

Syllabus, 20th Century Europe

Rutgers University, Newark

1. Course and Instructor Information

Semester: Fall 2021

Time: Thursdays, 6:00pm to 9:00pm

Location: Hill 104

Identifiers: Unit 21, Subject 510, Course 358, Section 63

Credits/Hours: 3

Instructor: Ray Ojserkis, PhD

Contact: ray.ojserkis@gmail.com

Office: Email to set up an online meeting.

2. Course Description

We will survey a wide array of topics, including (but not limited to) origins, nature, and consequences of World War I and World War II, the Russian Revolution and Soviet domestic policies, Nazism, the Holocaust, the Marshall Plan and the origins of the Cold War, the origins and development of European Union, and the revolutions of 1989. For more details, please see the calendar below.

3. Goals

Our goals include

- A. basic knowledge of 20th century European history, especially its broad patterns
- B. familiarity with some common interpretations of European history
- C. ability to engage critically with others who often do not share the same interpretations of events
- D. familiarity with use of primary sources, especially the connections between the author's goals and his or her arguments and his or her method of argumentation
- E. improved skills in synthesizing and communicating historical information, and constructing sound arguments

4. Grading Policy

Your course grade will be determined by weighting the graded components as follows:

Unannounced Reading Quizzes	20% (two lowest automatically dropped)
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2 (non-cumulative)	20%
Exam 3 (non-cumulative)	20%
Research Essay	20%

Your five letter-grades will be converted to numerical equivalents, using the Rutgers letter-grade scale:

<u>Letter</u> <u>Grade</u>	<u>Numerical</u> <u>Equivalent</u>
A	4.0
B+	3.5
B	3.0
C+	2.5
C	2.0
D	1.0
F	0.0

These numbers will be summed. For example, if you have a C+, A, A, C, and B on the five components, your total points are:

$$2.5 + 4.0 + 4.0 + 2.0 + 3.0 = 15.5$$

This is the table for converting the sum to a course grade:

18.75 ≤	A	≤ 20
16.25 ≤	B+	< 18.75
13.75 ≤	B	< 16.25
11.25 ≤	C+	< 13.75
7.5 ≤	C	< 11.25
2.5 ≤	D	< 7.5
0.0 ≤	F	< 2.5

The example above yields a **B** course grade.

(Note: only grades divisible by 0.5 are possible, and therefore the sum of your five components will also be divisible by 0.5.)

Any student who misses four or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will have missed more than a quarter of the class time and will not earn credit in this class. Such students should withdraw from the course to avoid an F.

If you are absent or tardy your score for an exam will be an F unless the absence is excusable.

According to the Rutgers catalog, "The recognized grounds for absence are illness requiring medical attention, curricular or extracurricular activities approved by the faculty, personal obligations claimed by the student and recognized as valid, recognized religious holidays, and severe inclement weather causing dangerous traveling conditions." Documentation will be required.

5. Course Materials

A. Lecture Handouts (We review these in class.)

For each topic listed in the course schedule there will be a handout in Canvas. Each handout will have a list of key arguments and terms that we'll discuss. Many also have maps, tables, contemporary newspaper cartoons, and/or primary source readings in addition to those assigned in the links in the schedule.

The handouts are in MS Word, and some students take notes directly in their own copies of the handouts.

B. Primary Source Documents (You read these before class.)

You will access these through links on the schedule below, or from PDFs on the course home page.

Primary sources are first-hand accounts, often created by participants or witnesses of events, and sometimes created by first-recorders of events. Examples include, but aren't limited to, memoirs, speeches, documents, data, polls, and contemporary newspaper accounts. Secondary sources are sources created by people who didn't participate or witness events, but often have the benefit of perspective, and typically draw from a variety of sources to create a nuanced and complex history that can account for multiple interpretations. Examples include history books and lectures.

We'll try to balance the lectures by reading primary sources in our out-of-class reading.

We will discuss, and sometimes read sections, of the readings in almost all classes.

6. Research Essay

You will answer **one** of the following questions:

- a. To what extent did German fear of Russian expansionism contribute to the start of the First World War?
- b. To what extent did the First World War affect women's roles in European economies?
- c. Was the Dawes Plan a reasonable settlement of the Ruhr Crisis?
- d. If the Great Depression had not occurred, would the "Spirit of Locarno" prevailed? Would the Second World War have been avoided?
- e. What were the costs and benefits of Soviet industrialization in the first Five Year Plan?
- f. If you were in Spain at the start of the Spanish Civil War, would you wish for a victory by the Republicans or by the Nationalists? Why? (Assume that you could know the future.)

