

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of History
Semester I, 2010-11

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5127 Humanities
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Syllabus also available at: <http://www.history.wisc.edu/courses.htm>

History 359: Europe since 1945.

This course covers the political, social, cultural, and economic history of Europe from the end of World War II to the present. Particular attention will be paid to the legacy of Nazism, collaboration, and the Holocaust; the cold war and the rivalry between the superpowers; decolonization; the birth and development of the European Community; the post war economic boom; the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe and the rebirth of nationalism in the 1990s and the early 21st Century. In addition we will compare political and social developments in selected countries (France, Great Britain, Germany, Russia, Poland, Italy).

Attendance and participation in weekly discussion sections is **mandatory**. You must complete the assigned reading **before your weekly section meeting**. Students should come to lecture prepared for an in-depth and wide ranging discussion of the issues raised by the class readings. We are not looking for “right” answers but for original thinking on your part. The optional weekly readings from William Hitchcock’s Struggle for Europe are designed to complement the lectures. Students are also required to attend two films (Tuesdays at 7 pm) during the course of the semester. Changes in the readings and lectures, along with various announcements, will be sent out on the class email list.

Requirements: There will be one two hour final examination (December 17 at 2:45 pm) and one in-class map quiz. In addition, all students are required to write three 6 page papers on assigned topics that will be handed out in advance and write two one page papers on documents. Students are urged to familiarize themselves with the rules and guidelines concerning plagiarism-- cases of plagiarism or cheating will be dealt with severely (University policy on plagiarism is available at: <http://www.wisc.edu/students/saja/misconduct/UWS14.html>).

Grading: 25% of your grade will be determined by your participation in section, the two one page papers, and the map quiz. Students who rarely come to section will fail this component of the class. The rest of the grade will be based on the three papers (20% each) and the final exam (15%).

Electronic Devices: Please turn off your cell phones, pagers, and iPods during lectures. You may use a laptop to take notes, but we ask that you refrain from surfing the web, facebooking and emailing your friends during class. The TAs will be sitting in various parts of the lecture hall and will be keeping an eye on your screens. If students fail to respect these guidelines, I will ban laptops from the classroom altogether (I'd rather not do this, so please exercise self-discipline).

Office hours: Tuesdays, 4-5 and Wednesday 12-1 pm in 5127 Humanities. You can also speak with me after class or send me an email to set up an alternative meeting time.

The following books are **required** and are available for purchase at the University Bookstore. In addition, a course reader is available for purchase at the Humanities Copy Center (in the Humanities Building). Some of the readings will be available in electronic format on the class Learn@UW site. The books and the reader have been placed on 3 hour reserve at Helen C. White Library. Students who want to read an engaging (though lengthy) history of Europe since 1945 are urged to turn to Tony Judt's, Postwar: A History of Europe since 1945 (Penguin Books, 2005) (also on 3 hour reserve).

Czeslaw Milosz, The Captive Mind (Vintage books)

Sherrill Brown Wells, Pioneers of European Integration and Peace, 1945-63 (Bedford/St-Martin's, 2007)

Slavenka Drakulić, Café Europa: Life After Communism (Penguin books, 1999)

Georgio, Memoirs of an Italian Terrorist (Carroll and Graf, 2003)

Ian Buruma, Murder in Amsterdam. The Death of Theo van Gogh and the Limits of Tolerance (Penguin 2006)

Mehdi Charef, Tea in the Harem (Serpent's Tail, 1990)

Stephen Kotkin, Armageddon Averted: the Soviet Collapse, 1970-2000 (Oxford 2001)

Recommended Textbook: William I. Hitchcock, The Struggle for Europe: The Turbulent History of a Divided Continent

Week 1 (September 2) Introduction

Introduction and requirements. **Movie:** Night and Fog (*Nuit et brouillard*) directed by Alain Resnais (1955)

Week 2 (September 7, 9)

Reconstructing European Society
Purges and Retributions

Section: "Report of the Crimea Conference," "The Yalta Negotiations," "Poland at the Teheran Conference" and "The Percentage Agreements" (Reader); Norman Naimark, "The Expulsion of Germans from Poland and Czechoslovakia," (Reader).

Text: Hitchcock, Struggle for Europe, 1-39

Week 3 (September 14, 16). **One page paper due in section.**

The Memory of War, Occupation, and the Holocaust
Europe between the Superpowers: The Cold War

Section: The Nuremberg War Crimes Trial (Reader); Wells, Pioneers, 51-65; Frank Biess, "Survivors of Totalitarianism: Returning POWS and the Reconstruction of Masculine Citizenship in West Germany, 1945-1955," (Reader); Articles 1 through 28 of the Geneva Convention relative the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Learn@UW)
Text: Hitchcock, Struggle for Europe, 69-97.

