

SU22 AP/HIST 3390 6.0A Europe Since 1870

Course Note: This course has asynchronous sessions

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Expanded Course Description (expanded from course calendar description):

This course provides an introduction to the history of Europe in the *long* twentieth century, a period in which European society struggled with the relations between individuals, collectives, and the State, often with catastrophic results. We approach the period from the late 19th century until the present day through the lens of contested and conflicting projects to remake individuals and reformulate their place in the nation and history. Special attention will be paid to the long-term impact of imperialism, the changing and disputed nature of totalitarianism, and continued reformulations of citizenship and national belonging. This course places particular emphasis on the reading of primary sources as an introduction to the methodology of the historian. Topics to be addressed include: the global boundaries of Europe and the domestication of imperialism; the origins and nature of both World Wars; the political and cultural experimentation of the interwar period; the Russian Revolution and Soviet experiment; the Holocaust; Cold War realignment and decolonization; the rise of the welfare state and consumer citizenship; continued challenges of identity and difference in contemporary Europe.

Additional Requirements:

Two platforms will be used in this course, namely [eClass](#) and Zoom, through which students will interact with the course materials, the course director, as well as with one another. Please review this syllabus to determine how and when the class meets and how office hours and lectures/"in-class" discussions will be conducted.

Required Course Text/Readings:

TENTATIVE

Books **for purchase**, available at various online sites (e.g. amazon.ca, abebooks.ca, etc.):

- Helmut Walser Smith, [*The Butcher's Tale: Murder and Anti-Semitism in a German Town*](#) (New York: W.W. Norton, 2003) – ebook or hard copy
- John Merriman, *A History of Modern Europe, From the Renaissance to the Present* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1996)

Weighting of Course:

TENTATIVE Grade Breakdown

- Online participation: 15%

This will take the form of three (3) written assignments based on the primary source readings and should vary from 500 to 600 words. More information will be available under 'Assignments' on [eClass](#).

Note that you should expect the first written assignment in the second week of the course

- First Paper: 25%

A 5-page paper based on a specific question addressing the book, *The Butcher's Tale*. More information on the essay is available under 'Assignments' on [eClass](#).

- Second Paper:
Annotated bibliography: 5%
Final paper: 30%

This paper is a 5-7-page paper on the 1-2-3 model: one film, two books, three articles. You will select one film from a list of films and be asked to contextualize the film of your choosing within a historical literature. More information on the form and requirements for this assignment is under 'Assignments' on eClass.

- Final Exam: 25%

A final (at home) essay exam with primary source identifications will take place during the course exam period

Organization of the Course:

The lectures will be, on average, 60 minutes long. They will be uploaded to eClass every **Monday** and **Wednesday**, circa **9:00am**, along with the PDF version of the PowerPoint slides.

Course Learning Objectives:

This course is an introduction to historical processes, problems and issues of the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries examined through the perspective of European history. The course, like the textbook, are organized chronologically, though the lectures will also take thematic approaches to society, politics and the economy; the question of identity – subsuming nationalism and the Nation-State, wars and culture; mass society. These large and complex issues form some of the fundamental aspects of historical change. The history of the past 150 years shows the persistence of traditions as well as the challenges of profound transformations while the principle of equality has questioned established systems. The conceptual foundations of select themes will be examined in this course.

The course follows a general chronological order to ensure a better understanding of the different themes and to prevent anachronisms. Some lectures will be devoted to the historical roots of specific issues.

Our main purpose here will be to comprehend complex historical events in Europe, as well as their international/intercontinental dimensions, over a long period of time. The variety of sources used demonstrates different approaches to historical knowledge.

Additional Information/Notes:

As you can tell from the list of assignment due dates and the reading assignments, this is a class that moves quickly. It is intensive, meaning that it is seeking to cover the reading and writing assignments of a

normal 6-credit course in a compressed time period. There is no room for error in a course of this nature. It asks a lot of you, but be assured that it is structured so that you can be successful if you are consistent and committed to the work. The readings are not long, the assignments are manageable, and all of them are available well in advance of the due date, meaning that you have as much control over your schedule as it is possible to have. You should consider each unit as comparable to an in-class 90-minute lecture, and add to that amount of time another 90 minutes for course readings, the time required for completing assignment notwithstanding. ***This is a 6-hour per week minimum.*** BUT at the end of four months you are rewarded with having put an *entire course* under your belt, moving that much closer to your degree, and, of course, having learned a TON.