- g. What factors led to the victory of the Soviet Union over Germany in the Eastern Front during World War Two?
- h. In what ways were the regimes led by Mussolini, Hitler, Franco, and Antonescu similar? In what ways were they different?
- i. Explain the *Wirtschaftswunder* (“economic miracle”) in West Germany, from 1949-69.
- j. Explain the relatively slow economic growth in the European areas of the COMECON compared to the rest of Europe, from 1949 to 1991.
- k. In total, did Britain and France benefit from colonization in Asia and Africa from 1880 to 1975?
- l. If you were a student in France in May 1968, would you have joined the student protests? If you were employed in France at that time, would you have favored the general strike? Why? (Assume that you could know the future.)
- m. To what extent was détente a success?
- n. What effects has the decrease in family size in Europe in the past half-century had on women? What have been the effects on economies and politics?
- o. If you lived in the United Kingdom at the time of the general election of 1979, would you wish that the Conservative Party, led by Margaret Thatcher, would win? Why? (Assume that you could know the future.)
- p. Why did NATO expand in the 1990s? What have been the consequences?
- q. In total, has the European Union been a success?

Write your essay using MS Word, and email it to me at the address above.

I will submit the essay to plagiarism software. If you're not sure what plagiarism is, consider this: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plagiarism>. Cite a source every time your essay makes use of an idea, quote, anecdote, study, or fact that you found in someone's work.

I call the essay a “research essay” to emphasize that the quality of your essay is largely dependent upon the quality of your research. Use at least four scholarly articles or published books. The phrase “at least” means you are allowed and encouraged to use more than four sources. The length of the essay should be 1,500 to 2,500 words.

Cite your sources wherever you rely on them, using footnotes, parenthetical notes or end notes. Be very specific when citing a source, using either the Chicago, APA, or MLA format throughout. For details, please consult the [Rutgers Library Guide](#). Cite a source every time you make use of someone's ideas.

7. Drop and Withdrawal Deadlines

The last date for students to drop a course with no penalty is September 8th, 2021, and the last date to withdraw from a course with a "W" grade is October 25th, 2021.

8. Academic Integrity Policy and Honor Pledge

This is the Rutgers academic integrity policy: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

On each examination, and on your research essay, you will be required to agree to the following statement:

On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment).

9. Accommodation and Support Statement

Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students and the University as a whole. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:

For Individuals with Disabilities: The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter barriers due to disability. Once a student has completed the ODS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and reasonable accommodations are determined to be necessary and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be provided. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at ods.rutgers.edu. Contact ODS at (973)353-5375 or via email at ods@newark.rutgers.edu.

For Individuals who are Pregnant: The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy. Students may contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance at (973) 353-1906 or via email at TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu.

For Absence Verification: The Office of the Dean of Students can provide assistance for absences related to religious observance, emergency or unavoidable conflict (e.g., illness, personal or family emergency, etc.). Students should refer to [University Policy 10.2.7](#) for information about expectations and responsibilities. The Office of the Dean of Students can be contacted by calling (973) 353-5063 or emailing deanofstudents@newark.rutgers.edu.

For Individuals with temporary conditions/injuries: The Office of the Dean of Students can assist students who are experiencing a temporary condition or injury (e.g., broken or sprained limbs, concussions, or recovery from surgery). Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury should submit a request using the following link: <https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu>.

For English as a Second Language (ESL): The Program in American Language Studies (PALS) can support students experiencing difficulty in courses due to English as a Second Language (ESL) and can be reached by emailing PALS@newark.rutgers.edu to discuss potential supports.

For Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment: The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance can assist students who are experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking. Students can report an incident to the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance by calling (973) 353-1906 or emailing TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu. Incidents may also be reported by using the following link: tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm. For more information, students should refer to the University's Student Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment, Sexual Violence, Relationship Violence, Stalking and Related Misconduct located at <http://compliance.rutgers.edu/title-ix/about-title-ix/title-ix-policies/>.

For support related to interpersonal violence: The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance can provide any student with confidential support. The office is a **confidential resource** and does *not* have an obligation to report information to the University's Title IX Coordinator. Students can contact the office by calling (973) 353-1918 or emailing run.vpva@rutgers.edu. There is also a confidential text-based line available to students; students can text (973) 339-0734 for support.

For Crisis and Concerns: The Campus Awareness Response and Education (CARE) Team works with students in crisis to develop a support plan to address personal situations that might impact their academic performance. Students, faculty and staff may contact the CARE Team by using the following link: tinyurl.com/RUNCARE or emailing careteam@rutgers.edu.

For Stress, Worry, or Concerns about Well-being: The Counseling Center has confidential therapists available to support students. Students should reach out to the Counseling Center to schedule an appointment: counseling@newark.rutgers.edu or (973) 353-5805. If you are not quite ready to make an appointment with a therapist but are interested in self-help, check out *TAO at Rutgers-Newark* for an easy, web-based approach to self-care and support: <https://tinyurl.com/RUN-TAO>.

