case of Hysteria (Dora)*
*Due: Response #1 posted to bCourses before class*

**CRISIS, REVOLUTION, AND CATASTROPHE, 1917-1939**

Mo, 8 Feb  World War One

We, 10 Feb  The Russian Revolution

Wilson, “The world must be made safe for democracy” (1917)
Lenin, “A new phase in the history of Russia begins” (1917)
Trotsky, “The dustbin of history” (1917)
Love and Sexuality in Postwar Society, The Communist Case: Kollongai’s “Make Way for Winged Eros, 1923”

Fr, 12 Feb  A Peace to End All Peace?
Mazower, *Dark Continent*, Chapter 1

Mo, 15 Feb  Academic and administrative holiday, no class today

We, 17 Feb  In-Class Discussion (Group A)

Lenin, *The State and Revolution*
*Due: Response #2 posted to bCourses before class*

Fr, 19 Feb  In-Class Discussion (Group B)

Lenin, *The State and Revolution*
*Due: Response #2 posted to bCourses before class*

Mo, 22 Feb  No lecture – make time for the film!

*Film screening (time and place tba): Nosferatu*

We, 24 Feb  The League of Nations

Mazower, *Dark Continent*, Chapter 2

The Mandate System: “Articles 22 and 23 of the Covenant of the League of Nations” (1920)
Einstein and Freud, *Why War?* (1931)
Fr, 26 Feb  The Failure of Democracy and the Rise of Fascism
Mazower, *Dark Continent*, Chapter 3
Mussolini, “Fascist Doctrines” (1932)

Mo, 29 Feb  Building Socialism: The Soviet System in the 1930s
Mazower, *Dark Continent*, Chapter 4
Stalin, “Either we do it – or they crush us!” (1931)

We, 2 Mar  **In-Class Discussion (Group A)**
Murnau’s *Nosferatu*
*Due: Response #3 posted to bCourses before class*

Fr, 4 Mar  **In-Class Discussion (Group B)**
Murnau’s *Nosferatu*
*Due: Response #3 posted to bCourses before class*

Mo, 7 Mar  **MIDTERM I**

**NAZI GERMANY AND THE SECOND WORLD WAR, 1933-1945**

We, 9 Mar  The National Socialist Worldview
Hitler’s Creed: Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf* (1925-6)
Bergen, *War & Genocide*, pp. 1-28

Fr, 11 Mar  How the Nazis Ruled Europe
Mazower, *Dark Continent*, Chapter 5 (pp. 138-166)

Mo, 14 Mar  The Holocaust
Mazower, *Dark Continent*, Chapter 5 (pp. 166-181)
Bergen, *War & Genocide*, 196-203
Vrba and Weczler, “Auschwitz Observed” (1944)
Heydrich, “The final solution” (1942)

We, 16 Mar  The Collapse of Nazi Europe
Mazower, *Dark Continent*, Chapter 6
Fr, 18 Mar  A Cold Peace, 1945-1949
   Mazower, *Dark Continent*, Chapter 7
   World War II and Human Rights: *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948)
   The Soviet Ambassador Appraises the United States, 1946: Novikov’s *Report to Foreign Minister Molotov* (1946)

Mo, 21 Mar  Spring Recess

We, 23 Mar  Spring Recess

Fr, 25 Mar  Spring Recess

**POSTWAR EUROPE, 1949-1990**

Mo, 28 Mar  **In-Class Discussion (Group A)**
   Orwell, *Animal Farm*
   *Due: Response #4 posted to bCourses before class*

We, 30 Mar  **In-Class Discussion (Group B)**
   Orwell, *Animal Farm*
   *Due: Response #4 posted to bCourses before class*

Fr, 1 Apr  **The Problem of Stalinism**
   Mazower, Chapter 8
   Miłosz, *The Captive Mind* (1953)
   Krushchev, “We must abolish the cult of the individual” (1956)

Mo, 4 Apr  **Capitalism’s Golden Age?**
   Mazower, *Dark Continent*, Chapter 9
   Césaire, *Discourse on Colonialism*

We, 6 Apr  **In-Class Discussion (Group A)**
   Havel, *Memorandum*
   *Due: Response #5 posted to bCourses before class*
Fr, 8 Apr  In-Class Discussion (Group B)

Havel, *Memorandum*  
*Due: Response #5 posted to bCourses before class*

Mo, 11 Apr  “Real Existing Socialism”

Mazower, *Dark Continent*, Chapter 11 (pp. 361-380)  
Havel, “Power of the Powerless”

We, 13 Apr  Annus Mirabilis 1989, the End of Communism in Europe

Mazower, *Dark Continent*, Chapter 11 (pp. 380-394)  
Gorbachev on Glasnost and Perestroika: Gorbachev’s *Speech to the Communist Party Congress* (1987)

Fr, 15 Apr  MIDTERM II

Mo, 18 Apr  No lecture – make time for the film!  
*Film screening (time and place tba): Europa*

We, 20 Apr  In-Class Discussion (Group A)

Lars von Trier’s *Europa*  
*Due: Response #6 posted to bCourses before class*

Fr, 22 Apr  In-Class Discussion (Group B)

Lars von Trier’s *Europa*  
*Due: Response #6 posted to bCourses before class*

**THE TRANSFORMATION OF EUROPE, THE ’70S TO THE PRESENT**

Mo, 25 Apr  The Neoliberal Transformation of Europe

Mazower, *Dark Continent*, Chapter 10, Epilogue  
Thatcher, “Let me give you my vision” (1975)  
Judt, “The Glory of the Rails” and “Bring Back the Rails!”

We, 27 Apr  Topic TBA

Reading TBA

Fr, 29 Apr  Europe’s Current Crises

Readings TBA
*Due Friday, May 6: Book Review, submitted to bCourses*

FINAL EXAM          Time and place TBA