

HISTORY 303:

EUROPE IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Prof. John McCole

- Fall Term 2022
- MWF 1:00-1:50 in Willamette 100
- How to reach me: mccole@uoregon.edu
- Office hours: Thursdays 1-3 and by appointment, either in McKenzie 303 or via Zoom.
- For quick questions, you can email me at any time (mccole@uoregon.edu).
- GEs: Matthew McIntosh (mmcinto4@uoregon.edu), Mikaela Sweet (msweet@uoregon.edu)

•This page describes the course topic, the requirements, what you'll learn, and important course policies. Be sure to read it carefully.

•For a detailed week-by-week schedule and readings, scroll down.

Course Description

I'll be teaching the course this fall with attention almost every week to the roots of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

We'll be examining the history of Europe in the twentieth century and into our own time. But equally important, this is a course with a theme: democracy in Europe. It's not a complacent story about the inevitable triumph of democracy over the alternatives. Throughout this period, democracy had to be fought for, extended, reimagined, defended, and reinvented. Even the major alternatives to democracy, fascism and Soviet Communism, claimed to represent the will of the people more authentically than parliamentary democracy. And in our own time, Europe is again witnessing disturbing right-wing challenges to democracy--as the Russian invasion of Ukraine demonstrates.

This course also has an approach, because historians don't simply figure out what happened in the past. Just as importantly, we also ask and try to answer questions, especially "why?" questions. Why did the post-World War I spread of democracy prove so disappointing to so many Europeans? Why were they attracted to authoritarian alternatives during the interwar period? Why were western Europeans able to reach such a surprising consensus on how to reinvent parliamentary democracy after World War II? And why have the democratic hopes of the non-violent revolutions of 1989 in Communist Europe been threatened by the rise of illiberal, undemocratic forces?

Course requirements

- **attendance and participation:** attendance at class and participation in weekly discussions on primary source readings (10% of your course grade)
- **quizzes:** short online quizzes on the lectures and reading in some weeks, approx. 6 of them (10%)
- **an in-class midterm exam** on Monday, October 24 (week 5) (20%)
- **a sit-down final exam** on Tuesday, December 6 from 2:45-4:45 p.m. (during exam period) (20%)
- **a 4-5 page paper** analyzing ordinary Germans' support for the Nazi regime (20%)-- due on Monday, November 7 (week 6) (20%)
- **a 4-5 page paper** analyzing the nonviolent revolutions of 1989 that ended Communism in eastern Europe--due on Monday, November 28 (week 10) (20%)

MY POLICY ABOUT ABSENCE FROM DISCUSSIONS: if you need to miss a discussion, I'll give you an alternative, written assignment. But please don't make a habit of missing discussions except for necessary occasions--you'll be depriving yourself of an important part of the course learning experience.

Readings

- **Required and available from the bookstore (a.k.a Duck Store) and also easy to purchase online:**
- Konrad Jarausch, *Out of Ashes: A New History of Europe in the Twentieth Century*
- Robert G. Moeller, ed., *The Nazi State and German Society*

•Timothy Garton Ash, *The Magic Lantern: The Revolution of '89 Witnessed in Warsaw, Budapest, Berlin, and Prague*

•**Online readings and pdf files:**

Konrad Jarausch, *Out of Ashes*, is available as an ebook via Knight Library. It's a free digital loan.

Please look in the course schedule below for the locations of online readings and links to download pdf files required for this course. All pdf files will also be available in the Modules section of Canvas.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT TO LEARN

- 1.A basic knowledge of the history of Europe in the twentieth century, including events and key dates; ideologies and ideas; political, social, and cultural movements; and major economic developments (a basic mastery of this knowledge is necessary, but not sufficient to do well);
- 2.how to think about history in terms of political, economic, social, and cultural forces and how they interact;
- 3.how historians and others go about explaining why things happened the way they did and not otherwise; let's call this historical reasoning. History is much more than just "what happened!"
- 4.some of the main controversies about Europe's twentieth-century history;
- 5.skills in evaluating primary source documents; and
- 6.basic visual literacy in the images and iconography of twentieth-century Europe.

