

**Twentieth-Century Europe**  
**HIST 5418**  
**CRN 80618**  
**T/Th 3:30-4:45**  
**Pafford 206**  
**Fall 2008**

Professor: Dr. Tim Schroer  
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Office hours: Tues./Thurs. 1:30 - 3:00 or by appointment

**Course Description**

In this course we will survey the political, economic, military, social, and cultural history of Europe in the twentieth century. The course will provide an overview of key developments while devoting sustained attention to selected topics including: the causes and outcomes of World War I; the Soviet experiment; the failure to achieve a durable postwar settlement; the Great Depression; the rise of Fascism and Nazism; World War II and the Holocaust; the Cold War; decolonization; and the growth of the social welfare state.

**Learning Outcomes**

This course is designed to provide students actively engaged in the learning process with:

- An understanding of the important developments in the history of Europe in the twentieth century;
- An understanding of at least one important historiographic question in the field;
- An understanding of the methods used in the historical discipline; and
- The opportunity to improve reading and writing skills.

**Required Materials:**

Bonnie G. Smith, *Europe in the Contemporary World: 1900 to the Present* (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2007) ISBN 978-0-312-40699-8.

Samuel R. Williamson Jr. and Russel Van Wyk, *July 1914: Soldiers, Statesmen, and the Coming of the Great War*, The Bedford Series in History and Culture (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2003) ISBN 0-312-12010-9.

Lydia Chukovskaya, *Sofia Petrovna*, trans. Aline Werth (Evanston, Ill.: Northwestern University Press, 1967) ISBN 0-8101-1150-0.

George Orwell, *The Road to Wigan Pier* (New York: Harcourt, Harvest, 1972) ISBN 9780156767507.

Tadeusz Borowski, *This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen*, trans. Barbara Vedder (New York: Penguin, 1976) ISBN 0140186247.

Georges Perec, *Things: A Story of the Sixties & A Man Asleep*, trans. David Bellos and Andrew Leak (Boston: David R. Godine, 2002) ISBN 978-1-56792-157-1.

## Grading

Class Participation:	15 percent
Two-page paper on Tooze article:	5 percent
Book Review:	10 percent
Introduction and bibliography:	5 percent
Research Paper:	35 percent
Midterm Examination:	15 percent
Final Examination:	15 percent

There will be an in-class midterm examination and final examination. The heart of each exam will consist of essay responses to questions.

There may be additional occasional quizzes to be taken at the beginning of class. Thoughtful contributions made in class discussions will be credited in the class participation grade. Behavior (such as tardiness) that impedes other students' learning will be penalized.

Each student will write a two-page paper summarizing and evaluating the article by Adam Tooze. The paper is due on September 16.

Each student will write a three-page book review on one important secondary source relevant to the research project the student is pursuing in the course. Students must identify the book to be reviewed by September 11. The book review is due on September 25.

Each student will write a research paper from 15-18 pages in length examining some subject of interest related to the course. The paper will be based on research in primary and secondary sources. The paper must place its argument within the context of the existing historiography in the field. The paper must make proper use of footnote citation in accordance with the documentary-note system described in section 5.3 of *The History Student Writer's Manual*. That citation style is based on documentation style one of the *Chicago Manual of Style*. Dr. Dan Williams offers excellent guidance on citation using this style on his website <http://www.westga.edu/~dkwillia/HIST%202112%20-%20footnotes.htm>. The research paper is due on November 25.

On November 6, students must turn in the introduction and bibliography of their papers. The introduction should be no more than one page in length. It should introduce the historical question the paper examines and briefly state the paper's answer to that question. **It should *not* be a rough draft.** It should be a polished draft, as good as it can be, since it will be graded, and that grade will count as 5 percent of the final grade for the course. I will grade those introductions and make suggestions for improvements. Students must include the graded introduction and bibliography with the final paper turned in on November 25.

Late assignments will be penalized by deducting one letter grade for each day the assignment is late.

Formal writing assignments will be graded on the basis of the quality of the analysis and the writing, including grammar and spelling.

No extra credit will be offered. It generally takes me one week to grade a set of papers or exams.

### **Policies**

I expect each student to understand and to comply with the University of West Georgia's policies on Academic Honor and Academic Dishonesty. They may be found in the Student Handbook, on the web at <http://www.westga.edu/documents/catalogs.php>. Academic honesty prohibits taking credit for someone else's work. Academic dishonesty will result in failing the course and may also bring additional penalties imposed by the university.

I encourage any student who has questions or needs help with the course to come to my office hours or send me an email to set up a time to talk. In addition, students may wish to consult with the Writing Center (<http://www.westga.edu/~writing>) and/or the EXCEL Center (<http://www.westga.edu/~EXCELCenter>).

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and university policy, I will make reasonable accommodation for any recognized disability. Students should contact me during the first three weeks of the course and present documentation from the University's Student Development Center.

