

# Syllabus, 20th Century Europe

Rutgers University, Newark

## 1. Course and Instructor Information

**Semester:** Fall 2019

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

**Location:** Conklin 342

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

**Credits/Hours:** 3

**Instructor:** Ray Ojserkis, PhD

**Contact:** ray.ojserkis@gmail.com

**Office:** Conklin 326, Tuesdays 5:30pm to 6:00pm, and by appointment

## 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, social change in late 20<sup>th</sup> century Europe, and the revolutions of 1989. For more details, please see the calendar below.

## 3. Goals

Our goals include

- A. basic knowledge of 20<sup>th</sup> 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	25%
Debate Notes	Cancels two lowest reading quiz grades.
Midterm Exam	25%
Final (non-cumulative) Exam	25%
Research Essay	25%

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

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 the "Course Documents" section of our Blackboard course. 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 open electronic versions in class and take notes directly in their own copies of the handouts.

### B. Primary Source Documents (You read these at home.)

You will access these through links on the schedule below.

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.

## 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 essays using MS Word, and email them to me at the address above. I will not accept printed copies of your essay.

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 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019, and the last date to withdraw from a course with a "W" grade is November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

## **8. Academic Integrity and Honor Pledge**

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

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

## **9. Information for Students with Disabilities**

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation:

<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>. For more information, please contact the Office of Disability Services in the Paul Robeson Campus Center, in suite 219, by phone at [973-353-5375](tel:973-353-5375) or by email at [odsnewark@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:odsnewark@newark.rutgers.edu)

## **10. Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance**

Rutgers faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. Rutgers has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating

campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The University strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the University. Please be aware that all Rutgers employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as advocates, counselors, clergy and healthcare providers as listed in Appendix A to Policy 10.3.12) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the University. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the University's Title IX Coordinator. If you wish to speak with a staff member who is confidential and does not have this reporting responsibility, you may contact the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance at (973)-353-1918, or at [run.vpva@rutgers.edu](mailto:run.vpva@rutgers.edu). Learn more about the office here: <http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu/vpva>

## **11. The Writing Center**

The Writing Center (<http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/writingcenter>), located in Room 126 of Conklin Hall, offers writing tutoring and writing workshops to all undergraduate students currently enrolled in classes on the Rutgers-Newark campus. 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.

## 12. Schedule

WEEK	DATES	TOPIC	ASSIGNED READING
1	Sep 5	Origins of First World War	<i>n/a</i>
2	Sep 12	First World War and Peace Treaties	<a href="#">Erich Maria Remarque, <i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i>, excerpt</a> <a href="#">Douglas Haig, final dispatch, 1919</a> <a href="#">Clemenceau, response to German delegations objections to proposed peace, 1919</a> <a href="#">Excerpts, Treaty of Versailles, 1919</a>
3	Sep 19	Russian Revolution, Russian Civil War	<a href="#">Intelligence Reports of Unrest in Russian Army, 1917</a> <a href="#">Lenin, <i>State &amp; Revolution</i> (read only section 4 in chapter 5: “Higher Phase of . . .”)</a> <a href="#">Central Executive Committee, Fundamental Law of Land Socialization, 1918</a> <a href="#">Lenin, letter to Penza communists, 1918</a>
4	Sep 26	Fascism, Ruhr Crisis, Locarno Treaties	<a href="#">Excerpt, Spengler, <i>Decline of the West</i>, 1922</a> <a href="#">Constitution of Fiume, 1920</a> <a href="#">Benito Mussolini, <i>What is Fascism?</i>, 1932</a> <a href="#">Personal Accounts of Inflation Years [in Germany]</a>
5	Oct 3	Stalinism	<a href="#">Stalin, <i>Industrialization of the Country</i> speech, 1928</a> <a href="#">Stalin, <i>New Methods of Work, New Methods of Management</i>, 1931</a> <a href="#">Evening Post, Famine Grips Russia, Idle on Rise, Says Briton, 1933</a> <a href="#">Samadoghlu, <i>Three Times I Changed My Mind</i>, 1999</a>
6	Oct 10	Nazism and Failure of Collective Security	<a href="#">Hitler, confidential memo on autarky, 1936</a> <a href="#">Munich Pact, 1938</a> <a href="#">Chamberlain, “peace in our time” statements, 1938</a> <a href="#">Hitler, Obersalzberg speech, 1939</a>
7	Oct 17	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	<i>n/a</i>
8	Oct 24	World War Two in Europe and Nazi “New Order”	<a href="#">Secret Additional Protocol to Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact, 1939</a> <a href="#">Rosenberg, letter to Wilhelm Keitel, 1942</a> <a href="#">Himmler, speech to SS on Final Solution, 1943</a> <a href="#">Raab, interview, 1992</a>
9	Oct 31	Division of Europe, 1944-46 Also, <b>pick debate teams.</b>	<a href="#">conversation between deGaulle and Stalin, 1944</a> <a href="#">Stalin, “campaign speech” 1946</a> <a href="#">Churchill, “Iron Curtain” speech, 1946</a> <a href="#">Marshall’s speech announcing ERP, 1947</a>
10	Nov 7	Western Europe: Decolonization, EEC, <i>Wirtschaftswunder</i>	<a href="#">Orwell, <i>Shooting an Elephant</i>, 1936</a> <a href="#">Nehru, speech at Bandung Conference, 1955</a> <a href="#">MacMillan, <i>The Wind of Change</i>, 1960</a> <a href="#">deGaulle, <i>Europe and Its Role in World Affairs</i>, 1964</a>
11	Nov 14	Eastern Europe and Détente	<a href="#">Khrushchev, <i>Speech to the XXth Congress of the CPSU.</i>, excerpts, 1956</a> <a href="#">“Brezhnev Doctrine” 1968</a> <a href="#">Brandt, acceptance speech for 1971 Nobel Peace Prize</a> <a href="#">Rules of the Thalmann Pioneers, 1980s</a>
12	Nov 21	<b>Debate</b>	Email your notes by midnight after the debate the day you are debating. The notes must have citations – a list of sources does not constitute citations. Use footnotes each time you make use of an idea or fact that you read.

13	Nov 26 (Tues)	<b>Debate</b>	Email your notes by midnight after the debate the day you are debating. The notes must have citations – a list of sources does not constitute citations. Use footnotes each time you make use of an idea or fact that you read.
14	Dec 5	1989 Revolutions, Soviet Collapse	<a href="#">D. Hoffman, <i>Oligarchs</i>, Chapter 1 only (pages 11 through 30)</a> <a href="#">Gorbachev's speech to UN, 1988</a> <a href="#">Conversation Between Gorbachev and Thatcher, 1989</a> <a href="#">Transcript of the Closed 'Trial' of Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu, 1989</a>
	Dec 11	<b>Research Essay Submission Deadline</b> (We don't have class – email your essay)	<a href="#">Wikipedia, <i>Plagiarism</i></a> <a href="#">Rutgers University Academic Integrity Policy</a>
	Dec 19	<b>Final Exam</b> (@ 6:20pm in our regular classroom)	<i>n/a</i>