



History 209: Twentieth-Century Europe

Instructor: Dr. Joshua Arthurs

Location: Woodburn 101, MWF 10:30-11:20

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Course Description:

As the historian Eric Hobsbawm famously (really!) put it, Europe's twentieth century was an Age of Extremes. It witnessed two cataclysmic world wars, but also unprecedented prosperity; the expansion of democracy and equality, but also the birth of fascism and totalitarianism; dramatic innovation in art and technology, but also the disappearance of traditional cultures and identities. This course examines the many upheavals and transformations that occurred from the eve of the First World War to our own time, including the birth of total war; the rise of mass politics and culture; Nazism and the Holocaust; the Cold War; decolonization and immigration; and the development of the welfare state.

Readings:

The following required books are available for purchase at the campus bookstore:

- Felix Gilbert and David Clay Large, *The End of the European Era: 1890 to the Present* (Sixth Edition)
- Marvin Perry, Matthew Berg and James Krukones, eds., *Sources of European History since 1900* (Second Edition) – indicated as “Sources” on the schedule.
- Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*
- Tadeusz Borowski, *This Way to the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen*
- Ian Buruma, *Murder in Amsterdam: the Death of Theo van Gogh and the Limits of Tolerance*

Course Website:

Important materials – including this syllabus, PowerPoint slides from past lectures, discussion questions and useful links – will be posted on the course website, which can be accessed by logging with your MIX user name and password to **ecampus.wvu.edu**.

Assignments:

Quizzes (20%): There are four quizzes to assess how well you have kept up with the lectures and readings; each is worth 5% of your overall grade. Since these are in-class and time-dependent, there are no make-ups. If you are aware that you will have a university-approved scheduling conflict, you may arrange to take the quiz in advance.

Response Papers (50%): There are three response papers to each of our discussion readings, each approximately 3-4 pages double-spaced. The first is worth 10%, while the second and third are each worth 20%.

All students have the option of submitting **one rewrite** over the course of the semester, for either the first or second paper. When submitting a rewrite, you must also turn in the original version of the paper, with my comments included. I strongly encourage you to consult with me in revising papers. Rewrites will be accepted up to one week after the original papers are returned.

Group Presentation (10%): As indicated on the schedule, there is a week devoted to group presentations. Students will be evaluated both on their individual contribution and on the overall performance of the group.

Film Analysis (5%): We will be watching Leni Riefenstahl's *Triumph of the Will* in late September; students will complete a worksheet on the film's themes and imagery.

Participation and Attendance (15%): As you will notice on the syllabus, some weeks will be focused on lectures while others are devoted to discussion. During discussion weeks, the class will be divided into two groups to facilitate conversation. Our discussion will be focused on one longer reading but will also bring in themes and texts from other sessions. Your contributions for each discussion week are graded and form the core of your participation grade. You must attend the discussion group to which you are assigned.

Attendance counts towards your participation grade. You are expected to attend all class meetings, with a notebook and the readings in hand. Be prepared to discuss the texts and ask questions. I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences; however, I understand that illness and problems can arise, so you will be allowed **TWO** "free" misses over the course of the semester. Be judicious about how you use these absences. If you use up your absences early in the semester, I will not be sympathetic when you need to miss class later in the term. Perfect attendance will raise your participation grade, while multiple absences will lower it. **You must have an attendance rate of at least 60% in order to pass the course.**

Extra Credit: Students may earn up to 5% extra credit by writing an analysis of a film relevant to the themes of the course. A list of approved films is posted on eCampus. The paper should be

approximately 3-4 pages long. You may only hand in one extra credit assignment per semester. Extra credit papers will be accepted at any time up to the end of class on Friday, 12/9.

Course Expectations:

Assignments: The papers must be submitted in **HARD COPY** and stapled – not sent via email. They should be double-spaced, with 1-inch margins and in 12-point font. Late papers will be deducted half a grade for every day of lateness, beginning at the time at which they are due. No extensions will be given.

Communication: I will often communicate with the class via your WVU email account (MIX). Please be sure to check it regularly. Email is also the best way to contact me. When emailing, please be sure that you are polite and professional; an unpunctuated Blackberry message with no salutation will not be answered. I will work hard to get back to you in a timely manner.

Courtesy during Class: It is disruptive to others to arrive late to class or leave early. Please don't do it. If you know that you will have to leave class early, explain the situation to me beforehand and sit near the door so that you can exit as quietly as possible. Please turn off all cell phones, beepers, or any other wireless device that may make noise during class. I will confiscate your device if it rings in class. You may use laptops in class for taking notes, but if you are using it for email, instant-messaging, or any other activity I will ask you to stop using your computer.

