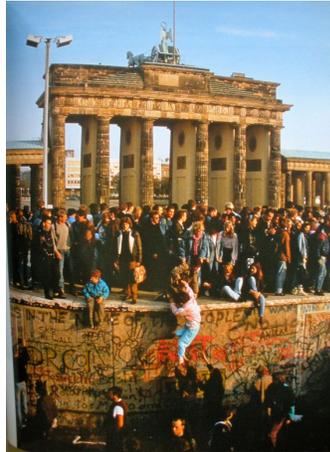


HISTORY 359: EUROPE SINCE 1945

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of History



Italian poster in favor of European Unity, 1957



Fall of the Berlin Wall, 1989



Muslims praying in Marseille France, 1994

*Spring 2022
Monday-Wednesday at 4:15
1195 Grainger*

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Course Description: How did Europe rebuild from the ashes of World War II? This course explores the history of the European Continent from war's end to the present. We will focus on key themes such as the legacy of Nazism and the Holocaust; the Cold War and the rivalry between the superpowers; decolonization and the end of the European Empires; the birth and development of the European Union; the post war economic boom; the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe; the rebirth of nationalism after 1990; the growth of the Extreme Right over the past two decades; and the expansion of Euroskepticism.

Objectives: This is an upper division course that will provide you with an in-depth overview of European history since the end of the Second World War. In this class you will:

- Gain an understanding of Europe's social, political and cultural history.
- Situate Europe changing place in the world (loss of big power status; loss of Empire; development of the European Union).
- Understand how the past informs Europe's present, and how contemporary developments shape our understanding of the continent's past.
- Learn how to use different kinds of sources (novels, films, secondary sources) to make persuasive arguments about the past.
- Learn how to make concise arguments.

Requirements: There will be two one-page papers, one five-page paper and one six-page paper, and one two-hour final examination. Essay topics will be distributed in advance; papers require no outside research and will be based on class readings.

Discussions:

Complete the readings ahead of our in-class discussions. These are marked with an → on this syllabus.

Ten of our class sessions will be devoted, either in part or entirely, to discussing the readings and the movies. Please refer to the schedule below for the exact dates. Plan ahead: we are reading entire books, some of them more arduous than others. You won't be able to complete the reading if you begin the night before. By 8 pm on the evening before each discussion students should post on the class Canvas page:

1) A one paragraph response to the reading or movie. Among the question you may wish to consider: Was the reading or the film compelling and why? What questions are left unanswered? How does it shed light on the issues we are studying in class?

2) One question for discussion.

Your posts will not be graded, but I will take them into account when I calculate your discussion grade.

Movies: We will watch (and discuss) three movies: Alain Resnais' *Night and Fog* (*Nuit et brouillard*), Rainer Werner Fassbinder's *The Marriage of Maria Braun*, and Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck's *The Lives of Others* (*Das Leben der Anderen*).

Grading: Two one-page papers (5% each), 5 page paper (25%), 6 page paper (30%), take home final (15%), and discussion (20%).

Credits: This is a 3-credit class. The credit standard for this course is met by an expectation of a total of 135 hours of student engagement with the course's learning

activities (at least 45 hours per credit or 9 hours per week), which include regularly scheduled meeting times (group seminar meetings of 115 minutes per week), dedicated online time, reading, writing, field trips, individual consultations with the instructor, and other student work as described in the syllabus.

Plagiarism: I expect you to hand in your own work, and not to borrow sentences or sentence fragments from books, articles, or the web. In other words, all your sentences should be of your own making (if you use more than three successive words from a book, you should put them in quotation marks). Students are urged to familiarize themselves with the rules and guidelines concerning plagiarism -- any cases of plagiarism or cheating will be dealt with severely. Downloading material from the web and claiming it as your own is a form of plagiarism. To learn more about quoting and paraphrasing check the Writing Center's excellent tips at <https://writing.wisc.edu/handbook/assignments/quoting/sources/> If you are unclear about what you should or should not be doing, **please ask**.

Further information on the University's policies on plagiarism can be found at https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/uws/14

Electronic Devices: Please turn off all electronic devices (including laptops) during lecture. Research suggests that students learn more when they take notes by hand and they perform better than students who are electronically connected. Laptops can be distracting both for the user (who is often tempted to surf the web) and for his or her neighbors. Multitasking is not conducive to learning. During lecture and discussion you should focus on the material and keep outside distractions to a minimum.

The History Lab: The History Lab is a resource center staffed by History PhD students who can provide you with one on one consultations during the writing process. For instructions on how to make an appointment and a short explanatory video, see [The History Lab – Department of History – UW–Madison](#)

Course Evaluations: Students will be provided with an opportunity to evaluate this course and your learning experience. Student participation is an integral component of this course, and your feedback is important to me. I strongly encourage you to participate in the course evaluation.

COVID-19: For up-to-date University guidelines, please consult covidresponse.wisc.edu. Face masks: you are expected to wear a facemask when you are inside any university building and, of course, when you are in class. Masks must be **worn correctly** (i.e., covering both your mouth and nose). **Please stay home if you feel any COVID symptoms** and stay home if you test positive. I will work with you to make sure you can stay up to date with the class.