COURSE POLICIES

Dealing with Covid-related absences

Please do the right thing and observe the UO's current policy about Covid-related quarantines. Don't come to class sick! I won't penalize you for being absent, and I'll provide help to make sure you don't miss any material that we cover while you're out. You can find the UO's current policies here:

<https://coronavirus.uoregon.edu/?%22>

Academic honesty;--important, please read this!

I take academic honesty seriously. Please be sure that you are familiar with the University's policies regarding academic honesty. They're part of the Student Conduct Code, and can be found here:

<https://dos.uoregon.edu/code-procedures>

All work that you submit for this course, including papers and exams, must be your own, and it must have been produced for this course. When you submit work for the course, you are certifying that you have complied with these guidelines.

Be sure you do not inadvertently commit plagiarism. To learn more, I recommend [this excellent resource from Bowdoin College, which also explains how to cite things correctly.](#)

My policy on late work

Please understand that these policies are in the interest of fairness to your fellow students.

Papers submitted late will be penalized. The penalty will be modest at first, then gradually increasing depending on how late. But it's always worth your while to submit work, even if it is late.

For the first 24 hours late, the penalty is one grade notch--for instance, a B becomes a B minus. After a week, the penalty reaches one full grade, the maximum penalty. Again, it's always worth your while to submit work even if it's late.

My grading standards

The paper assignments will describe the criteria that will be used to grade them. I don't grade on a curve. I grade for accomplishment, not effort. In general, these are my standards for grading, which reflect the History Department's criteria:

A: Work that distinguishes itself through its sophisticated grasp of the material, in addition to being well executed and reasonably free of errors.

B: Work that solidly satisfies the assignment's main criteria but lacks the element of distinction that carries the work into the realm of excellence.

C: Work that demonstrates a rudimentary grasp of the material and satisfies at least some of the assigned criteria reasonably well.

D: Work that demonstrates a poor grasp of the material and/or is executed with little regard for college standards, but which exhibits some engagement with the material.

F: Work that is weak in every aspect and satisfies none of the assigned criteria.

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COURSE SCHEDULE

I. The Great War and the Consequences

Unit 1: Under the Volcano: Europe on the Eve of Disaster (September 28, 30)

1 Introduction to the Course | Imperial Europe at its Zenith

2 Disruptive Forces: Challengers and Nationalism

reading:

•Jarausch, Chs. 1: "Global Domination," and 2: "Breakdown of Peace"

•Emmeline Pankhurst, [My Own Story](#) (1914). Excerpts online at that link--OR go to this week's module and get a pdf version

•F. T. Marinetti, "[Manifesto of Futurism](#)" (1909) (online)

Unit 2: World War I and the Russian Revolution (October 3, 5, 7)

1 Total War and the Fallout

2 Revolution from the Left: The Bolshevik Revolution and the Soviet Union

Discussion Friday, October 7: Lenin (see reading, next)

reading:

- Jarausch, Chs. 3: “Waging Total War,” and 4: “Bolshevik Revolution”
- Lenin, “The Dictatorship of the Proletariat” (download the pdf from Modules)

II. The Interwar Crisis

Unit 3: The Democratic Wave and Its Failures (October 10, 12, 14)

1 Hopeful, Divided, and Demoralized Democracies

2 Counterrevolution from the Right: The Birth of Fascism in Italy

Discussion Friday, October 14: Benito Mussolini (see reading, next)

reading:

- Jarausch, Chs. 5: “Democratic Hopes,” and 6: “The Fascist Alternative,”
- Benito Mussolini, [“The Doctrine of Fascism” \(1932\)](#) (click to download .pdf)

Unit 4: The Great Depression and the Rise of Nazism (October 17, 19, 21)

1 The Crisis of Capitalism: The Great Depression

2 Nazi Germany

Discussion Friday, October 21: George Orwell (see reading, next)

reading:

- Jarausch, Chs. 8: “Devastating Depression,” and 10: “Hitler’s *Volksgemeinschaft*”
- George Orwell, [The Road to Wigan Pier](#), Part I, Chapter 5 (.pdf of the entire book; you’re only required to read that chapter)

•Peter Fritzsche, *Life and Death in the Third Reich*, excerpts (download this .pdf file):