For emergencies, call 911 or contact Rutgers University Police Department (RUPD) by calling (973) 353-5111.

10. The Writing Center

The Writing Center (<http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/writingcenter>) offers writing tutoring and writing workshops to all undergraduate students currently enrolled in Rutgers-Newark. Their tutors work to help students become more independent readers and writers capable of responding well to the demands of writing within the university. Writing Center services are free for students.

11. Technology Resources

Rutgers has created a page that helps you find student support, resources, and computer recommendations.

Here is the link: <https://runit.rutgers.edu/technology-launch->

If you have unresolved technology questions, please contact OIT-Newark Help. Support is available via phone, web, or email. Here is the link for contact information: <https://runit.rutgers.edu/hd/>.

12. Schedule

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNED READING (also posted on Blackboard)
1	Sep 2	Origins of First World War	<i>n/a</i>
2	Sep 9	First World War and Peace Treaties	E M Remarque, <i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i> , excerpt (access on course page) Douglas Haig, final dispatch, 1919 Clemenceau, response to German delegations objections to proposed peace, 1919 Excerpts, Treaty of Versailles, 1919
3	Sep 16	Russian Revolution, Russian Civil War	Intelligence Reports of Unrest in Russian Army, 1917 Lenin, <i>State & Revolution</i> (read only section 4 in chapter 5: "Higher Phase of . . .") Central Executive Committee, Fundamental Law of Land Socialization, 1918 Lenin, letter to Penza communists, 1918
4	Sep 23	Fascism, Ruhr Crisis, Locarno Treaties	Excerpt, Spengler, <i>Decline of the West</i>, 1922 Constitution of Fiume, 1920 Benito Mussolini, <i>What is Fascism?</i>, 1932 Personal Accounts of Inflation Years [in Germany]
5	Sep 30	Exam 1	<i>Review your notes on lectures and primary source readings.</i>
6	Oct 7	Stalinism	Stalin, <i>Industrialization of the Country</i> speech, 1928 Stalin, <i>New Methods of Work, New Methods of Management</i>, 1931 Evening Post, Famine Grips Russia, Idle on Rise, Says Briton, 1933 Samadoghlu, <i>Three Times I Changed My Mind</i>, 1992
7	Oct 14	Nazism and Failure of Collective Security	Hitler, confidential memo on autarky, 1936 Munich Pact, 1938 Chamberlain, "peace in our time" statements, 1938 Hitler, Obersalzberg speech, 1939
8	Oct 21	World War Two in Europe, and "Final Solution"	Secret Additional Protocol to Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact, 1939 Rosenberg, letter to Wilhelm Keitel, 1942 Himmler, speech to SS on Final Solution, 1943 Raab, interview, 1992
9	Oct 28	Division of Europe, 1944-46	conversation between deGaulle and Stalin, 1944 Stalin, "campaign speech" 1946 Churchill, "Iron Curtain" speech, 1946 Marshall's speech announcing ERP, 1947
10	Nov 4	Exam 2 (non-cumulative exam)	<i>Review your notes on lectures and primary source readings.</i>
11	Nov 11	Western Europe: Decolonization, EEC	Orwell, <i>Shooting an Elephant</i>, 1936 Nehru, speech at Bandung Conference, 1955 MacMillan, <i>The Wind of Change</i>, 1960 deGaulle, <i>Europe and Its Role in World Affairs</i>, 1964
12	Nov 18	Eastern Europe and Détente	Khrushchev, <i>Speech to the XXth Congress of the CPSU.</i>, excerpts, 1956 "Brezhnev Doctrine" 1968 Brandt, acceptance speech for 1971 Nobel Peace Prize Rules of the Thalmann Pioneers, 1980s

	Nov 25	Thanksgiving Recess: no class	
13	Dec 2	1989 Revolutions, Soviet Collapse	D. Hoffman, <i>Oligarchs</i>, Chapter 1 only (pages 11 through 30) Gorbachev's speech to UN, 1988 Conversation Between Gorbachev and Thatcher, 1989 Transcript of the Closed 'Trial' of Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu, 1989
14	Dec 9	Europe After the Cold War	Fukuyama, <i>End of History</i>, 1989 Gienow-Hecht, review of Stephan, <i>Americanization of Europe</i>, 2009 The Economist, <i>The Future of the European Union: The Choice</i>, 2012 Milton Friedman, <i>The Euro: From Monetary Union to Political Disunity?</i>, 1997
	Dec 13	Research Essay Submission Deadline (We don't have class – email your essay.)	Wikipedia, <i>Plagiarism</i> Sarah Eaton, <i>What's the Difference Between a Citation and a Reference?</i>
	Dec 23	Exam 3 (@6:20pm) (non-cumulative exam)	<i>Review your notes on lectures and primary source readings.</i>