



## History 209: Twentieth-Century Europe

**Instructor:** Prof. Joshua Arthurs

**Location:** Life Sciences G21, MWF 10:30-11:20

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**Office Hours:** G3B Woodburn Hall, MW 1:30-2:30

### 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:

- Ian Buruma, *Murder in Amsterdam: the Death of Theo van Gogh and the Limits of Tolerance*
- Modris Eksteins, *Rites of Spring: the Great War and the Birth of the Modern Age*
- Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*
- Mark Mazower, *Dark Continent: Europe's Twentieth Century*
- Michael Burleigh and Wolfgang Ippermann, *The Racial State: Germany, 1933-1945*

As you will see on the schedule, readings are assigned on a weekly, rather than daily basis. It is your responsibility to keep up with the texts. Generally speaking, on lecture weeks we will be reading sections of Mazower's *Dark Continent*, while on discussion weeks we will focus on a specific monograph. Consequently, on lecture weeks you should be reading ahead in preparation

for our next discussion. Several readings are only available as PDFs to be downloaded from the course website (see the schedule below).

### **Course Website:**

Important materials – including a few downloadable readings, this syllabus, PowerPoint slides from past lectures, study questions, assignments for the response papers 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**.

### **Grading:**

**Reading response papers (60%):** There are four papers, each of approximately 1,000-1,200 words and worth 15% of your overall grade, responding to our discussion readings. The assignment prompts will be distributed prior to our discussion week and the responses are due several classes later (see the syllabus for specific dates). You must submit all four papers to pass the course, even if your grade is mathematically passing.

**Participation and Attendance (20%):** 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 (indicated on the syllabus) 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; multiple absences will lower it.

**Group Presentation (10%):** As you will see below, week XIII is devoted to group presentations on the website *Making the History of 1989*; these presentations, along with a brief written report, will be graded.

**Film Analysis (10%):** At some point during the semester, students must submit an analysis of a film relevant to the themes of the course. A list of approved films can be found by logging on to **ecampus.wvu.edu**. The paper should be approximately 800-1,000 words. Rather than a summary or plot synopsis, it should relate the issues raised by the film to our discussions in class. I strongly advise you to consult with me prior to choosing a film. The films should be available either in the WVU libraries or via Netflix, iTunes or other rental and online providers. Film analyses can be turned in at any time, up to the final class meeting.

**Extra Credit:** Students may earn up to 5% extra credit by writing a second film analysis; again, consult the course website for approved films.

### **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 ensure that you are polite and professional. 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! 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 you revise papers. More information on the Writing Center's resources can be found online.

**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

DATE	TOPICS	READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS & REMINDERS
8/24-8/28	Introduction and Background	Mazower, pp.ix-xvi  Maier, "Consigning the Twentieth Century to History" (download from eCampus page)	
8/31-9/4	The Great War and its Legacies	Audoin-Rouzeau and Becker, <i>14-18: Understanding the Great War</i> , pp.20-44, 113-158 (download from eCampus page)	
9/7-9/11	Discussion: WWI and Modernism	Eksteins, <i>Rites of Spring</i>	<b>No class</b> on 9/7 Group #1 on 9/9 Group #2 on 9/11
9/14-9/18	New World Order I: Interwar Europe	Mazower, pp.3-75	<b>Response #1</b> due on 9/18
9/21-9/25	The Rise of Nazism	Mazower, pp.76-138	
9/28-10/2	Film and Discussion: Nazi Germany	Burleigh & Wippermann, <i>The Racial State</i>	<i>Triumph of the Will</i> on 9/28 Group #2 on 9/30 Group #1 on 10/2
10/5-10/9	World War 2.0	Mazower, pp.138-181	<b>Response #2</b> due 10/9
10/12-10/16	Film and Discussion: the Holocaust	Levi, <i>Survival in Auschwitz</i>	<i>Night and Fog</i> on 10/12 Group #1 on 10/14 Group #2 on 10/16
10/19-10/23	New World Order II: Europe after WWII	Mazower, pp.182-249	
10/26-10/30	The World of the Cold War	Mazower, pp.250-285	<b>Response #3</b> due 10/26
11/2-11/6	The Economic Miracle	Mazower, pp.286-326	
11/9-11/13	European Integration and Disintegration	Mazower, pp.327-360	
11/16-11/20	Discussion: the Fall of the Berlin Wall	<i>Making the History of 1989</i>	Student group presentations
11/23-11/27	Thanksgiving Recess		<b>No class</b>
11/30-12/4	New World Order III: Europe after 1989	Mazower pp.361-403	
12/7-12/11	Discussion: Multicultural Europe	Buruma, <i>Murder in Amsterdam</i>	Group #1 on 12/7 Group #2 on 12/9 Concluding discussion on 12/11 <b>Film analysis and extra credit</b>

			<b>papers</b> due by start of class on 12/11 <b>Response #4</b> due at noon on 12/16
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