

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of History
Semester I, 2009-10

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Office hours: Tuesday 4-6, 5127 Humanities

History 600: The European Extreme Right, 1945 to the present

This seminar focuses on the history of the extreme right in Europe from the end of the Second World War to the present. The revival of a powerful radical right has been a crucial turning point in late twentieth century European politics. Over the course of the semester, we will place the movement in historical perspective and analyze its revival. What are the social and political roots of the contemporary extreme right and why has it met with success in some of the European Union's most prosperous and stable countries? How did the extreme right reconstruct itself in the wake of fascism's defeat in 1945? Is it best characterized as a type of neofascism or as a new form of populism? A radical right or an extreme right? Our readings, which will introduce you to a range of interpretations, focus on France (the *Front National*), Belgium (the *Vlaams Blok*), Austria (the *FPÖ*), and Italy (the *Lega Nord*). For their research papers, students are welcome to focus on other countries.

We will meet for the first 9 weeks of the semester to discuss common readings. Students are responsible for leading (in collaboration with another seminar member) one class discussion. Prior to our meetings, all students are required to email me two questions for discussion based on the readings. The questions should be sent to me and to the discussion leaders by 9 p.m. the day before the seminar meets. During the second half of the semester students will research and write a 20-25 page research paper based on primary and secondary sources.

In this class you will learn to:

- Conduct in-depth historical research
- Select and interpret primary sources
- Craft an original research topic
- Write a lengthy research paper that demonstrates your ability to evaluate sources critically and provide a convincing historical interpretation of the materials you have used.

Requirements: Two short (2 pages) response papers due early in the semester, a 1-2 page research statement of purpose, a detailed bibliography, and a paper outline. The

central requirement of the course is a 20-25 page research paper on some aspect of the history of the extreme right in postwar Europe. You will also be required to discuss and critique each others' first drafts and to make a formal oral presentation to the seminar during the last week of classes. Attendance is required. Please warn me in advance if you will be unable to attend a particular class session. Class participation will be a component of your final grade. Required books are available for purchase at the University Bookstore and are also on 3 hour reserve in College Library. In addition a **course reader** will be available for purchase at the Humanities Copy Center.

The response papers (weeks 3 and 5) are due in class and are designed to facilitate our discussions. These papers should not be summaries of the readings; rather, you should pick 2 or 3 themes from the readings and "respond" to them in some detail. [Questions you may want to think about: Was the author convincing? If not, why not? Were you struck by the way he/she formulated an argument? Were the arguments original? Surprising? Based on evidence? What kinds of questions are left unanswered?]

Grading:

Final paper: 60%
 Class participation: 25%
 Short response papers: 15%

The following books are available for purchase at the University Bookstore and are also available on 3 hour reserve at College Library:

Françoise Gaspard, A Small City in France: A Socialist Mayor Confronts Neofascism (Harvard University Press, 1995)

Pipa Norris, Radical Right: Voters and Parties in the Electoral Market (Cambridge University Press, 2005)

Week 1 (September 3) Introduction

Week 2 (September 10). Historical and Social Origins

Françoise Gaspard, A Small City in France, pp. 1-99.

Pipa Norris, Radical Right: Voters and Parties in the Electoral Market, 3-80.

Week 3 (September 17). The Rise of the Radical Right in France

Françoise Gaspard, A Small City in France, 101-77

Jim Wolfreys, "Neither Right Nor Left? Towards an Integrated Analysis of the Front National," in Nicholas Atkin and Frank Tallett, The Right in France: From Revolution to Le Pen (London: I.B. Tauris, 2003): 261-276.

Edward G. DeClair, Politics on the Fringe: The People, Policies, and Organization of the French National Front (Durham: Duke University Press, 1999): 113-137, 172-192.

Nonna Mayer, "Le Pen's Comeback: The 2002 French Presidential Election," International Journal of Urban and Regional Research 27 (2003): 455-59.

*****First Response Paper due in Class*****

Week 4 (September 24). Interpreting and Explaining the Radical Right

Norris, Radical Right, 129-216; 253-72

Martin Schain et al., Shadows over Europe: The Development and Impact of the Extreme Right in Western Europe," (New York: Palgrave, 2002): 1-17; 39-59.

