

Europe in International Politics in the Twentieth Century
POLS 2404-02 - Fall 2017
Monday & Thursday 11.30am – 12.45pm - Waleed CP57

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Office Hours: MR 10:00-11:30 only by appointment (students should confirm the day before the appointment)

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Course Description

Presentation

Nietzsche, German philosopher who died in 1900, “predicted” that the 20th century would be a time of war on an unprecedented scale between polarized ideological forces. His “prophecy” found its realization in the Great War, then the Second World War, and the destructiveness of the latter surpassed even the shocking brutality of the former. Europe in the 20th century is undoubtedly about wars (“warm” and cold), but also imperialism (and its correlates: colonization and de-colonization), ideologies (fascism, communism, Nazism) and, at some point, about peace among the Nations.

This course introduces the students to the main events that marked major European countries (Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Russia/USSR). The course goes along a chronological thread, starting at the turn of the 19th-20th century, ending with the fall of the Berlin wall and its consequences, by questioning the role of the former European superpowers in the Global world, and the reasons for their rise and decay. Along the chronological thread, the course focuses on several major themes: War, Peace, Revolution, Totalitarianism, Imperialism, Genocide, Decolonization, Cold War, Division, Reconstruction, (re)-Unification.

Organisation

The course is a combination of *lectures*, which aims to provide the students with the basic knowledge and analytical framework, and *discussions* in class. Discussions are based on the required readings (academic articles and historical documents) and/or visual supports (films, documentary). Film screening is part of the course material, aiming to initiate a discussion in class, but also to assess the student’s knowledge and his/her capacity of analysis.

Learning Objectives

- Identify the most significant 20th century sequences of events and characters in Europe (dates, chronology, major political and social actors)
- Analyse causes and consequences of events
- Analyse historical documents and visual media
- Analyse the current political news by providing a historical background to highlight the on-going situation (relating the present with the past)
- Develop analytical skills (research) by selecting sources, including primary sources, as well as literary narratives
- Debate on specific issues related to Europe in the 20th century

Readings and Materials

Textbooks

PAXTON, Robert & HESSLER, Julie. *Europe in the Twentieth Century*. Wadsworth Publishing, 5th edition 2011. To be confirmed

RICHARDS, Michael & WEIBEL, Paul. *Twentieth-Century Europe, A Brief History from 1900 to the Present*. John Wiley & Sons, 2014. Full copy available on Blackboard

Further readings:

LINDEMANN, Albert. *History of Modern Europe from 1815 to the Present*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2013. Full copy available on Blackboard

HARDT, Michael & NEGRI, Antonio. *Empire*. Harvard University Press, 2000. Full copy on Blackboard

HOBSBAWN, Eric. *Age of Extremes. A History of the World, 1914-1991*. Abacus, 1996. Full copy available on Blackboard.

Specific readings might be added during the semester, according to topics and needs.

Cinema and literature are entertaining tool to enjoy history. A list of suggested films will be provided, and assigned as part of the grading system.

Assignments and Grading

- 10% Class Participation
(including “professionalism”, i.e. being on time, delivering assignments on time, politeness, active oral participation in class, constructiveness, readings done).
- 20% Quizzes
4 pop-up quizzes during the semester (each quiz = 20%; with 10 questions). All quizzes must be validated. The final quiz grade is the average of the four quizzes.
- 25% Mid Term Exam
An essay, in class, based on a general question, a quote or a document to analyse.
- 15% film review
The student is required to watch a film (fiction, not a documentary) related to a topic related to the course; presents and reviews it; max 1500 words. A list of films will be provided.
- 30% Final Exam
A home paper on a specific question (a list of questions is provided by the instructor): the student will be assessed on his/her capacity of selecting relevant scholar sources, primary and secondary, and analytical/writing skills; 2,500 words (not including references), double space, Times 12.

General Regulations

- Attendance policy: The university-wide attendance policy will be applied in this course. Thus, a student who misses more than 6 classes during the semester may be assigned a reduced grade for the course –including the grade of “F”–solely on the basis of inadequate attendance, regardless of excuse.
- Students are personally responsible for making up any academic tasks and assignments missed due to their absence.
- Punctuality is necessary and students may not be allowed in after class begins, since it distracts the rest of the class.
- Mobile phones and other electronic devices, except laptops, MUST be switched off during class.
- Going out of the classroom during the lecture is not permitted, unless there is an emergency.
- Plagiarism will result in an F in the course.
- Assignments must be delivered on time. Late assignments will suffer a loss of 10% per each day delay for a total of 4 days. After 4 days, grade is an F.
- Grades are final and are not negotiable (i.e. no extra-assignments)

Detailed information about the University Academic Integrity Policy may be found in the Catalog and on the University Web site.

Calendar

Week 0	7 Sept	Presentation of the course	
Week 1	11 Sept		
<i>Closing date</i>	14 Sept	Europe in 1914	Richards, chap 1
Week 2	18 Sept	Europe in 1914	Paxton, chap 1
Islamic year	21 Sept-off	Holiday	
Week 3	25 Sept	How WW1 started	Paxton, chap 2 Richards, chap 2
	28 Sept	Total War and its consequences	Paxton, chap 3-4
Week 4	2 Oct	Revolution in Russia	Paxton, chap 5 Richards, chap 3
6th of October	5 Oct-off	Holiday	
Week 5	9 Oct	Signing the Peace in Paris QUIZ	Paxton, chap 6 Richards, chap 4
	12 Oct	Les Années Folles: Fascism, nazism, totalitarianism	Paxton, chap 7-8 Richards, chap 5
Week 6	15 Oct	The Great Depression in Europe	Paxton, chap 10-11 Richards, chap 6
<i>Mid-term exam</i>	19 Oct	<i>Mid-term exam</i>	
Week 7	23 Oct	1936-39, dismantling Versailles	Paxton, chap 11
	26 Oct	WW2, Hitler's Europe (expansion and resistance)	Paxton, chap 12 Richards, chap 7
Week 8	30 Oct	Ending the war, the Final solution and the Nuclear bomb	Paxton, chap 13
<i>Drop Courses deadline 1 Nov</i>	2 Nov	Europe in 1945	Hobsbawm, chap 1 Richards, overview part 3
Week 9	6 Nov	Reconstructing Europe : Marshall Plan and NATO QUIZ	Paxton, chap 15
	9 Nov	Origins of the Cold War	Hobsbawm, chap 8
Week 10	13 Nov	The end of Empires	Paxton, chap 17 Hobsbawm, chap 7
	16 Nov	The end of Empires	Paxton, chap 17 Hobsbawm, chap 7
Week 11	20 Nov	The European Union construction	
Thanksgiving	23 Nov - off	Holiday - Film review deadline	
Week 12	27 Nov	The Communist Block: Detente and Glasnost QUIZ	Paxton, chap 22
Mawlad al-Naby	30 Nov - off	Holiday	
Week 13	4 Dec	1989 revolution	Paxton, chap 23
	7 Dec	Film screening "Good Bye Lenin" QUIZ	<i>With an extension to the Assembly hour (bring your sandwich)</i>
Week 14	11 Dec	Europe in the 90's	Hobsbawm, chap 19 Richards, chap 12
<i>Last day of class</i>	14 Dec	Europe in the world today	Richards, chap 12 and conclusion