I strongly encourage students to attend class. Students who attend class tend to learn more and get better grades than those who do not. Class discussion sometimes affords new insights that cannot be planned or predicted. In case of absence, it is the responsibility of the student to obtain notes from a classmate covering what was missed. I do not penalize students for absences, but students receive no credit for participating or on any tests or quizzes on missed class days. A student who does not take a quiz or test in class with the rest of the class receives a zero. I do not permit students to take any test, quiz, or other graded work at any time other than in class as scheduled except in rare cases of prior approval or with a physician's note.

Students should regularly check their University of West Georgia email account. All submitted written work must be unique to this course and original.

### **Course Schedule**

Aug. 19	Introduction
Aug. 21	Europe at the opening of the twentieth century
Reading:	Smith, <i>Europe</i> , introduction-92, 106-27

- Aug. 26            The origins of the Great War  
Reading:          Smith, *Europe*, 92-100
- Aug. 28            The outbreak of war  
Reading:          Williamson and Van Wyk, *July 1914*
- Sep. 2             Total war  
Reading:          Smith, *Europe*, 128-47, 162-67, 174-80
- Sep. 4             War without end?  
Reading:          Susan Grayzel, "Liberating Women? Examining Gender, Morality and Sexuality in First World War Britain and France," in *Evidence, History and the Great War*, ed. Gail Braybon (New York: Berghahn, 2003), 113-34. Electronic reserve.
- Sep. 9             The Russian Revolution  
Reading:          Smith, *Europe*, 147-53, 168-70
- Sep. 11            Peacemaking  
Reading:          Smith, *Europe*, 153-61, 171-73  
Students must submit a written statement of question to be addressed in the research paper with a preliminary bibliography; students must also identify the book to be reviewed
- Sep. 16            Problems with the peace  
Reading:          Smith, *Europe*, 186-97  
Adam Tooze, "Trouble with Numbers: Statistics, Politics, and History in the Construction of Weimar's Trade Balance, 1918-1924," *American Historical Review* 113 (2008): 678-700. Electronic reserve.  
Two-page paper summarizing and evaluating the article due
- Sep. 18            The 1920s  
Reading:          Smith, *Europe*, 197-218, 232-53
- Sep. 23            The New Right  
Reading:          Smith, *Europe*, 218-27  
Mussolini on Fascism  
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/mussolini-fascism.html>
- Sep. 25            The Great Depression  
Reading:          Smith, *Europe*, 254-64  
Book review due
- Sep. 30            Democracy under stress  
Reading:          George Orwell, *The Road to Wigan Pier*  
Smith, *Europe*, 279-84, 295-99

- Oct. 2            The Soviet Union under Stalin  
Reading:        Smith, *Europe*, 273-79, 300-303
- Oct. 7            Midterm Examination
- Oct. 9            No class Fall Break
- Oct. 14          The Terror  
Reading:        Lydia Chukovskaya, *Sophia Petrovna*
- Oct. 16          The Third Reich  
Reading:        Smith, *Europe*, 264-72, 308-14  
Groß on Nazi Racial Policy  
<http://www.calvin.edu/academic/cas/gpa/gross.htm>
- Oct. 21          Appeasement and the origins of World War II  
Reading:        Smith, *Europe*, 284-94
- Oct. 23          World War II  
Reading:        Smith, *Europe*, 320-47, 356-80
- Oct. 28          The origins of the Final Solution  
Reading:        Hitler's Reichstag speech of January 30, 1939, on electronic reserve  
Himmler, "Some Thoughts on the Treatment of the Alien Population in  
the East" on electronic reserve
- Oct. 30          The Holocaust  
Reading:        Tadeusz Borowski, *This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen*  
Himmler's speech at Posen  
<http://www.nizkor.org/hweb/people/h/himmler-heinrich/posen/oct-04-43/ausrottung-transl-nizkor.html>
- Nov. 4            No class
- Nov. 6            The postwar order  
Reading:        Smith, *Europe*, 347-55, 384-443  
Introduction and bibliography for research paper due
- Nov. 11          The rise of Western Europe, 1945-1960  
Reading:        Smith, *Europe*, 444-56, 458-61, 466-68, 475-77
- Nov. 13          The rise of Eastern Europe, 1945-1960  
Reading:        Smith, *Europe*, 456-58, 461-66, 478-86
- Nov. 18          Decolonization

Reading: Smith, *Europe*, 498-553

Nov. 20 The joys and sorrows of prosperity  
Reading: Georges Perec, *Things: A Story of the Sixties*  
Smith, *Europe*, 468-74, 487-97

Nov. 25 Student radicalism  
Reading: Smith, *Europe*, 554-612  
Research paper due

Nov. 27 No class for Thanksgiving

Dec. 2 Europe united?  
Reading: Smith, *Europe*, 618-73

Dec. 4 Conclusion  
Reading: Smith, *Europe*, skim 678-end

**Mandatory Final Exam**

Thursday, December 11, 2:00 – 4:00 pm