

20TH CENTURY EUROPE

Spring 2011

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Office: Evans Hall 112A
Office Hours: MTW 1:45-5:05

Classes: History 333 A & Honors 250H E
Meeting times: Tues/Thurs 9:30-10:45 a.m.
Classroom: Evans Hall 123

Course description:

Examination of political, social and cultural change in Europe from World War I to the present. Course will focus on the causes and effects of World War I; the competition among liberal democracy, fascism and communism during the interwar years; World War II; the Holocaust; decolonization; the Cold War; and European unification. Prerequisite: HIS 155 or CI.

Course objectives:

This course examines the history of Europe since 1914. The course does not aim for encyclopedic coverage of every single event and development in Europe during this time period, rather it seeks to explore major political, social, and cultural developments that shaped European history in the 20th century. As such, the course is designed around six main themes: World War I and its consequences; fascism, Nazism and Stalinism; World War II and the Holocaust; the Cold War; the end of European overseas empire; and the role of memory in European history.

The course is expressly interdisciplinary in that all the readings are fundamentally autobiographical in nature. This will allow us to examine issues relating to the role of literature in creating or communicating history, the advantages and pitfalls of using autobiography to further our understanding of the past, the role of personal bias in understanding (or obfuscating) change over time, and the position and dignity of the individual in the face of impersonal forces that shaped the 20th Century (industrialism, fascism, communism, colonialism).

The course will give students the opportunity to improve their ability to read and write critically as well as analyze complex issues. Included as part of this effort will be two in-class examinations and two take-home papers. Group discussions of readings in class will offer students the chance to develop their ability to examine and interpret texts and communicate ideas effectively.

Grading and course requirements:

<u>History 333</u>		<u>Honors 250H</u>	
Map quizzes (4)	10%	Final paper on history, autobiography, and memory	20%
Participation	10%		
Paper 1	20%	Other assignments (all assignments for History 333)	80%
Paper 2	20%		
Midterm exam	15%		
Final exam	25%		
Total	100%		100%

There will be four map quizzes over the course of the semester on the dates indicated on the syllabus. The first quiz will be worth 1%, with each subsequent quiz worth one percent more than the previous quiz, for a total of 10% of the final grade (map quiz one worth 1%, quiz two worth 2%, and so forth). Each student will write two papers and complete one in-class midterm exam and one in-class final exam. Each student also will be graded on classroom work and participation. Honors 250H students must complete all assignments for HIS 333 (80% of final grade, weighted as per HIS 333 breakdown) and write a paper on autobiographical writing and history (20% of final grade). Instructions for papers will be handed out separately. Regarding attendance in class: Only completing the readings, papers, and examinations will not be enough to achieve the goals for this course because a key aspect of class will be participation in discussion. Failure to attend class or to participate will detract from your grade.

The grading scale for this course corresponds to that of Berry College and is as follows:

97-100 = A+	87-89 = B+	77-79 = C+	67-69 = D+
93-96 = A	83-86 = B	73-76 = C	63-66 = D
90-92 = A-	80-82 = B-	70-72 = C-	60-62 = D-
			59 and below = F

A range = superior work, i.e. exceptional university-level work

B range = above average work, i.e. very good university-level work

C range = average work, that is to say customary university-level work

D range = passing, yet unsatisfactory or below average work

F = failing work, that is to say insufficient, incomplete, or inferior work

You are paying a great deal of money to attend Berry College and your grades play a significant role in your future. As the instructor of this course, I see my role as a messenger: When a student does an assignment carefully and extremely well, I deliver an "A" on that assignment, and if a student sustains such exceptional work throughout the course, I mark an "A" on the grade sheet at the end of the semester. When students choose to do less than outstanding work, or do mediocre or no work, I deliver the appropriate grade. With this approach, of course, I do not curve grades either on assignments or at the end of the course. It is possible that every student will sustain exceptional work over the course of the semester and consequently earn an "A" grade. I have had classes where quite a number of students made the choice to do so. I also have had classes where many students selected much lower grades.

