

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of History
Semester I, 2007-08

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5127 Humanities
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Syllabus also available at: <http://www.history.wisc.edu/courses.htm>

History 359: Europe since 1945.

Requirements:

This course covers the political, social, cultural, and economic history of Europe from the end of World War II to the present. Particular attention will be paid to the legacy of Nazism, collaboration, and the Holocaust; the cold war and the rivalry between the superpowers; decolonization; the birth and development of the European Community; the post war economic boom; the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe and the rebirth of nationalism in the 1990s. In addition we will compare political and social developments in selected countries (France, Great Britain, Germany, Russia, Poland, Italy).

Attendance and participation in weekly discussion sections is mandatory. You must complete the assigned reading before your weekly section meeting. The weekly readings from William Hitchcock's Struggle for Europe are designed to complement the lectures. Students are also required to attend two films (Tuesdays at 7 pm) during the course of the semester. Changes in the readings and lectures, along with various announcements, will be sent out on the class email list.

There will be one two hour final examination and one in-class map quiz. In addition, all students are required to write three 6 page papers on assigned topics that will be handed out in advance and write two one page papers on documents. Students are urged to familiarize themselves with the rules and guidelines concerning plagiarism-- cases of plagiarism or cheating will be dealt with severely (University policy on plagiarism is available at: <http://www.wisc.edu/students/saja/misconduct/UWS14.html>). Grading: 25% of your grade will be determined by your participation in section, the two one page papers, and the map quiz. Students who rarely come to section will fail this component of the class. The rest of the grade will be based on the three papers (20% each) and the final exam (15%).

My office hours are Tuesday, 1-2 pm and Thursday 3:30 to 4:30 in 5127 Humanities. You can also speak with me after class or send me an email to set up an alternative meeting time.

The following books are required and are available for purchase at the University Bookstore. In addition, a course reader is available for purchase at the Humanities Copy Center (in the Humanities Building). The books and the reader have been placed on 3 hour reserve at Helen C. White Library. Students who want to read an engaging (though lengthy) history of Europe since 1945 are urged to turn to Tony Judt's, Postwar: A History of Europe since 1945 (Penguin Books, 2005) (also on 3 hour reserve).

Textbook: William I. Hitchcock, The Struggle for Europe: The Turbulent History of a Divided Continent

Czeslaw Milosz, The Captive Mind (Vintage books)

Sherrill Brown Wells, Pioneers of European Integration and Peace, 1945-63 (Bedford/St-Martin's, 2007)

Slavenka Drakulić, How we Survived Communism and even Laughed (Harper, 1993)

Georgio, Memoirs of an Italian Terrorist (Carroll and Graf, 2003)

Ian Buruma, Murder in Amsterdam. The Death of Theo van Gogh and the Limits of Tolerance (Penguin 2006)

Fadela Amara, Breaking the Silence. French Women's Voices from the Ghetto (University of California Press, 2006).

Stephen Kotkin, Armageddon Averted: the Soviet Collapse, 1970-2000 (Oxford 2001)

Week 1 (September 4, 6) Introduction

Introduction and requirements. **Movie:** Night and Fog (*Nuit et brouillard*) directed by Alain Resnais (1955)

Reconstructing European Society

Week 2 (September 11, 13)

The Memory of War, Occupation, and the Holocaust
Purges and Retributions

Section: "Report of the Crimea Conference," The Yalta Negotiations," "Poland at the Teheran Conference" and "The Percentage Agreements" (Reader); Norman Naimark, "The Expulsion of Germans from Poland and Czechoslovakia," (Reader).

Text: Hitchcock, Struggle for Europe, 1-39

Week 3 (September 18, 20). **One page paper due in section.**

Europe between the Superpowers: The Cold War
Resistance and Submission in Eastern Europe

Section: The Nuremberg War Crimes Trial (Reader); Wells, Pioneers, 51-65; Frank Biess, "Survivors of Totalitarianism: Returning POWS and the Reconstruction of Masculine Citizenship in West Germany, 1945-1955," (Reader); Articles 1 through 28 of the Geneva Convention relative the Treatment of Prisoners of War available on the United Nations website at: <http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/91.htm>

Text: Hitchcock, Struggle for Europe, 69-97.

