Department of History  
Semester II, 2006-2007

Laird Boswell  
5127 Humanities  
263-1805  
lboswell@wisc.edu

History 891  
Proseminar in Twentieth Century European History

This course focuses on key themes and recent scholarship in twentieth century European history. We will examine classic problems (such as the Great War) as well as more recent historiographical approaches.

Requirements: Two short (5-7 pages) review essays and one long paper (15-20 pages) on a topic to be agreed upon with the instructor. If possible one of your review essays should assess a foreign language book, and both your essays should be distributed to all students in the class. Longer papers should be in a field/country outside your specialty (i.e., if your specialty is modern Italy you will be urged to write about another country or to write a comparative essay). Students will also be responsible for leading two or more discussions. Attendance is essential.

Starred books are available for purchase at the University Bookstore. All books are on 3 hour reserve in Helen C. White Library. Articles are available online via the UW Library.

January 26. Writing European History in the Twentieth Century


Tony Judt, Postwar: A History of Europe since 1945 (Penguin, 2005), pp. 4-10; 749-68.

Feb 2. The Russian Revolution


February 9. The Great War


Susan Grayzel, “Across Battle Fronts: Gender and the Comparative Cultural History of Modern European War,” in Deborah Cohen and Maura O’Connor, *Comparison and History. Europe in Cross-National Perspective* (Routledge, 2004): 71-84.


Feb 16. Fascism


António Costa Pinto, “Back to European Fascism,” *Contemporary European History* 15 (2006), 103-115 (available online)


Feb 23. Bodies on the Move

* Sergio Luzzatto, *The Body of Il Duce. Mussolini’s Corpse and the Fortunes of Italy* (Metropolitan books, 2005)


March 2. Who is a Victim?


W. G. Sebald, *On the Natural History of Destruction* (New York, 1999), pp. 3-68 (“Zürich lectures”)

Mary Nolan, “Germans as Victims during the Second World War,” *Central European History* 38, no. 1, pp. 7-40.

Thomas Childers, “‘Facilis descensus averni est’: The Allied Bombing of Germany and the Issue of German Suffering,” *Central European History* 38, no. 1, pp. 75-105.

March 9. Immigration

*** 5 page book review due Monday March 5 ***

* Paul A. Silverstein, *Algeria in France. Transpolitics, Race, and Nation* (Bloomington, 2006), 1-75.


March 16. Rethinking Decolonization


March 23. Consumerism


March 30. Germany and its History


David Art, The Politics of the Nazi Past in Germany and Austria (Cambridge, 2006), pp. 1-9, 101-44, 176-221


April 6. Spring break
April 13. Religion

*** 5 page book review due Monday April 9 ***


April 20. The European Union


April 27. Postsocialism

*Katherine Verdery, The Vanishing Hectare. Property and Value in Postsocialist Transylvania (Cornell, 2003), 1-158, 185-228, 273-364.


May 4. Race


* Paul A. Silverstein, Algeria in France. Transpolitics, Race, and Nation (Bloomington, 2006),
Tyler Stovall and Sue Peabody eds., *The Color of Liberty: Histories of Race in France* (Duke, 2003),


May 11. **Berlusconi’s Italy**


*** Final Paper due Friday May 18 ***