Course policies:

- Late assignments will not be accepted. Paper assignments and instructions will be handed out well in advance of their respective due dates.
- Electronic copies of assignments will not be accepted. One hard copy of each essay is to be handed in at the start of class on the due date indicated on the syllabus.
- All readings assigned for each date should be completed before class meets that day.
- Cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in severe penalties. Each student is required to work on his/her own to complete all assignments. Students are reminded of their responsibilities according to the Viking Code, the full text of which is available for viewing or download at <http://www.berry.edu/stulife/vikingcode.pdf>.
- The instructor reserves the right to make minor adjustments to the syllabus as necessary.

Required reading:

Robert Graves, *Good-bye to All That* ("Graves" on the course calendar)
George Orwell, *Homage to Catalonia* ("Orwell" on the calendar below)
Margarete Buber-Neumann, *Under Two Dictators* ("Buber" below)
Heda M. Kovály, *Under a Cruel Star: A Life in Prague 1941-1968* ("Kovály" below)
Henri Alleg, *The Question* ("Alleg" on the course calendar)
Günter Grass, *Crabwalk* ("Grass" below)

Recommended reading:

Felix Gilbert and David Clay Large, *The End of the European Era: 1890 to the Present*, 5th edition
("Gilbert/Large" on the calendar)

Accommodation Statement:

Students with a disability who believe that they may need accommodation in this course are encouraged to contact the Academic Support Center in Krannert Room 329 (ext. 4080) as soon as possible to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. Of course, you may see the instructor about this as well.

Course calendar:

Date	Class	Reading	Assignment due/quiz
1/13	Introduction to the course	no reading	
1/18	La Belle Époque	Graves, 1-165 Gilbert/Large, chap. 1	
1/20	World War I and the Russian Revolution	Graves, 166-198 Gilbert/Large, chap. 3	
1/25	Trying to make peace	Graves, 199-311 Gilbert/Large, chap. 4	
1/27	The Interwar Years	Graves, 312-347 Gilbert/Large, chap. 5	
2/1	<i>Discussion: Graves</i>	Orwell, intro. & 1-45	Map quiz #1
2/3	Liberal democracy, communism, fascism	Orwell, 46-107 Gilbert/Large, chap. 6	
2/8	National Socialism in Germany	Orwell, 108-194 Gilbert/Large, chap. 7	
2/10	World War II and Europe at 1945	Orwell, 195-232 Gilbert/Large, chap. 8	
2/15	<i>Discussion: Orwell</i>	Buber, 1-142	Map quiz #2

2/17	The Holocaust: Foundations	Buber, 143-160	Paper #1
2/22	Implementation and explanations	Buber, 161-248	
2/24	A history of the history of the Holocaust	Buber, 249-272	
3/1	<i>Discussion: Buber</i>	Buber, 273-341	
3/3	Midterm examination		
3/8	A brief history of the Cold War to 1945	Kovály, 5-51 Gilbert/Large, chap. 9	
3/10	The Cold War: Onset	Kovály, 52-66	
3/15-3/17	No class, spring break		
3/22	To the east of the Iron Curtain	Kovály, 67-153 Gilbert/Large, chap. 10	
3/24	<i>Discussion: Kovály</i>	Kovály, 154-192 Gilbert/Large, chap. 11	
3/29	To the west of the Iron Curtain	Alleg, foreword, intro. & preface Gilbert/Large, chap. 12	
3/31	Decolonization	Alleg, 33-43 Gilbert/Large, chap. 13	
4/5	<i>Discussion: Alleg</i>	Alleg, 44-96	Map quiz #3
4/7	Western Europe '68-'89	Gilbert/Large, chap. 14	Paper #2
4/12	Explaining 1989	Gilbert/Large, chap. 15	
4/14	The end of Yugoslavia	Grass, begin Gilbert/Large, chap. 16	
4/19	History and Memory: Nazi Germany	Grass, continue	
4/21	History and Memory: Vichy France	Grass, continue	
4/26	History and Memory: Spain and Franco	Grass, finish	Honors 250H final paper
4/28	<i>Discussion: Grass</i>	Grass, review	Map quiz #4

Final examination: Thurs., 5 May., 2011, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Evans Hall 123