



EUROPE IN THE AGE OF DICTATORSHIPS, 1917-1945

UF HISTORY/ONLINE COURSE: HIS 3931

FALL TERM, 2020

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Course Description:

This course will be concerned with examining in context the varieties of political dictatorships which emerged in Europe between 1919 and 1945. We shall begin by surveying the general social, political, and economic conditions in Europe that formed the backdrop to our period of study. We will pay special attention to the ideological movements that arose in the last quarter of the 19th century that were most closely associated with the formation of both authoritarian and totalitarian style dictatorships in the interwar period. The extent to which cataclysmic events like the First World War and the Russian Revolutions of 1917 challenged Europe's dominant liberal order and thus prepared the ground for these anti-democratic regimes will also be discussed. Next we shall turn to an in-depth survey of the three dictatorships that established themselves in Russia, Italy, and Germany between 1919 and 1939. The same period saw the development of other forms of dictatorial governments which arose in countries as diverse as Spain, Poland, and Greece. Besides identifying the features of these regimes that resembled and/or differed from the aforementioned prototypes, we will assess the impact these ruling systems had both inside and outside the countries in which they developed.

Course Objectives:

- (1) To explain both why and how dictatorial forms of rule arose in Europe between the two world wars.
- (2) Identify the main features of different types of European dictatorships.
- (3) To acquire a critical understanding of the historical significance of the so-called “age of dictatorships, 1917-1945.”

Course Methods:

This an online Canvas course that will be comprised of 15 weekly modules. Each week students will be expected to complete all assignments listed in the “Learning Activities” outlined in every module.

Power-point presentations and video lectures* provided by the instructor will be supplemented by (1) video lectures and film clips that will be linked to the subject matter covered in each module, (2) readings from required texts as well as primary and secondary sources linked to the topics of weekly modules, and (3) discussion responses that are designed to sum up themes of lectures and other learning activities.

*Note – These video recorded lectures have been curated from previously taught online courses. Please ignore references to other lectures that were specifically associated with these courses – for example, the History of the Second World War in Europe.

Course Required Texts:

Martin Kitchen, *Europe Between the Wars*.
Stephen J. Lee, *The European Dictatorships, 1918-1945*.
Readings in Modern European History, Volume 9.

Course Grading Rubric:

10% -- Class participation/Discussion Board responses
40% -- 2 Reaction papers (20% each)
50% -- Midterm and Final exams (25% each).
Averaging of grades will appear on Canvas grading page.

Course Calendar: Weeks 1-15

Week 1 (31 August): Introduction to the course: What are dictatorships? ; Left-wing and right-wing intellectual currents of the 19th and early 20th centuries.
(Readings: Readings W.C. (9), General Introduction and Chapter 1, pp. 1-82. Stephen J. Lee, The European Dictatorships, Chapter 1, pp. xi-xv.

Week 2 (7 September): Historical circumstances of the modern era: the roles of economics, politics, and culture. The “Great War” and its impact on Europe.

(Readings: *Readings W.C. (9), Chapter 2, pp. 83-190; M. Kitchen, Chapter 1; S. Lee, Chapter 1, pp. 1-23.*)

Week 3 (14 September): The Russian Revolutions of 1917; The emergence of a left-wing dictatorship: Russia and Europe in the aftermath of Revolution and Civil War.

(M. Kitchen, Chapter 4; S. Lee, Chapter 2, pp. 24-40.)

Week 4 (21 September): Liberalism in crisis: The case of Italy: Crisis of the Liberal State, 1919-1922; the rise of fascism in Italy, 1922-1925.

(Readings: *Readings W.C. (9), Chapter 3, pp. 219-232; M. Kitchen, Chapter 6; S. Lee, Chapter 3, pp. 88-96*)

Week 5 (28 September): Mussolini and Fascist rule, 1925-1929; Political rule under fascism; “Fascistization” of society; Fascist foreign policy, 1922-1935.

