

History 510:327
Twentieth Century Europe
Fall 2021
Draft—SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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The twentieth century in Europe was plagued by chaos, political upheaval, economic crisis, war and destruction, on a scale that might seem inconceivable to pedestrians strolling down the gracious boulevards of Paris, Prague or Berlin today. This class explores some of the important themes of the European twentieth century, including the impact of war and violence on everyday life, the rise and evolution of Communism, the appeal of fascism, decolonization and emigration, and the creation of a new, prosperous and (somewhat) united Europe. Rather than attempting to be comprehensive, the course will selectively examine crucial moments in the past century via primary sources, novels, memoirs, essays and films. Students will learn about the past through the words and images of those who lived it. This course will increase your ability to read and critically analyze a wide array of materials and to communicate your ideas verbally and in writing.

This course meets SAS Core goal WCD. It will help you to:

- Communicate effectively in modes appropriate to a discipline or area of inquiry [history]
- Evaluate and critically assess sources and use the conventions of attribution and citation correctly
- Analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights

Required Texts: Mark Mazower, *Dark Continent: Europe's 20th Century* (New York: Vintage, 2000) ISBN: 9780679757047
 Arthur Koestler, *Darkness at Noon* trans Philip Boehm (New York: Scribner, 2019), ISBN: 1501161318
 Jan Tomasz Gross with Irena Grudzińska Gross, *Golden Harvest: Events at the Periphery of the Holocaust* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012) ISBN: 9780199731671
 Ian Buruma, *Murder in Amsterdam* (New York: Penguin, 2006) ISBN: 9780143112365

These books have been ordered at the Rutgers bookstore.

Also recommended for use when writing papers—Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History* (New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2017) ISBN: 9781319113025 (any edition is fine)

Additional required primary source readings are available on the Canvas site for this course by weekly module. Unless otherwise noted in the syllabus, all primary source documents are from Marvin Perry, et al., eds., *Sources of Twentieth Century Europe* (New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2000).

Course requirements and grading: You are expected to complete all reading assignments and attend all classes each week. Grades will be assigned as follows: weekly forum assignments (35%), three 4–5 page papers based on assigned reading (65%). Detailed instructions for each paper will be given out 2–3 weeks before the paper is due. The cutoffs for final grades are: A=90% and above, B+ 87% and above, B=80% and above, C+ 77% and above, C=70% and above, etc.

Weekly forum posts: Each week, you will post a response to the discussion question for that week (available in the week's module on Canvas). The question will relate to some aspect of the week's

assigned reading and lectures. Your post is due by 11:59 on Friday each week. Responses should be between 250–500 words and be clearly written in complete and grammatically correct sentences. They do not need to use footnotes, but all direct quotes should be clearly indicated in the text and include a precise page number in parentheses. Example: Rubashov wrote in his prison diary, “Therefore, in the end, we will be absolved by history, and they will not.” (87)

Responses will be graded on a scale of 1–3 as follows:

3: Meets all requirements. Shows superior knowledge of course content and contains original thought or especially sophisticated, nuanced analysis.

2: Meets all requirements. Shows good knowledge of course content and contains a solid analysis of the material. There may be some errors or omissions.

1: Shows only limited knowledge of course content. May include significant errors or omit key facts. May not meet basic requirements.

0: Is off topic (shows little to no knowledge of course content), or not completed

Semester grades for the forum will be assigned according to the following scale: 30 points and above=A, 28–29 points=A-, 26–27 points= B+, 23–25 points=B, 21–22 points=B-, 19–20 points=C+, 16–18 points=C, 14–15 points=C-, 12–13 points=D, 11 and below=F

Late Policy: Discussion posts: late discussion posts will receive only partial credit. Exceptions can only be made for cases of illness or equivalent emergency. If this happens to you, please contact Dr. Feinberg. Papers: Papers must be uploaded to the class Canvas site. If you need an extension on a paper, you must contact Prof. Feinberg at least 24 hours before the original due date. All unexcused late papers will be marked down one full letter grade for each calendar day that they are late (so an “A” becomes a “B” if it is one day late). But no matter how late, all submitted papers will receive some credit; it is always better to turn in a paper than to not do so.

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to abide by Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy (available at <https://academicaffairs.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy-and-procedures>). All papers will be automatically checked against the Turnitin database for plagiarism. The usual penalty for plagiarism will be an F in the course. Any students with the slightest bit of doubt about how to use or properly cite sources in their written work are encouraged to contact Prof. Feinberg or TA Isaac Bershady to clarify this.

