

Twentieth-Century Europe
HIST 4418 (WAC)
CRN 80601
T/Th 3:30-4:45
Pafford 206
Fall 2008

Professor: Dr. Tim Schroer
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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.

As stated in the Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) guidance, the “W” designation for this course indicates that it is a WAC course. Students are required to complete successfully two “W” courses for an undergraduate degree in the College of Arts and Sciences. The WAC program is premised on the idea that writing is a valuable tool for learning and communication. The writing components of this course therefore are designed to help students learn the material and communicate that material.

Prerequisites

Each student should have already completed three credits of global history and three credits of U.S. history. In addition, because this is a WAC course, each student should have already completed ENGL 1101 and 1102 (or their equivalent). Any student registered for the course who has not completed the prerequisites should see me.

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 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

Book Review:	10 percent
Class Participation:	15 percent
Introduction and bibliography:	5 percent
Research Paper:	25 percent
Midterm Examination:	20 percent
Final Examination:	25 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 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 13-15 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 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, *Europe*, 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
- 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