(Readings: *M. Kitchen, Chapter 6; S. Lee, Chapter 3, pp. 97-125.*)

1st Reaction Paper Due 5 October (Begins 2 October)

Week 6 (5 October): Authoritarian dictatorships. 1923-1934: Portugal (Salazar), Spain (Primo de Rivera), Austria (Dollfuss), and Hungary (Horthy).

(Readings: *M. Kitchen, Chapter 5; S. Lee, Chapter 5.*)

Week 7 (12 October): The fate of liberal democracy in Germany: From Weimar to Nazism, 1919-1933.

(Readings: *Readings W.C.(9), Chapter 3, pp. 191-218, 398-412; M. Kitchen, Chapter 7; S. Lee, Chapter 4, pp. 135-156.*)

Week 8 (19 October): The Triumph of National Socialism, 1934-1939; Political structures and social control; The economy; The Nazi social/cultural agenda.

(Readings: *M. Kitchen, Chapter 11; S. Lee, Chapter 4, pp. 157-201.*)

21 October – Midterm Exam

Week 9 (26 October): Stalin and Stalinization, 1929-1939. “Socialism in One Country”; Repression and Purges; Foreign policy, 1929-1939.

(Readings: *Readings W.C. (9), Chapter 3, pp. 233-250; M. Kitchen, Chapter 4; S. Lee, Chapter 2, pp. 48-56.*)

Week 10 (2 November): The end of liberal rule in East/Central Europe. Authoritarian rule in Poland, Yugoslavia, Greece, Romania, Bulgaria.

(Readings: *M. Kitchen, Chapter 5; S. Lee, Chapter 5.*)

Week 11 (9 November): The road to dictatorship: The Spanish Civil War, 1936-1939; The role of foreign intervention; Franco and the Nationalists: Authoritarian or Fascist? **(Readings: M. Kitchen, Chapter 10; S. Lee, Chapter 5, pp. 231-250.)**

Week 12 (16 November): Liberal Democrats vs. Authoritarians and Fascists, 1936-1939; Liberal foreign policy in an age of dictatorships. **(Readings: Readings W.C. (9), Chapter 3, pp. 251-317; M. Kitchen, Chapters 8-9.)**

2nd Reaction Paper Due 23 November (Begins 20 November)

Week 13 (23 November): Fascists at War: The cases of Germany and Italy, 1939-1945; Stalinism and the Great Patriotic War, 1941-1945. **(Readings: M. Kitchen, Chapter 12; S. Lee, Chapter 2, pp. 68-87, Chapter 3, pp. 115-134, 202-220.)**

Week 14 (26 November): Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 15 (30 November): The end of dictatorships? ; The Cold War and its impact on European dictatorships. **(Readings: Readings W.C. (9), Chapter 4.)**

Week 16 (7-9 December): Review and Final Exam (Due on 11 December).

Addendum to Syllabus

Code of Conduct/Make-up exam policies for EUH 4930

UF faculty are now being asked to provide written guidelines relating to (1) student conduct in the classroom and (2) make-up examinations. Most of these can be deduced by exercising common sense. But to avoid any misunderstandings, students enrolled in the courses listed above should take note of the following:

Code of Conduct:

Intellectual honesty: any student caught plagiarizing the written work of others and/or cheating on an exam will automatically fail the course.

Below is a link to the UF honor code which you will be expected to uphold in this course:

<http://regulations.ufl.edu/chapter4/4017.pdf>

Make-up exams/Late Papers:

(1) Apart from illness, family emergencies (immediate family only), and exceptional circumstances (to be determined by the instructor), exams will have to be taken on the assigned day(s). The scheduling of permitted make-up exams will be at the discretion of the instructor.

2) All written assignments – Discussion Board responses -- are due on the day assigned in the syllabus and Canvas.

UF POLICIES RELATING TO COVID-19

1) **Virtual classes:-** Our class sessions may be audio-visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate verbally are agreeing to have their voices recorded.

If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared.

As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

- If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms ([Click here for guidance from the CDC on symptoms of coronavirus \(Links to an external site.\)](#)), please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. [Click here for UF Health guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to or are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms \(Links to an external site.\)](#).
- Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. [Find more information in the university attendance policies \(Links to an external site.\)](#).

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