

Fall 2017 Research Seminars

AMH4930 Eugenics, Tuesdays Per. 7 (1:55-2:45pm), Thursdays Per. 7-8 (1:55-3:50pm), Fli 113

Instructor: Dr. Steve Noll

Eugenics is the science of improving humans through genetics, starting in the late 19th century and moving to today's Human Genome project. The course looks at eugenics in the US and around the world, examining eugenic ideas and their implementation at public policy. We will focus on negative eugenics, policies designed to prevent those deemed "unfit to breed" from reproducing.

EUH4930 Aspects of the Cold War in Europe and the US, 1946-89 (Europe Age of Dictators in course schedule), Thursdays Per. 7-9 (1:55pm-4:55pm), Fli 121

Instructor: Dr. George Esenwein

The First World War (1914-1918) is generally regarded as one of the most cataclysmic events of the twentieth century. In its aftermath, Europeans set themselves the task of constructing the foundations for a stable and prosperous political, social, and economic order. Yet the problems thrown up by the war and the controversial peace treaties used as a blueprint for reconstructing war-torn Europe, produced a very different outcome. Rather than becoming more cohesive and integrated under liberal democratic regimes, European countries across the Continent began pulling in different directions. Perhaps the most notable (and regrettable) developments in the interwar period were the emergence of authoritarian and totalitarian dictatorships on both the left and right. This course will be centrally concerned with tracing the history and analyzing the main cultural, social, economic, and political features of these newly established ruling systems.

We start our journey with a survey of the tumultuous events (Revolution and Civil War) that unfolded in Russia between 1917 and 1921. The establishment of a one-party communist dictatorship there in 1922 would cast a long shadow over the rest of Europe. Parallel to these events was the rise of fascism in Italy. Opposed to both liberal democracy and communism, fascism under the leadership of Benito Mussolini suggested a "third way" of political rule in the post-war era. We turn next to an in-depth examination of Nazism, a movement that threw down roots in Germany from 1920 on and became the ruling system of that country after 1933.

Alongside these developments there emerged in different parts of Europe various types of authoritarian dictatorships in countries such as Portugal, Spain, Hungary, and Poland. In addition to the totalitarian regimes noted above, we will be examining both

individually and in comparison with one another the different authoritarian governments which came into being in the interwar period.

HIS4930 Science and Pop Culture, Tuesdays Per. 10-E1 (5:10pm-8:10pm) , Fli 113

Instructor: Dr. Betty Smocovitis

This course draws on range of interdisciplinary perspectives to examine the interplay between the history of science and American popular culture. Topics include representations of science, scientists, and nature in popular literature, television, films, and documentaries; the development of zoos, gardens, theme parks and science museums; children and science, and science journalism. Although it examines all sciences, broadly construed, it will concentrate on genetics and evolution because they have drawn the greatest recent attention in popular culture.