

History 475
European Social History, 1914 to the Present
R. Koshar
Semester II, 1992-93
TR 9:30-10:45

Course Goals

This course surveys the social history of Europe from 1914 to the present. In order to make this vast subject more manageable, it places emphasis on England, France, and Germany, although it incorporates material on Russia, the Soviet Union, and Eastern and Southern Europe as well. It has three main goals: to give students a narrative of major trends in economic development, state formation and political-military conflict, and popular-cultural representation; to chart patterns of change and continuity in European social identities, particularly with reference to nation, class, and gender; and above all to help students think and write more critically.

Required Reading

Students are expected to have completed the required reading by the end of each weekly segment, although the lectures will be a good deal more useful to students if they complete the reading before or during each segment. Throughout the semester we will have discussion sessions in conjunction with specific reading and lecture materials. Required reading is available at the University Book Store and is on reserve at the College Library. Required texts are as follows:

John Bornemann, After the Wall: East Meets West in the New Berlin (Basic)

Emilie Carles, A Life of Her Own: The Transformation of a Countrywoman in Twentieth-Century France (Penguin)

Ian Kershaw, Popular Opinion and Political Dissent in the Third Reich: Bavaria 1933-1945 (Oxford)

Robert Roberts, The Classic Slum: Salford Life in the First Quarter of the Twentieth Century (Penguin)

Frank Tipton and Robert Aldrich, An Economic and Social History of Europe, 1890-1939 (Johns Hopkins)

Frank Tipton and Robert Aldrich, An Economic and Social History of Europe from 1939 to the Present (Johns Hopkins)

Assignments and Grading

There are no in-class exams. Assignments include two essays of roughly 4-6 typed, double-spaced pages (6-8 pages for four-credit undergraduates) on a question assigned by the instructor as well

as one take-home final for which students will answer two essay questions (three for 4-credit undergraduates). In addition to writing two 4-6 page essays, graduate students, in consultation with the instructor, will write a bibliographical essay of roughly 15-18 pages in place of the take-home final. Late papers lose one gradation per day. Students may rewrite the first short essay for a new grade providing they submitted the paper on time. The course will have a grader whose primary responsibility is the reading of papers. Students who have specific questions about the grading of these assignments should see the grader, but those who would like to discuss substantive issues raised by the course material or who need clarification of the assignments should see me. The two shorter assignments account for about fifty percent of the total grade, the take-home final for the other fifty percent. The short essays are due on February 18 and March 25, the take-home during the summary period.

I. Contexts of the Twentieth Century

January 19 Introduction
January 21 Second "industrial revolution"

Reading: Tipton and Aldrich I, 1-23, 38-41, 46-61, 65-70

January 26 Class and gender in the new industrial age
January 28 Nationalism, racism, imperialism

Reading: Tipton and Aldrich I, 71-113, 122-134; Carles, 1-63

February 2 The road to World War I
February 4 "Storm of Steel"

Reading: Tipton and Aldrich I, 135-162; Roberts, 9-74, 146-214

II. European Society from War to War

February 9 Overview: The impact of World War I
February 11 Economic stabilization and crises

Reading: Tipton and Aldrich I, 163-181, 192-234; Roberts, 215-238

February 16 Work, class, and gender in a rationalized society
February 18 Popular and commercial culture
First essay due

Reading: Tipton and Aldrich I, 235-244, 246-247, 254-265; Carles, 65-151

February 23 The Bolshevik revolution
February 25 Society and politics in the democratic states

Reading: Tipton and Aldrich I, 266-278, 280-289; Carles, 153-193

March 2 Fascism: An overview
March 4 Social roots of Nazism

Reading: Tipton and Aldrich I, 289-296; Kershaw, 1-29, 33-110

March 6-14 SPRING RECESS

March 16 "State" and "society" under Nazism
March 18 Resistance, compliance, indifference under Nazism

Reading: Kershaw, 111-155, 224-277, 358-372

March 23 The road to World War II
March 25 European society and total war
Second essay due

Reading: Tipton and Aldrich I, 297-303; Tipton and Aldrich II, 1-46; Carles, 195-219

III. Social and Political Life in (and after) the Cold War

March 30 Overview: The postwar situation
April 1 Division of Germany

Reading: Tipton and Aldrich II, 47-80; Carles, 221-264

April 6 Economic reconstruction in the 1950s
April 8 Rebuilding of cities

Reading: Tipton and Aldrich II, 81-136

April 13 Class and gender in an age of reconstruction
April 15 Commercial culture and "mass society"

Reading: Tipton and Aldrich II, 137-198

April 20 Youth, boredom, rock
April 22 Politics and ideology in the new Europe

Reading: Tipton and Aldrich II, 199-274; Bornemann, 1-37

April 27 Sociopolitical identities in the two Germanys
April 29 1989

Reading: Bornemann, 38-149

May 4 Memory and politics after the Cold War
May 6 Concluding remarks

Reading: Bornemann, 150-254

Summary period: Take-home final due