Europe at the end of the past century was both more prosperous and more democratic than at any time in its history. Yet unprecedented violence also defined Europe’s twentieth century, from the two World Wars and the Holocaust to numerous civil wars, ethnic cleansing, and the Cold War. How have European society and culture been shaped by a century of war and violence? How have social and cultural factors shaped warfare, in the broadest sense of the term? The first question has been implicit in most research and teaching on modern European history, whereas the second has gained less attention. In either case, it is only recently that historians have examined such issues in more systematic or interdisciplinary fashion. In the case of World War I, we have numerous recent works on the interrelationship of war and society, including more scholarship on gender. In studies of the Holocaust, scholars have asked how “normality” at home and “abnormality” on the Eastern front were linked. Some historians have begun to focus on how patterns of consumption shaped the course of the Cold War, especially in the 1950s. But in other areas, as with the Spanish Civil War, or World War II, we have much less developed research on the socio-cultural dynamics of war. This seminar examines some of the best current research on the reciprocal relationships of war and society in twentieth century Europe. Germany plays a central role in the course but we also include much comparative material, and we consider several East European examples as well.

Assignments include required readings, class discussion, two class presentations, two short writing assignments of 3-4 pages each, and a final research project. All students are expected to complete the required readings for each week and are advised to acquaint themselves with as much of the supplementary reading as possible. Each week a student will make a brief (10 minutes maximum) presentation of the key concepts and questions of the required reading in class and pre-circulate by e-mail several discussion questions. Weekly discussants should also include electronic copies either of two informative reviews of the book we are reading, or of material that places the reading in its proper historiographical context. The two 3-4 page papers are critical responses to a topic raised by class readings and discussion, due on February 22 and April 5. In the last weeks of the semester, each student will make a short oral presentation based on a research project chosen in consultation with the instructor. Students choose one option for the final project, which is due on May 10:
1. A research paper of 20-25 pages on a topic suggested by course readings and chosen in consultation with the instructor.
2. A bibliographic/historiographical essay of roughly the same length on a topic suggested by course readings and chosen in consultation with the instructor.
3. A syllabus for an upper division undergraduate lecture course on “War, Culture, and Society in Twentieth-Century Europe,” including a developed explication of course topics, readings, and assignments; total length should be 20-25 pages.

Grading will be determined as follows:
Class discussion=20%
In-class presentation of class reading=10%
Two 3-4 page response papers=30%
In-class presentation of final project=10%
Final project=30%

Required and supplementary readings are listed below. In addition, there is a short bibliography of general texts available either in paperback or the UW library system; these readings will help orient students if they need background material on the general course of twentieth-century Europe. All required books are available for purchase at the Underground Textbook Exchange; the course reader is available for purchase at the Humanities Copy Center. The required books and reader will also be available at College Library Reserves. Background and supplementary reading marked “CLR” are available on reserve, although some may be listed as “inactive.” A few of these are e-books (e.g., NetLibrary, ACLS E-Book), which any UW student can read via MadCat. I highly recommend surveying recent periodical literature via MadCat electronic resources as well.

Required reading (in order of assignment):
*In course reader


Background Texts:
Norman Davies, Europe: A History (1996). CLR.
Mark Mazower, Dark Continent: Europe’s Twentieth Century. (1998). CLR.
John Merriman, A History of Modern Europe: From the Renaissance to the Present 2 vols. (1996); CLR.
Dietrich Orlow, A History of Modern Germany, 1871 to Present 5th. Ed. (2001); CLR.
Donald Sassoon, *One Hundred Years of Socialism: The West European Left in the Twentieth Century* (1996). CLR.

**Course Schedule and Readings:**

Jan. 18: Introduction: War and Society in the Twentieth Century
Reading: O’Connell, 248-61; Geyer, 5-40
Supplementary:

Jan. 25: World War I as a Constitutive Event
Reading: Audoin-Rouzeau, entire book
Supplementary:

Feb. 1: Cultural Expression in World War I
Reading: Roshwald-Stites, entire book
Supplementary:
Jay Winter, *Sites of Memory, Sites of Mourning: The Great War in European Cultural History* (1995); CLR.
George Mosse, *Fallen Soldiers: Reshaping the Memory of the World Wars* (Oxford University Press, 1990), Chs. 4-7; CLR.

Feb. 8: War and “New Men”
Reading: Bourke, 202-19; Nevin, 115-40; Lerner, 223-48
Supplementary:
Karen Hagemann and Stefanie Schüler-Springorum, eds., *Home/Front: The Military, War and Gender in Twentieth Century Germany* (2002). CLR.
Eric Leed, *No Man’s Land: Combat and Identity* (1979). CLR.

Feb. 15: World War I and the Weimar Republic: Economics, Politics, Culture
Reading: Bessel, 11-35; Widdig, 196-220; Ferguson, 36-57
Supplementary:
Hans Mommsen, *The Rise and Fall of Weimar Democracy* (1996); CLR.

Feb. 22: The Individual and the Spanish Civil War
Reading: Seidman, entire
Supplementary:
Paul Preston, *The Spanish Civil War* (1990); CLR.
Hugh Thomas, *The Spanish Civil War* (1986; 1994); CLR.

Mar. 1: Nazism as “Holy War”?
Reading: Steigmann-Gall, entire
Supplementary:
Ian Kershaw, *The Nazi Dictatorship: Problems and Perspectives of Interpretation, 4th ed.* (2000); CLR.
Michael Burleigh, *The Third Reich: A New History* (2000); CLR.

Mar. 8: World War II and Genocide (I)
Required: Bartov, entire
Supplementary:
Zygmunt Bauman, *Modernity and the Holocaust* (2000); CLR.

Mar. 15: World War II and Genocide (II)
Reading: Gross, entire; Polonsky & Michlic, 1-43
Supplementary:
beside supplementary reading for previous week, see Omer Bartov and Phyllis Mack, eds., *In God’s Name: Genocide and Religion in the 20th Century* (Berghahn Books, 2001). CLR.
Mar. 22  Spring Recess

Mar. 29: World War II and European Memory Cultures
Reading: Lagrou, 243-58; Moeller, 88-122; Grossman, 93-128
Supplementary:
Rudy Koshar, From Monuments to Traces: Artifacts of German Memory, 1870-1990 (2000), chs. 3 &4; CLR.

Apr. 5: The Cold War and Consumption, German Variation
Reading: Ross, 69-96; Betts, 185-217, Stitziel, 51-85
Supplementary:
Crew, Consuming Germany in the Cold War; remaining chs.
Susan Strasser et al, eds., Getting and Spending: European and American Consumer Societies in the Twentieth Century (Cambridge University Press, 1998), chs. 8, 14; CLR.
Uta Poiger, Jazz, Rock, and Rebels: Cold War Politics and American Culture in a Divided Germany (University of California, 2000); CLR.

Apr. 12: Ethnic Cleansing and Twentieth-Century Wars
Reading: Naimark, entire book
Supplementary:
Moeller, War Stories, Ch. 3; CLR.

Apr. 19  Student presentations
Apr. 26  Student presentations
May 3  Student presentations
May 10  Final projects due in 4101 Humanities, 1:20