Academic Integrity: Cheating and plagiarism are serious offences, and can result in penalties ranging from F on an assignment to F for the course and further disciplinary action. I take plagiarism very seriously, as it means that you have willfully stolen the thoughts, ideas, and words of others and treated them as your own. Please cite all of your sources! The History Department style guide, which provides citation guidelines, is posted on eCampus. I reserve the right to use anti-plagiarism software in dubious cases.

Writing Center: Writing is one of the most important skills in this course. You are encouraged to use the WVU Writing Center to help improve your papers. More information on the Writing Center's resources can be found via a link on the course eCampus page.

Statement of Social Justice: WVU is committed to social justice. I concur with that commitment and expect to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color, or national origin. Any suggestions as to how to further such a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration. If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with Disability Services (293-6700).

Schedule

Week I

8/22 Introduction: Where and When was Twentieth-Century Europe?

8/24 Politics in the Nineteenth Century

- Herbert Spencer, “The Man Versus the State” (Sources)
- Emmeline Pankhurst, “Why We Are Militant” (Sources)
- Joseph Chamberlain, “The British Empire: Colonial Commerce and the ‘White Man’s Burden” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 35-89

8/26 Fin de Siècle Culture

- Karl Pearson, “Social Darwinism: Imperialism Justified by Nature” (Sources)
- Édouard Drumont, “Jewish France” (Sources)
- Friedrich Nietzsche, “*The Will to Power* and *The Antichrist*” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 1-34

Week II

8/29 The Great War I: Causes

- Friedrich von Bernhardi, “Germany and the Next War” (Sources)
- Henri Massis and Alfred de Tarde, “The Young People of Today” (Sources)
- Stefan Zweig, “Vienna: ‘the Rushing Feeling of Fraternity’” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 90-105

8/31 The Great War II: Combat

- Siegfried Sassoon, “Base Details” (Sources)
- Wilfred Owen, “Disabled” (Sources)
- Naomi Loughnan, “Genteel Women in the Factories” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 105-134

9/2 The Great War III: Legacies

- Paul Valéry, “Disillusionment” (Sources)
- Ernst von Salomon, “Brutalization of the Individual” (Sources)
- Sigmund Freud, “A Legacy of Embitterment” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 134-139

Week III – Discussion Week: *Remarque, All Quiet on the Western Front*

9/5 **NO CLASS – LABOR DAY**

9/7 Group 1

9/9 Group 2

Week IV

9/12 Writing Workshop

9/14 Versailles and the New European Order

- Takhoui Levonian and Yevnig Adrouni, “The Survivors Remember” (Sources)
- Woodrow Wilson, “The Idealistic View” (Sources)
- Georges Clemenceau, “French Demands for Security and Revenge” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 143-162, 166-170

9/16 **QUIZ #1**

Week V

9/19 Peace, Land, Bread: the Russian Revolution

- Army Intelligence Report, “The Breakdown of Military Discipline” (Sources)
- V. I. Lenin, “What Is to Be Done?” (Sources)
- N. N. Sukhanov, “Trotsky Arouses the People” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 124-130, 170-178
- **PAPER #1 DUE**

9/21 Blackshirt Revolution: Italian Fascism

- Benito Mussolini, “Fascist Doctrines” (Sources)
- Benito Mussolini, “A Solemn Hour” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 198-208

9/23 The Weimar Republic and its Discontents

- Zetkin, Luxemburg, Liebknecht and Mehring, “Spartacist Manifesto” (Sources)
- Konrad Heiden, “The Ruinous Inflation, 1923” (Sources)
- Friedrich Jünger, “Antidemocratic Thought in the Weimar Republic” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 162-166, 179-184, 218-223, 243-252

Week VI

9/26 The Third Reich

- Adolf Hitler, “Mein Kampf” (Sources)
- Louis P. Lochner, “Book Burning” (Sources)
- Ernst Huber, “The Authority of the Führer is...All-Inclusive and Unlimited” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 252-271

9/28 *Triumph of the Will*

9/30 *Triumph of the Will*

Week VII

10/3 *Triumph of the Will*

10/5 Winds of War I: Democracy in Retreat

- Lev Kopelev, “Terror in the Countryside” (Sources)
- A.O. Avdienko, “The Cult of Stalin” (Sources)
- Fred Thomas, “To Tilt at Windmills” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 208-217, 286-292
- **FILM ANALYSIS DUE**

10/7 Winds of War II: Hitler on the March

- George S. Messersmith, “The Nazis Were After... Unlimited Territorial Expansion” (Sources)
- Stefan Zweig, “The World of Yesterday” (Sources)
- Neville Chamberlain, “In Defense of Appeasement” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 272-286, 292-305

