

# EUH 3206 – Europe Since 1914

## Fall 2024

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**Course: Online**

**Instructor: Dr. Anna Lankina**

**Course Curriculum Content & Design: Dr. George Esenwein**

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### **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 the twentieth century ended as a result of the sudden and unexpected collapse of communist systems in the Soviet Union (1991) and Eastern Europe (1989). We shall also be examining the impact of relatively recent developments – such as the resurgence of nationalist and regionalist sentiments -- Scotland, Basque country, Lombardy, are examples -- the redrawing of state boundaries, and the ebb and flow 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 and twenty 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 goals: -**

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

## **Course methods:-**

This course will be constructed around the following components:

- (1) 15 weeks of class lectures
- (2) All required reading assignments should be completed on a weekly basis.
- (3) Class Notes: Students are expected to take notes while attending lectures and completing weekly reading assignments. Notes 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

## **Course grades and assignments:-**

Your course grade will be calculated in the following manner:

- 20% -- Two Reaction papers (3-4 double-space pages) based on information provided in class lectures and required readings.
- 30% -- Mid-term exam – based on lectures and required readings. (Date provided in Weeks outline).
- 30% -- Final exam – based on lectures and required readings. (Date provided in Weeks outline).
- 20% -- Participation in class discussions.
- For information regarding current UF grading policies:  
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

## **Course Calendar:- Weeks 1-15**

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

Week 1

Introduction to the course: Europe and Europeans a mosaic of peoples and nations. *Fin de siècle* Europe: Cultural, economic, and political climate; The "New Imperialism" and the "Great Power System."

## Week 2

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;  
Additional readings are listed under "Learning Activities" in Modules 1-2.

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

### Week 3

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

### Week 4

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.)

### Week 5

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: Opens September 22/Due September 29**

### Week 6

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

### Week 7

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

**Readings, Part II:** *Europe, between Democracy and Dictatorship*, Chapters 4-9;

## **Part III. Europe Since 1945: Cold War and Beyond**

### **Week 8**

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

**Midterm exam: Due October 20**

### **Week 9**

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.

### **Week 10**

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.)

### **Week 11**

Post-Stalinist era: Thaw or Freeze?; 1956: Hungarian uprising; 1961: Berlin War; 1962: Cuban Missile Crisis.

### **Week 12**

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: Opens Nov 10/Due November 17**

### **Week 13**

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

#### Week 14

Re-defining Nationhood: The impact of ethno-nationalisms. The 1989 revolutions and the collapse of Communism. Europe after the Cold War: Challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

#### Week 15

#### Second Exam

#### Final Exam: Due December 8

**Readings: Part III: *Europe's Troubled Peace*. Chapters 1-12;**

## 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: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

(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>