

EUH 3206 – Europe Since 1914

UF Online Course

Spring 2022

Instructor: Dr. George Esenwein, Associate Professor, History

Tel: 352-273-3369

Website: www.clas.ufl.edu/users/gesenwei

Office hours on Zoom: Thursdays, 10-11 via Zoom Conference/Canvas

E-Mail: gesenwei@ufl.edu

Course Description:-

Since 1900 Europeans have witnessed an astonishing number of changes. In fact, some of the most dramatic transformations of the twentieth century came about just before it ended as a result of the sudden and unexpected collapse of communist systems in the Soviet Union (1991) and Eastern Europe (1989). Among the far-reaching consequences of these relatively recent developments have been the resurgence of nationalist and regionalist sentiments -- Scotland, Basque country, Lombardy, are examples -- the redrawing of state boundaries, and the acceleration of the movement towards transnational economic and political integration (EU).

Although this is not a course in current affairs, we will be studying the major historical events of the past one hundred years that have given rise to the contemporary European scene. Some of the themes we will be exploring are: the origins and outcomes of the two world wars, the varieties of European social and political ideologies, and the ever-changing pattern of national and trans-national identities.

Course goal: -

To acquire the empirical grounding needed to achieve a critical understanding of European history in the 20th century.

Student Objectives: To achieve this goal the student will be introduced to a variety of primary and secondary texts, documentary videos, and lectures which emphasize the following :

- (1) Social, political, cultural, and economic conditions which formed the backdrop to the watershed events of the modern period.

- (2) Controversies and misconceptions which have become associated with the origins, course, and consequences of major events such as the Cold War and First and Second World Wars.
- (3) Historical legacies of the 20th century.

Course methods:-

This on-line course will be constructed around the following components:

- (1) 15 lecture modules (Individual lectures -- 10-25 minutes in length).
- (2) All reading and viewing assignments listed under the rubric “Learning Activities” are required to complete each module. This material will be comprised of the following: (1) pdf articles, (2) internet links to primary and secondary documentary sources, and (3) to video clips of lectures, exhibitions, and selected footage documenting historical events.
- (3) Discussion board sessions which require students to respond to questions about and raised by the material covered in the weekly video and reading assignments. These brief writing assignments – between 250 and 500 words in length --should reflect not only one’s personal opinions but also one’s studied reflections on themes covered in each module.
- (4) Class Notes: Students are expected to take notes while viewing videos and completing weekly reading assignments. Notes can be used to construct your responses to the Discussion Board questions listed in each module. In addition, they should be consulted when studying for exams and undertaking written assignments.

Course Required Texts:- (Available at UF Bookstore)

- **Europe Between Democracy and Dictatorship, 1900-1945.** Conan Fischer
- **Europe’s Troubled Peace, 1945-2000.** Tom Buchanan
- **Aspects of Western Civilization.** Seventh Edition, Perry M. Rogers, Volume II.

Course grading rubric:-

Your course grade will be calculated in the following manner:

- 20% -- Two Reaction papers (4 double-space pages) based on information provided in lecture modules, required readings, and videos.
- 30% -- Mid-term exam – based on lectures and required readings (Date provided in module outlines)
- 30% -- Final exam – based on lectures and required readings. (Date provided in module outline.)
- 20% -- Participation in discussion boards. Based on level of engagement in discussion boards posted throughout the term.

- For information regarding current UF grading policies:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Course Calendar:- Modules/Weeks 1-15

Part I. Historical Background to First World War, 1914-1918

Module 1 – 5 January

Introduction to the course: Europe and Europeans a mosaic of peoples and nations. *Fin de siècle* Europe: Cultural climate and political realities; the "New Imperialism" and the "Great Powers."

Module 2 – 10 January

The Road to World War I: National rivalries and the breakdown of diplomacy. "The Great War", 1914-1918 (Military campaigns; the Home Front; the course of the war)

Readings, Part I: *Europe, between Democracy and Dictatorship*, Chapters 1-3; *Aspects of Western Civilization*, Volume II., Chapters 4-5. Additional readings are listed under rubric "Learning Activities" in weekly modules 1-2.