Week VIII

10/10 **NO CLASS – COLUMBUS DAY**

10/12 **QUIZ #2**

10/14 The Second World War I: Blitzkrieg

- Adolf Hitler, “Poland Will Be Depopulated and Settled with Germans” (Sources)
- Heinz Guderian, “French Leadership... Could Not Grasp the Significance of the Tank in Mobile Warfare” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 306-316

Week IX – Discussion Week: Borowski, *This Way to the Gas...*

10/17 The Second World War II: Barbarossa (Whole class lecture)

- “The Indoctrination of the German Soldier: for Volk, Führer, and Fatherland” (Sources)
- William Hoffman, “Diary of a German Soldier” (Sources)
- Hermann Graebe, “Slaughter of Jews in Ukraine” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 317-328

10/19 Group 2

10/21 Group 1

Week X

10/24 The Second World War III: Endgame

- Albert Camus, “I Am Fighting You Because Your Logic Is as Criminal as Your Heart” (Sources)
- Nerin E. Gun, “The Liberation of Dachau” (Sources)
- Charles Fuhrmann, “In the Ruins of the Burning City SS-Men and Hitler Youth Were Holding Out Fanatically” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 328-342

10/26 Postwar I: Zero Hour for Europe

- Ernst Cassirer, “The Myth of the State” (Sources)
- John H. Hallowell, “The Sickness of the Modern World” (Sources)
- Jean-Paul Sartre, “Existence Precedes Essence” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 345-353

10/28 Postwar II: What To Do with Germany?

- Theodore H. White, “Germany: Spring in the Ruins” (Sources)
- Friedrich Meinecke, “The German Catastrophe” (Sources)
- Hannah Vogt, “The Burden of Guilt” (Sources)

PAPER #2 DUE

Week XI

10/31 Postwar III: The Iron Curtain Descends

- Winston Churchill, “The Iron Curtain” (Sources)
- Nikita S. Khrushchev, “Report to the Twentieth Party Congress” (Sources)
- Paul-Henri Spaak, “Why NATO?” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 354-366

11/2 Behind the Berlin Wall: Cold War Eastern Europe

- G.E.R. Gedye, “Witness to the Czechoslovak Coup (1948)” (Sources)
- Andor Heller, “The Hungarian Revolution, 1956” (Sources)
- Government of the German Democratic Republic, “What You Should Know About the Wall” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 367-379, 397-401, 427-436

11/4 **QUIZ #3**

Week XII

11/7 Western Europe: Back from the Ashes

- George C. Marshall, “Laying the Foundations for Recovery” (Sources)
- Konrad Adenauer, “Democratic Politics and Christian Ideals” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 379-397

11/9 Towards a United Europe

- Jean Monnet, “The United States of Europe Has Begun” (Reading available on eCampus)
- Gilbert & Large, 407-427

11/11 The Welfare State and the Economic Miracle

- British Labour Party, “Let Us Face The Future” (Reading available on eCampus)
- Ludwig Erhard, “West Germany’s Social Market Economy” (Sources)

Week XII

11/7 The State in Crisis I: Protest and Revolt

- Daniel Cohn-Bendit, “The French Student Revolt” (Sources)
- The Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, “Action Program (1968)” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 437-456

11/9 The State in Crisis II: Perestroika and Glasnost

- Mikhail Gorbachev, “Perestroika” (Sources)
- Václav Havel, “Farce, Reformability and the Future of the World” (Sources)
- Martin Sixsmith, “Moscow Coup” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 457-478, 506-519

11/11 **NO CLASS – MEET TO ORGANIZE GROUP PRESENTATIONS**

Week XIII – Group Presentations: Making the History of 1989

- Read Gilbert & Large, 519-537, 541-544

11/14 Presentations

11/16 Presentations

11/18 Presentations

THANKSGIVING RECESS 11/19-27

Week XIV

11/28 The State in Crisis III: Neo-Liberalism in the West

- Margaret Thatcher, “The Free Market Versus State Intervention” (Sources)
- Tony Blair, “New Labour and the Unions” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 479-505

11/30 Ghosts Return: Crises in Post-Soviet Eastern Europe

- “Accounts of Omarska Concentration Camp” (Sources)
- Svetlana P. Glinkina, Andre Grigoriev, and Vakhtang Yakobidze, “Crime and Corruption” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 538-541, 567-589

12/2 Europe Today and Tomorrow

- Jörg Haider, “Multiculturalism and the Love of One’s Country” (Sources)
- Bertie Ahern, “Enlargement is About Opening Minds as Well as Borders” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large 545-567, 590-613

Week XV – Discussion: Buruma, *Murder in Amsterdam*

12/5 Group 1

12/7 Group 2

12/9 **QUIZ #4**

12/14 **PAPER #3 DUE**