Begin Milosz, The Captive Mind (read ahead, this is an arduous book!)

Week 4 (September 21, 23)

Resistance and Submission in Eastern Europe
From Stalin to Gorbachev

Section: Milosz, The Captive Mind.
Text: Hitchcock, Struggle for Europe, 98-125, 193-220

Week 5 (September 28, 30). **In Class Map Quiz, Thursday September 30**

The Origins of the European Community
The Economic Miracle in the West

*** Tuesday September 28, 7 pm *** **Movie**: Hiroshima mon amour directed by Alain Resnais (1959)

Section: Sherrill Brown Wells, Pioneers, 79-80, 83-105, 112-137.
Text: Hitchcock, Struggle for Europe, 132-192

Week 6 (October 5, 7) . **First 6 Page Paper due** (Thursday October 7)

Decolonization and Neocolonialism
De Gaulle and the French Fifth Republic

Section: Aimé Césaire, Discourse on Colonialism (reader); texts by Georges Hardy, Jean Dresch, and Albert Memmi (reader); articles 1 through 23 of the Council of Europe's Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms available at: <http://conventions.coe.int/treaty/en/treaties/html/005.htm>
Text: Hitchcock, Struggle for Europe, 221-241

Week 7 (October 12, 14)

Politics Italian Style

May 1968 and the Challenge to Industrial and Consumer Society

Section: Charles de Gaulle, “Europe,” (reader), “Speeches and documents” (reader); Wells, Pioneers, 138-39, 142-52.

Text: Hitchcock, Struggle for Europe, 243-268

Week 8 (October 19, 21).

Terrorism and the Crisis of the 1970s in Italy and Germany
The Decline of Religion

Section: Georgio, Memoirs of a Terrorist (entire book)

Week 9. (October 26, 28). **Second 6 Page Paper due** (Thursday October 28)

An Enduring Fear: Americanization
Gender, Sexuality, and the Family

Section: Richard Kuisel, “Yankee go Home: The Left, Coca-Cola, and the Cold War;” Simone de Beauvoir, The Second Sex (reader).

Week 10 (November 2, 4)

Resistance in the East: The Polish Solidarity Movement
The Intellectual Crisis: From Existentialism to Post Modernism

Section: Drakulić, Café Europa: Life After Communism

Text: Hitchcock, Struggle for Europe, 269-310

Week 11 (November 9, 11) **One page paper due in section**

A Continent of Immigrants
Democratization in Southern Europe: Greece, Spain, and Portugal

Section: Mehdi Charef, Tea in the Harem (Serpent’s Tail, 1990)

Text: Hitchcock, Struggle for Europe, 347-79

Week 12 (November 16, 18).

*** Tuesday November 16, 7 pm *** **Movie**: The Lives of Others (*Das Leben der Anderen*), directed by Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck (2007)

The Turning Point: The Collapse of the Soviet System, 1991
The Collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe

Section: Mikhail Gorbachev, “A Common European Home,” and “We Opened Ourselves to the World,” (Reader); Kotkin, Armageddon Averted, 1-9, 31-112.
Text: Hitchcock, Struggle for Europe, 410-434.

Week 13 (November 23) . **Third 6 Page Paper due** (Tuesday November 23)

German Reunification

Section: Kotkin, Armageddon Averted, 113-196; Václav Havel, “New Year’s Address to the Nation,” “A Joint Session of the U.S. Congress,” “The Visit of German President von Weizsäcker,” “The Council of Europe;” (Reader) Corey Ross “The End of the GDR: Revolution from Below, Implosion from Within, Collapse from Outside” (reader);
Text: Hitchcock, Struggle for Europe, 310-379

Thanksgiving

Week 14 (November 30, December 2)

The Crisis of Welfare and the Changing Role of the State
 The Yugoslav War and the Nationalist Revival in the East

Section: Ian Buruma, Murder in Amsterdam
Text: Hitchcock, Struggle for Europe, 380-434

Week 15 (December 7, 9)

The New Extreme Right
 The Crisis of the EU

Section: Hitchcock, Struggle for Europe, 435-64; Tony Judt, “Europe: The Grand Illusion,” and “The Stateless State: Why Belgium Matters” (reader); Edward DeClair, “The Far Right in Comparative Perspective” (reader).
Text: Hitchcock, Struggle for Europe, 435-474

Week 16. (December 14)

Review

Final Exam: Friday December 17, 2:45 pm