EUROPE BETWEEN THE WARS, 1919-1939

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This is an advanced level survey of European history between the wars, focusing on the major conflicts of the period, particularly those resulting from World War I and leading to World War II. Considerable attention will be given to the development of the Soviet Union, but the major emphasis will be on the rise of Fascism and Nazism, which will be studied in the broader European context. There will also be detailed examination of the Spanish Republic and Civil War. The course will close with a discussion of the concept of an “era of fascism” and the immediate background of World War II.

LECTURES
There will be three lectures each week, accompanied by questions and brief discussion. All students registered for credit must also be enrolled for a fourth discussion period, at which attendance is mandatory.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS
There will be three hours of written examinations, a one-hour six weeks exam and a two-hour final. All students must submit a five-page essay evaluation of one of the volumes of assigned reading or some other scholarly book related to the course and approved by the instructor or teaching assistant. This essay is due no later than November 22.

In addition, all students registered for four credits must also prepare a research paper (12 pages or more in length), the nature and topic of which must be defined through individual consultation with the instructor or teaching assistant no later than October 1. These papers are due on December 1. Graduate students registered for credit should consult with the instructor.

GRADING SYSTEM
The final grade will be determined as follows:

For 3 credit students: discussion group participation 12%, essay 12%, 5 weeks exam 25%, final 50%

For 4 credit students: discussion group participation 10%, essay 10%, research paper 20%, 6 weeks exam 20%, final 40%

REQUIRED READINGS
George Esenwein & Adrian Shubert, Spain at War (Longman)
Martin Kitchen, Europe Between the Wars (Longman)
Stanley Payne, A History of Fascism 1914-1945 (Wisconsin)
Richard Pipes, A Concise History of the Russian Revolution (Vintage)

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

September

Readings
3 World War I and its Consequences 
6 The Postwar Settlement 
8 The Turkish Settlement: A Case of Genocide 
10 The Russian Revolution 
13 The Russian Civil War 
15 The Leninist System 
17 Formation of the USSR 
20 A Radical Alternative: National Socialism 
22 The Postwar Italian Crisis 
24 The Rise of Fascism 
27 The Mussolini Regime 
29 The Postwar Crisis in Eastern Europe 

October 
1 France in the 1920s 
4 Britain Between the Wars 
6 The Weimar Republic in Germany 
8 Adolf Hitler and the Rise of National Socialism 
11 The Bolshevik Power Struggle: Triumph of Stalin 
13 Collectivization and the Five-Year Plans 
15 Review 
18 SIX WEEKS EXAM 
20 Video: Nazi Film “Triumph of the Will” 
22 Video: “The Death of Kirov and the Great Terror” 
25 The Great Terror 
27 Soviet Military Growth and Attempts at Expansion 
29 The Great Depression 

November 
1 The German Crisis of 1930-33 
3 The Third Reich 
5 Austria 
8 Hungary 
10 Romania 
12 France in the 1930s 
15 Neosocialism and Scandinavian Social Democracy 
17 A Democratic Alternative in Southwest Europe: The Second Spanish Republic, 1931-33 
19 Breakdown of the Spanish Republic 
22 The Spanish Revolution 
24 Video: "Caudillo" 
29 The Spanish Civil War 

December 
1 Fascist Italy in the 1930s 
3 Expansion and Semi-Nazification of Fascism 
6 German Expansion 
8 Outbreak of World War II in Europe 
10 Open 
13 The Course of World War II 
15 Video: "Hitler and Stalin"