Semester schedule of topics, reading assignments and due dates:

Week 1

Topic: Europe today vs Europe in 1900

Read: Primary sources for Week 1 (Chamberlain, Ahlwardt, Massis and De Tarde)

Assignment: Forum post due by midnight on Friday

Week 2

Topic: The Great War

Read: Primary Sources for Week 2 (Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*, pp. 271–296) and Antoni Trilla, Guillem Trilla and Carolyn Daer, “The 1918 Spanish Flu in Spain,” *Clinical Infectious Diseases* 47 (2008); 668–673 (in Resources as Trilla, Trilla, Daer.pdf)

Assignment: Forum post due by midnight on Friday

Week 3

Topic: The Soviet Union: From Revolution to Stalinism

Read: Koestler, *Darkness at Noon*, vii–83 and primary sources for Week 3 (Sukhanov, Stalin,

Kopelev, Dolot),
Assignment: Forum post due by midnight on Friday

Week 4

Topic: Why be a Communist? Understanding Rubashov and Stalinist Terror
Also: Basics of Historical Writing: Thesis Statements and Using Footnotes
Read: Koestler, *Darkness at Noon*, 83–237
Assignment: Forum post due by midnight on Friday

Week 5

Topic: Democracy in Crisis in the 1920s
Read: Mazower, *Dark Continent*, ch. 1–2 and primary sources for Week 5 (Wilson, Clemenceau, German Delegation)
Assignment: Forum post due by midnight on Friday
Paper #1 due by midnight on September 28

Week 6

Topic: The Perils of Modern Life and the Turn to Fascism
Read: Mazower, *Dark Continent*, ch. 3–4 and primary sources for Week 6 (Pilgrim Trust, Hauser, Mussolini)
Assignment: Forum post due by midnight on Friday

Week 7

Topic: Nazi Germany and Its Empire
Also: Basics of Historical Writing: Using Evidence to Support Claims
Read: Mazower, *Dark Continent*, ch. 5–7 and primary sources for Week 7 (Hitler)
Assignment: Forum post due by midnight on Friday

Week 8:

Topic: Victims and Perpetrators in World War II and the Holocaust
Read: Gross, *Golden Harvest* (all) and primary sources for Week 8 (Neumann, Spender)
Assignment: Forum post due by midnight on Friday

Week 9

Topic: The Cold War and Communism in Eastern Europe
Read: Mazower, *Dark Continent*, pp. 250–286 and primary sources for Week 9 (Churchill)
Assignment: Forum post due by midnight on Friday
Paper #2 due by midnight on October 26

Week 10

Topic: Western Europe in the 1950s and 1960s
Read: Mazower, *Dark Continent*, pp. 286–326 and primary sources for Week 10 (Erhard, Cohn-Bendit)
Assignment: Forum post due by midnight on Friday

Week 11

Topic: Late Socialism in Eastern Europe
Read: Primary sources for Week 11 (Václav Havel, “Letter to Dr. Husák,” “The Trial,” and “Report on My House Arrest” from *Open Letters* pp. 50–83, 102–108, 215–229)
Assignment: Forum post due by midnight on Friday

Week 12

Topic: Decolonization and Discontent in Western Europe

Read: Mazower, *Dark Continent*, ch. 10 and primary sources for Week 12 (Nehru, Vietnam Declaration, Abbas, Powell)

Assignment: Forum post due by midnight on Friday

Week 13

Thanksgiving: no assignments or lectures this week

Read: Begin Buruma for next week

Week 14

Topic: Immigration, Islam and Race in Europe from the 1990s to the present

Read: Buruma, *Murder in Amsterdam* (all)

Listen: Rough Translation podcast on Black Pete in the Netherlands from June 24, 2020
(<https://www.npr.org/2020/06/24/882816031/so-long-black-pete>)

Assignment: Forum post due by midnight on Friday

Week 15

Topic: The End of Communism and a United Europe

Read: Mazower, *Dark Continent*, ch. 11 and Kristen Ghodsee, *Muslim Lives in Eastern Europe*, ch. 3 (in Resources as Ghodsee.pdf)

Assignment: Forum post due by midnight on Friday

Paper #3 due by midnight on December 7