Accommodations: The University of Wisconsin-Madison supports the right of all enrolled students to a full and equal educational opportunity. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Wisconsin State Statute (36.12), and UW-Madison policy ([UW-855](#)) require the university to provide reasonable accommodations to students with

disabilities to access and participate in its academic programs and educational services. Faculty and students share responsibility in the accommodation process. Students are expected to inform me of their need for instructional accommodations during the beginning of the semester, or as soon as possible after being approved for accommodations. I will work either directly with you or in coordination with the McBurney Center to provide reasonable instructional and course-related accommodations. Disability information, including instructional accommodations as part of a student's educational record, is confidential and protected under FERPA. (See: [McBurney Disability Resource Center](#))

University Statement on Diversity: Diversity is a source of strength, creativity, and innovation for UW-Madison. We value the contributions of each person and respect the profound ways their identity, culture, background, experience, status, abilities, and opinion enrich the university community. We commit ourselves to the pursuit of excellence in teaching, research, outreach, and diversity as inextricably linked goals.

Office hours: Monday 1:30 to 3:30, either in person or on Zoom. You can also speak with me after class or send me an email to set up an alternative meeting time. I'm always happy to meet with you to discuss the class.

Readings: The following books are **required** and can be purchased at the bookstore of your choice. Students who want to read an engaging (though lengthy) history of Europe since 1945 can turn to Tony Judt's, Postwar: A History of Europe since 1945 (Penguin, 2005).

Primo Levi, The Reawakening (Touchstone, 1995). 9780684826356

Czeslaw Milosz, The Captive Mind (Vintage, 1990) 9780679728566

Georgio, Memoirs of an Italian Terrorist (Carroll and Graf, 2003) 9780786711345

Ian Buruma, Murder in Amsterdam. The Death of Theo van Gogh and the Limits of Tolerance (Penguin, 2006) 9780143112365

Faïza Guène, Kiffe Kiffe Tomorrow (Mariner Books, 2006) 9780156030489

Svetlana Alexievich, Secondhand Time: The Last of the Soviets (Random House, 2016) 9780399588808

Recommended Textbook: William I. Hitchcock, The Struggle for Europe: The Turbulent History of a Divided Continent (Anchor, 2004) 9780385497992

Week 1

January 26: Introduction. Survival and Reconstruction

Week 2

January 31: Purges and Retributions

Feb 2: The Memory of War, Occupation, and the Holocaust

For Feb 2: **Movie: Night and Fog** (*Nuit et brouillard*) directed by Alain

Resnais (France, 1955). Available via the library website on Kanopy. We'll

discuss it in class. Remember to post comment and question on Canvas by 8 pm on Feb 1.

Week 3

Feb 7: Europe Divided: The Cold War, 1947-65

➔Feb 9: **Discussion, Primo Levi, *The Reawakening*** (read entire book).

Remember to post comment and question on Canvas by 8 pm on Feb 8.

One page paper due Feb 9 in class.

Week 4 (September 27, 29).

Feb 14: From Stalin to Gorbachev

Feb 16: The Origins of the European Union, 1940s-1990s

Begin Milosz, *The Captive Mind* (read ahead, this is an arduous book!)

Week 5

Feb 21: Repression and Resistance in Eastern Europe

February 23: ➔**Discussion: Milosz, *The Captive Mind* (entire book)**

Week 6

February 28: Decolonization and the End of Empire

March 2: European Economic Boom and Politics Italian Style

5 Page Paper due Monday Feb 28

Movie on March 2: Rainer Werner Fassbinder, *The Marriage of Maria Braun* (Federal Republic of Germany, 1979). Available via the library website on Kanopy.

Week 7

March 7: May 1968 and the Challenge to Industrial and Consumer Society

March 9: Domestic Terrorism from the 1970s to the 2020s

➔**Discussion on March 9: Georgio, *Memoirs of a Terrorist* (entire book)**

Week 8 Spring Break

Week 9.

March 21: : Gender, Sexuality, and the Family

March 23: A Continent of Immigrants

Week 10

March 28: A Changing Religious Landscape

➔March 30: **Discussion: Faïza Guène, *Kiffe Kiffe Tomorrow***

1 Page Paper due in class on March 30

Week 11

April 4: Democratization in Southern Europe: Greece, Spain, and Portugal

April 6: German Reunification and the Collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe

Movie April 6: The Lives of Others (*Das Leben der Anderen*), directed by Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck (Germany, 2007). You'll find it here: https://dllstream.library.wisc.edu/player/index.html?item_id=43 (you'll need your NetId and password)

Week 12

April 11: The Turning Point: The Implosion of the Soviet System, 1991

➔ April 13: **Discussion:** Svetlana Alexievich, *Secondhand Time: The Last of the Soviets*

Week 13

April 18: Neoliberalism and the Challenge to the Welfare State

April 20: The Yugoslav War and the Nationalist Revival in the East

6 Page Paper due April 18

Week 14

April 25: The New Extreme Right

➔ April 27: **Discussion:** Ian Buruma, *Murder in Amsterdam*

Week 15

May 2: Euroscepticism, Brexit, and the Crisis of the EU

May 4: Europe in the twenty first century

*****Final Exam: Sunday May 8, 5:05-7:05 pm*****