17 January : Martin Luther King Day (National Holiday)

Part II. Europe During Two World Wars, 1914-1945

Module 3 – 17 January

The aftermath of war and the search for universal peace. The Russian Revolution (1917-1922) and its impact in Europe.

Module 4 – 24 January

The rise of fascism in Italy and Germany, Part I. (Against liberalism and communism: Mussolini's "third way") The rise of fascism in Germany, (The collapse of Weimar and the ascendancy of Nazism.)

Module 5 – 31 January

Liberal Democracy under threat: The Great Depression and its impact; Stalin and Stalinism in the USSR. The Spanish Civil War (1936-1939); the "Munich Crisis;" and the coming of the Second World War.

First Reaction Paper Due: Begins 4 February/Due 7 February

Module 6 – 7 February

World War II (Part I.): Triumphs and Defeats, (military campaigns, Holocaust, life behind the lines).

Module 7 – 14 February

World War II (Part II.): Triumphs and Defeats, (military campaigns, Holocaust, life behind the lines).

<p>Readings, Part II: <i>Europe, between Democracy and Dictatorship</i>, Chapters 4-9; <i>Aspects of Western Civilization</i>, Volume II., Chapters 6-9.</p>

Part III. Europe Since 1945: Cold War and Beyond

Module 8 – 21 February

World War II (Part III.): Triumphs and Defeats, (military campaigns, Holocaust, life behind the lines). The end comes, 1945.

Midterm exam: Begins 2 March /Due 3 March

Module 9 – 28 February

Post-war Europe: the victors and the vanquished; The Origins of the Cold War. Building a divided continent: The Marshall Plan and the Truman doctrine; Berlin Airlift, 1948-1949. Armed camps: The impact of NATO, the Atomic weapons option, the Soviet military threat.

Spring Break, 5 March-12 March

Module 10 – 14 March

Spheres of influence: Promoting liberalism in Western Europe; Communists come to power in East Central Europe, 1945-1955. Cultural confrontations: Ideological struggles; Road to recovery: progress towards economic unity in West (from European Coal and Steel Community to European common market.)

Module 11 – 21 March

Post-Stalinist era: Thaw or Freeze?; 1956: Hungarian uprising; 1961: Berlin Wall; 1962:

Cuban Missile Crisis.

Module 12 – 28 March

A Third Way? Social democratic movements in Great Britain, Italy, France, West Germany and Europe for the Europeans. A Year of Protests: 1968 : The New Left; Preserving socialism in Czechoslovakia (Prague Spring).

Second Reaction Paper Begins 25 March/Due: 28 March

Module 13 – 4 April

Era of Détente, 1964-1975; Winds of change: democracy returns to Western Europe (Portugal, Spain, and Greece); The Cold War heats up.

Module 14 – 11 April

Re-defining Nationhood: The impact of ethno-nationalisms. The 1989 revolutions and the collapse of Communism.

Module 15 – 18 April

Europe after the Cold War: Challenges of the 21st century.

Final Exam: Begins 20 April/Due 21 April

<p>Readings: Part III: <i>Europe's Troubled Peace</i>. Chapters 1-12; <i>Aspects of Western Civilization</i>, Volume II., Chapters 9-11.</p>

Addendum to Syllabus

Make-up exams/Late Papers:

(1) Apart from documented illness, family emergencies (immediate family only), and exceptional circumstances (to be determined by the instructor), exams will have to be handed in on the assigned day. Students need to contact the professor as soon as possible regarding any such emergencies. The scheduling of permitted make-up exams will be at the discretion of the instructor.

(2) All written assignments – discussion board responses and reaction papers – are due on the day assigned in the syllabus and/or as announced by the instructor. A grade penalty will be invoked for late submissions of any written assignment.

(3) UF Honor Code Below is the web-link to the UF honor code all are expected to uphold in this class: <http://regulations.ufl.edu/chapter4/4017.pdf>

(4) Students are encouraged to participate in a course evaluation. The form for this can be found at the following link: <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals/Default.aspx>