Hans-Georg Betz, "Against the System: Radical Right-Wing Populism's Challenge to Liberal Democracy," in Jens Rydgren, ed., Movements of Exclusion: Radical Right Wing Populism in the Western World (New York: Nova Science, 2005): 25-40

Week 5 (October 1). Jörg Haider and the Austrian FPÖ

Walter Manoschek, "FPÖ, ÖVP, and Austria's Nazi Past;" Andrei S. Markovits, "Austrian Exceptionalism: Haider, the European Union, the Austrian Past and Present;" Richard Mitten, "Austria all Black and Blue: Jörg Haider, the European Sanctions, and the Political Crisis in Austria;" in Ruth Wodak and Anton Pelinka eds., The Haider Phenomenon in Austria (New Brunswick, N.J.: Transaction Publishers, 2002): 3-15, 95-119, 179-208.

Richard Heinisch, "Right-Wing Populism in Austria: A Case for Comparison," Problems of Post-Communism 55 (2008): 40-56.

Lothar Höbelt, Defiant Populist: Jörg Haider and the Politics of Austria (West Lafayette: Purdue University Press, 2003): 211-225.

Kurt Richard Luther, "Electoral Strategies and Performance of Austrian Right-Wing Populism, 1986-2006," Contemporary Austrian Politics (2008): 104-122.

*****Second Response Paper due in Class*****

Week 6 (October 8). Italy's Lega Nord and the Politics of Regionalism

Piero Ignazi, Extreme Right Parties in Western Europe (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003): 35-61.

Anna Cento Bull and Mark Gilbert, The Lega Nord and the Northern Question in Italian Politics (Houndmills: Palgrave, 2001): 42-104.

Michel Huyseune, Modernity and Secession: The Social Sciences and the Political Discourse of the Lega Nord in Italy (New York: Berghahn Books, 2006): 165-204.

Daniele Albertazzi, “ ‘Back to our Roots’ or Self-Confessed Manipulation? The Uses of the Past in the Lega Nord’s Positioning of *Padania*,” National Identities 8 (2006): 21-39.

Dwayne Woods, “Pockets of Resistance to Globalization: the case of the Lega Nord,” Patterns of Prejudice 43 (2009): 161-177.

Week 7 (October 15). Library Session with Julianne Haahr (European History Bibliographer). **Meet in Room 436 Memorial Library at 11.**

***** By Monday October 12 at noon: email the class a three sentence description of your research project along with a title *****

Don’t take a vacation this week! Work on your research project.

Week 8 (October 22). The Vlaams Blok and the Belgian Nation State

Piero Ignazi, “Belgium: Right Extremism and Ethnic Nationalism,” in Ignazi, Extreme Right Parties in Western Europe (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003): 124-39.

Patrick Hossay, “Why Flanders?” in Martin Schain et al., Shadows over Europe: The Development and Impact of the Extreme Right in Western Europe,” (New York: Palgrave, 2002): 159-184.

Hilde Coffé, “Social Democratic Parties as Buffers against the Extreme Right: the Case of Belgium,” Contemporary Politics 14 (June 2008): 179-95.

Hans De Witte, “Extreme right-wing activism in the Flemish part of Belgium: Manifestation of racism or nationalism?,” in Bert Klandermans and Nonna Mayer eds., Extreme Right Activists in Europe: Through the Magnifying Glass,” (London: Routledge, 2006): 127-150.

Claus Mudde, "One against All, All against One: A Portrait of the Vlaams Blok,"
Patterns of Prejudice 29 (1995): 5-28.

Week 9 (October 29). The Research Process

*****1 page summary of your research project due*****

Discussion of sample research papers.

Richard Marius and Melvin Page, A Short Guide to Writing about History (New York: Pearson Longman, 2005), 52-74, 144-61

Be prepared to give a short (5 minute) presentation on your research project.

Week 10 (November 5). No class. Work on your research projects

***** Paper outline due ***** I will be available from 11 to noon in my office for individual meetings with students

Week 11 (November 12). No class. Work on your research project

I will be in my office from 11 to 1

Week 12 (November 19). No Class. Work on your research projects.

I will be in my office from 11 to 1

Week 13 (November 26). Thanksgiving

*****Rough draft due Wednesday November 25, 2 pm *****. Rough drafts should be as complete as possible (including footnotes, a bibliography, an introduction and a conclusion). The more you present, the more you will profit from the comments of your fellow students. Place a printed copy in my box **and send me an electronic version. You should also send an electronic version to the other members of your peer review group.**

Week 14 (December 3). In class oral presentations

Wednesday December 2 and Friday December 4: Discussion of rough drafts in small groups of 3 or 4.

Week 15 (December 10). In class oral presentations

*****Final paper due Thursday December 17 at noon*****