--“Reviving the Nation,” pp. 19-43

--“Racial Grooming,” pp. 76-96

Monday, October 24: MIDTERM EXAM in class

Unit 5: Interwar Social and Cultural Change (October 26, 28, 31)

1 and 2 The Modernist Social and Cultural Revolution: Women and Mass Culture

Discussion Friday, October 30: Virginia Woolf (see reading, next)

reading:

•Jarausch, Ch. 7: “Modernist Provocations”

•Virginia Woolf, [A Room of One's Own](#) (click to download public domain pdf), parts One and Six (pp. 4-21, 80-95)

•optional: I strongly recommend you watch Fritz Lang's blockbuster film "[Metropolis](#)" (1927)

Unit 6: The USSR, and the Road to Another World War (November 2, 4, 7)

1 Stalinism in the Soviet Union

2 The Road to World War II

Discussion Monday, November 7: John Scott (see reading, next)

reading:

•Jarausch, Chs. 9, “Stalinist Modernization,” and 13, “Nazi Holocaust”

•Stalin, “[Speech to Industrial Managers](#)” on rapid industrialization (1931) (click on the title to read it online)--this is brief but important

• John Scott, *Behind the Urals: An American Worker in Russia's City of Steel*, excerpt (.pdf file and discussion questions in this week's Module)

III. Postwar Europe, West and East

Unit 7: Europe's Nadir and Communist Modernity in the East (November 9, 14)

1 The Catastrophes: World War, Occupation, Carnage, and Genocide

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11: NO CLASS--VETERANS' DAY (UO-OBSERVED HOLIDAY)

2 Toward Post-Stalinism: Communist Modernity

(on hold due to holiday the previous Friday) ~~Discussion Monday, November 14: Václav Havel (see reading, next)~~

reading:

• Jarausch, Chs. 13, "Nazi Holocaust," 14: "Bitter Victory," and 16: "Dictating Communism,"

• [United Nations resolution on genocide \(1948\)](#) (click to read online)

• Václav Havel, ["The Power of the Powerless" \(1978\)](#), [excerpt](#) (pdf file and discussion questions in Modules)

Read these selections (about 20 pp. total):

- bottom ¶ on p. 40
- section III, all (pp. 41-3)
- section VI, from p. 52 ("If an entire district") to end of section
- section VII, all (pp. 55-middle of 56),
- section VIII, pp. 57-top 58 only
- section IX, all

Unit 8: Reconstruction in the West and Decolonization (November 16, 18, 21)

1 The Reinvention of Democracy in Western Europe

2 Europe's Changing Place in the World: The Demise of Empires and the New Migrants

Discussion Monday, November 21: Stephen Hill (see reading, next)

reading:

- Jarausch, Chs. 15: “Democratic Renewal,” and 19: “Economic Integration,” and 18: “Disappointing Decolonization”
- Steven Hill, *Europe’s Promise*, excerpts (go to Modules to download the pdf):
 - “The Rise of the European Way”
 - “La Santé D’Abord” [Health Comes First]

Unit 9: The Transformation of the Postwar Order (November 23, 28)

- 1 The Social Contract in Crisis? Western Europe in the 1970s and 1980s
- 2 The Making of “1989”: The Collapse of Communism

reading:

- Jarausch, Chs. 23: “Postindustrial Transition,” and 25: “Peaceful Revolution”
- Jane Kramer, “The Invandrare” (= the Swedish word for “immigrants”)
- Timothy Garton Ash, *The Magic Lantern*

optional:

- Solidarity, [“21 Demands”](#) (1980) (click to read online)
- watch these videos of Margaret Thatcher speeches (click to read on youtube)
 1. [“the lady’s not for turning”](#) (1981)
 2. [exchange about socialism--Thatcher’s final House of Commons debate](#) (1990)

Toward Today’s Europe

Unit 10: Europe since the Twentieth Century (November 30, December 2)

- 1 Uniting, Splitting, Disappointed Hopes: Europe in the 1990s and the Aughts
- 2 Challenges for Democracy in Twenty-First Century Europe

reading:

Jarausch, Ch. 28: "Prospects for the Twenty-First Century;" and Postscript: "A Chastened Modernity," pp. 780-88 only

FINAL EXAM on Tuesday, December 6 from 2:45-4:45 p.m.