History 3235
Spring 2020

TWENTIETH CENTURY EUROPE

Wednesdays, 4-6:40 p.m.
Instructor: Dr. Richard Byers
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Office Hours: MW 10-1, W 3-4 or by appointment

Overview
Twentieth Century European history is a story of power struggles, violence and division. From empires, to nation-states, to federal unions, Europe’s many peoples have struggled to achieve consensus and stability. This course examines this process of evolution and change from a continental perspective that encourages comparative approaches and understandings of modern Europe. Students will be asked to confront and analyze two narratives of this process. One, the conventional approach, is a story of progress and integration. The other approach, embodied in the work of Mark Mazower, is one of conflict and exclusion. A series of online readings, films and supplementary materials will be employed to emphasize the multiple paths to contemporary Europe.

Required Texts (available at Bookstore)
Mazower, *Dark Continent: Europe’s Twentieth Century*, Vintage.
Harris, *Five Quarters of the Orange*, HarperCollins.
Ledig, *Payback*, Granta. – ON RESERVE IN LTC
Deak, *Europe on Trial*, Westview.

Other Requirements
Attendance – Attendance is mandatory. You are expected to attend every class session. Additionally, as part of institutional attempts to combat federal aid fraud, I will maintain an attendance policy as follows: If you fail to attend more than THREE (3) classes, I will drop you from this course with a grade of “WF”.

Assessment - (1) One traditional paper or digital paper of 12-25 pages on a topic agreeable to the instructor (due on Friday May 1), worth 30% of your final grade.
(2) Two take home essay exams based on lecture, textbook material and film analysis each worth 20% of your final grade. See syllabus for exam dates.
(3) One book review of 3-6 pages of any of the assigned texts, due the following week of class, worth 10% of your final grade.
(4) One paper prospectus of 2-4 pages that outlines your topic and research materials – FIRST HAND IN DUE Wednesday February 5, SECOND HAND IN DUE Wednesday February 26, worth 10% of your final grade.
(5) Participation in class discussion, worth 10% of your final grade.

**PAPER ITINERARY:** Because writing is a process, not an event, and also because writing a paper at this level requires considerable time management skills, I have instituted the following deadlines for you to observe. I do this not to punish you, but to help you complete the best paper that you can. Believe me, you will be pleased that I have done so. **Here are the deadlines.**

**JANUARY 22** - Deadline for choosing paper topic in class.
**FEBRUARY 5** - First Prospectus due, including outline of paper topic, and list of source materials.
**FEBRUARY 26** – Final revised Prospectus due, including corrections and revisions and updated source list.
**APRIL 8** – Draft of final paper due, including bibliography, in class.
**MAY 1** – Final Paper due by 5 p.m.

For help with writing and organizing a prospectus, see the following sites:
and
[http://www.history.ucsb.edu/faculty/marcuse/classes/133p/handouts/ProspectusHandout044.htm](http://www.history.ucsb.edu/faculty/marcuse/classes/133p/handouts/ProspectusHandout044.htm).

All written and digital papers are expected to be typed, double-spaced, with no spelling or grammar errors, and all citations should be correctly noted in a source list or bibliography. For citation guidelines, see the standards outlined in Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations.* **For assistance in paper construction, see the section entitled “Writing Good History Papers” on the HAP Department website, located at [https://my.ung.edu/departments/HAP/Pages/Writing-Good-Papers.aspx](https://my.ung.edu/departments/HAP/Pages/Writing-Good-Papers.aspx).** This class will be demanding, and my standards and expectations are high. See my website at [faculty.ung.edu/rwbyers](faculty.ung.edu/rwbyers) for a Paper Grading Guide and scanned lecture notes for the class.

**Learning Objectives**

After taking this class, students will be able to:
- Identify key events, trends and historical processes within Europe’s twentieth century history
- Understand and recognize the multiple connections between Europe’s recent past and its present
- Retrieve and employ appropriate forms of historical evidence to produce original interpretations of Europe’s recent past
- Employ a scheduled, incremental structure to manage and complete a long-term written or digital research project

**Policies**

(1) Students must obtain the required books from the bookstore or elsewhere. Remember that the Bookstore will remove many titles well before the end of the semester.
(2) No special exemptions will be provided for either exam. Students should expect to take the exams at the allotted times. Barring a documented medical/family emergency, no alternative exam times will be offered.
Late papers will incur a penalty of one letter grade for every day they are late. NO EXCEPTIONS OR EXCUSES.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES
(subject to change)

- Introduction and Welcome
- The end is the beginning: The EU today and toward the future

- Europe and the World, 1900-1914
- The Belle Epoque and the Great War.

DEADLINE FOR DECISION ON PAPER TOPIC JANUARY 22

Week Three - REQUIRED READING, Mazower, preface, 3-104
- The Impact of Europe’s Mass Industrial War

Week Four - REQUIRED READING, Mazower, 104-137, and also read some of Professor Anna Cienciala’s excellent lecture notes from her HIS 557 Course at Kansas University at [http://acienciala.faculty.ku.edu/hist557/index.htm](http://acienciala.faculty.ku.edu/hist557/index.htm)
- Revolutions and Wars, 1917-1920
- The Consequences of Versailles
- The Consequences of the “Miracle on the Vistula”

FIRST PROSPECTUS DUE FEBRUARY 5

- The rise of Fascism
- Russia under Stalin
- Liberal Democracy in 1920s Europe

Week Six – REQUIRED READING - George Orwell, The Road to Wigan Pier, Part One, Chapters 5 & 6, located at [http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks02/0200391.txt](http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks02/0200391.txt)
- Interwar European Culture
- The impact of the Global Depression and the rise of Authoritarianism

Film: The Grand Budapest Hotel (2014)

Week Seven – REQUIRED READING, Mazower, 138-181
- The Left in Crisis: the Popular Front and the Spanish Civil War
- The destruction of Versailles and the descent into World War Two
FINAL PROSPECTUS DUE FEBRUARY 26

Week 8 - REQUIRED READING, Ledig, *Payback*, and Harris, *Five Quarters of the Orange*
- The New Order in Europe, 1939-1942
- Collaboration and Resistance
- From Hot War to Cold War, 1942-1949


FIRST EXAM HANDOUT

**LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT PENALTY MONDAY MARCH 9**

- European reconstruction and division, 1945-1953
- Decolonization and its consequences

Week 10 – REQUIRED READING, Mazower, 251-326, Hochschild, *The Unquiet Ghost*
- Cold War Europe, 1945-1961
- “New European” Consumer Societies, 1953-1973
- The USSR after Stalin

Week 11 – SPRING BREAK!!

Week 12- REQUIRED READING, Mazower 326-360
- Détente and Stagflation in the East and West, 1973-1989
- The strains of Postindustrial societies

- Revolutions Again: The Revolutions of 1989 and after

Second Exam Handout

- Conflict in the Balkans, 1990-1999
- Contemporary European Challenges: Immigration, Integration, Devolution, Nationalism, Terrorism, Fiscal Sustainability, Development

**Film:** *Gomorrah* (2008)

Weeks 15 and 16 – REQUIRED READING, Carr, *Fortress Europe*
- 20th and 21st Century Europe: The Overhang of the Past
- Final Paper Presentations (Short informal oral summary, 5 minutes per student in last class)

ALL BOOK REVIEWS DUE BY LAST DAY OF CLASS WEDNESDAY APRIL 29
FINAL PAPER DUE FRIDAY MAY 1 AT 5 P.M.