Begin Milosz, The Captive Mind (read ahead, this is a difficult book!)

Week 4 (September 25, 27)

From Stalin to Gorbachev
The Origins of the European Community

Section: Milosz, The Captive Mind.

Text: Hitchcock, Struggle for Europe, 98-125, 193-220

Week 5 (October 2, 4). **In Class Map Quiz, Tuesday October 2**

The Economic Miracle in the West
Decolonization and Neocolonialism

*** Tuesday October 2, 7 pm *** **Movie:** Hiroshima mon amour directed by Alain Resnais (1959)

Section: Sherrill Brown Wells, Pioneers, 79-80, 83-105, 112-137.

Text: Hitchcock, Struggle for Europe, 132-192

Week 6 (October 9, 11) . **First 6 Page Paper due** (Thursday October 11)

De Gaulle and the French Fifth Republic
Politics Italian Style

Section: Aimé Césaire, Discourse on Colonialism (reader); texts by Georges Hardy, Jean Dresch, and Albert Memmi (reader); articles 1 through 23 of the Council of Europe's Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms available at: <http://conventions.coe.int/treaty/en/treaties/html/005.htm>

Text: Hitchcock, Struggle for Europe, 221-241

Week 7 (October 16, 18)

May 1968 and the Challenge to Industrial and Consumer Society
Terrorism and the Crisis of the 1970s in Italy and Germany

Section: Charles de Gaulle, "Europe," (reader), "Speeches and documents" (reader); Wells, Pioneers, 138-39, 142-52.

Text: Hitchcock, Struggle for Europe, 243-268

Week 8 (October 23, 25). **One page paper due in section**

An Enduring Fear: Americanization
The Decline of Religion

Section: Georgio, Memoirs of a Terrorist (entire book)

Week 9. (October 30, November 1). **Second 6 Page Paper due** (Thursday November 1)

Gender, Sexuality, and the Family

The Intellectual Crisis: From Existentialism to Post Modernism

Section: Richard Kuisel, “Yankee go Home: The Left, Coca-Cola, and the Cold War; ”

Reihold Wagnleitner, Coca-Colonization and the Cold War, 1-7, 222-270 (Reader);

Simone de Beauvoir, The Second Sex (reader).

Week 10 (November 6, 8)

Democratization in Southern Europe: Greece, Spain, and Portugal

Resistance in the East: The Polish Solidarity Movement

Section: Drakulić, How we Survived Communism and even Laughed

Text: Hitchcock, Struggle for Europe, 269-310

Week 11 (November 13, 15)

A Continent of Immigrants

The Turning Point: The Collapse of the Soviet System, 1991

Section: Fadela Amara, Breaking the Silence. French Women’s Voices from the Ghetto

Text: Hitchcock, Struggle for Europe, 347-79

Week 12 (November 20).

The Collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe

Section: Mikhail Gorbachev, “A Common European Home,” and “We Opened Ourselves to the World,” (Reader); Kotkin, Armageddon Averted, 1-9, 31-112.

Text: Hitchcock, Struggle for Europe, 410-434.

Thanksgiving

Week 13 (November 27, 29) .

German Reunification

The Crisis of Welfare and the Changing Role of the State

*** Tuesday November 27, 7 pm *** **Movie:** The Lives of Others (*Das Leben der Anderen*), directed by Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck (2007)

Section: Kotkin, Armageddon Averted, 113-196; Václav Havel, “New Year’s Address to the Nation,” “A Joint Session of the U.S. Congress,” “The Visit of German President von Weizsäcker,” “The Council of Europe;” (Reader) Corey Ross “The End of the GDR: Revolution from Below, Implosion from Within, Collapse from Outside” (reader);
Text: Hitchcock, Struggle for Europe, 310-409

Week 14 (December 4, 6) **Third 6 Page Paper due** (Tuesday December 4)

The Yugoslav War and the Nationalist Revival in the East
The New Extreme Right

Section: Ian Buruma, Murder in Amsterdam

Week 15 (December 11, 13)

The Crisis of the EU
Review

Section: Hitchcock, Struggle for Europe, 435-64; Tony Judt, “Europe: The Grand Illusion,” (reader); Edward DeClair, “The Far Right in Comparative Perspective” (reader).

Final Exam: Thursday December 20, 12:25 pm