History 158C
Summer 2011

Course Description

The twentieth century was the most devastating in the history of Europe. This course surveys the major developments that led to the wars and revolutions for which the century is famous. It stresses the supreme importance of the commanding actors on the political stage as the century unfolded--Lenin and Stalin, Mussolini and Hitler, Churchill and de Gaulle, Walesa and Thatcher and Gorbachev, and focuses on the differing approaches to European relations taken by American presidents from Wilson to George W. Bush. The course will seek to squeeze every ounce of drama out of the century's most famous -- and infamous -- events: Europe's last summer -- the incredible days of July 1914; the slaughter of World War I; the rise of Communism, Fascism, and Nazism; Munich; the Nazi-Soviet Pact of 1939; the decimation of World War II; the bombing of London and Dresden; the destruction of the European Jewry; the German invasion of Russia; D-Day, the suicide of Hitler, the origins and development of the Cold War; the fall of the Berlin Wall; the revolutions of 1989; the disintegration of the Soviet Union; the collapse of Yugoslavia; and the first and second Gulf wars. All this and more we will explore through books, documents and, not least, films and documentaries.

Course Requirements

Lectures, assigned reading and viewing of films, mid-term (25% of grade), 7-10 page paper (25%), closed book final examination (50%).

Required Reading

(ASUC) 2 hour reserve at Moffitt
James J. Sheehan, Where Have all the Soldiers Gone?
Maria Remarque, All Quiet on the Western Front
Hugh Trevor-Roper, The Last Days of Hitler
Timothy Garton-Ash, The Magic Lantern

Week 1
5-7 July: 1914-Pre-War
Reading: Sheehan, 3-65, All Quiet (first half)

Week 2:
12-14 July: War/Post-War
Reading: All Quiet (second half)

**Week 3:**
19-21 July: Pre-War/ War
Reading: Sheehan, 69-91
21 July: Midterm

**Week 4:**
26-28 July: War/Cold War
Reading: Sheehan, 92-144

**Week 5:**
2-4 August: Collapse of Communism
Reading: Sheehan, 92-144, Last Days (entire)
4 August: Book Review Due

**Week 6:**
8-11 August: Collapse of Communism
Reading: Sheehan, 172-221, Lantern (entire)

11 August: Final