

# Syllabus, 20th Century Europe

Rutgers University, Newark

## 1. Course and Instructor Information

**Semester:** Spring 2020

**Time:** Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:30pm to 3:50pm

**Location:** Engelhard 209

**Identifiers:** Unit 21, Subject 510, Course 358, Section 01

**Credits/Hours:** 3

**Instructor:** Ray Ojserkis, PhD

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

**Office:** Conklin 326, Tuesdays, 1:00pm to 2:00pm

## 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 eight 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 January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020, and the last date to withdraw from a course with a "W" grade is March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

## 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 sign 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. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:

- **Students with Disabilities:** Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter barriers due to disability. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact ODS, register, have an initial appointment, and provide documentation. Once a student has completed the ODS process (registration, initial appointment, and documentation submitted) and reasonable accommodations are determined to be necessary and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be provided to the student. The student must give the LOA to each course instructor, followed by a discussion with the instructor. This should be completed as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More

information can be found at [ods.rutgers.edu](http://ods.rutgers.edu). Contact ODS: (973) 353-5375 or [ods@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:ods@newark.rutgers.edu).

- **Religious Holiday Policy and Accommodations:** Students are advised to provide timely notification to instructors about necessary absences for religious observances and are responsible for making up the work or exams according to an agreed-upon schedule. The Division of Student Affairs is available to verify absences for religious observance, as needed: (973) 353-5063 or [DeanofStudents@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:DeanofStudents@newark.rutgers.edu).
- **Counseling Services:** Counseling Center Room 101, Blumenthal Hall, (973) 353-5805 or <http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu/>.
- **Students with Temporary Conditions/Injuries:** Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury that is adversely affecting their ability to fully participate in their courses should submit a request for assistance at: <https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu>.
- **Students Who are Pregnant:** The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist students with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy: (973) 353-1906 or [TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu).
- **Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment:** Students experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, should know that help and support are available. To report an incident, contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance: (973) 353-1906 or [TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu). To submit an incident report: [tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm](http://tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm). To speak with a staff member who is confidential and does **NOT** have a reporting responsibility, contact the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance: (973) 353-1918 or [run.vpva@rutgers.edu](mailto:run.vpva@rutgers.edu).

## 10. 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.

## 11. Schedule

WEEK	WEEK	TOPIC	ASSIGNED READING (also posted on Blackboard)
1	Jan 21 & Jan 23	Origins of First World War	<i>n/a</i>
2	Jan 28 & Jan 30	First World War and Peace Treaties	E M Remarque, <i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i> , excerpt (access on Blackboard) <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	Feb 4 & Feb 6	Russian Revolution, Russian Civil War	<a href="#">Intelligence Reports of Unrest in Russian Army, 1917</a> <a href="#">Lenin, State &amp; Revolution (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	Feb 11 & Feb 13	Fascism, Ruhr Crisis, Locarno Treaties	<a href="#">Excerpt, Spengler, Decline of the West, 1922</a> <a href="#">Constitution of Fiume, 1920</a> <a href="#">Benito Mussolini, What is Fascism?, 1932</a> <a href="#">Personal Accounts of Inflation Years [in Germany]</a>
5	Feb 18 & Feb 20	Stalinism	<a href="#">Stalin, Industrialization of the Country speech, 1928</a> <a href="#">Stalin, New Methods of Work, New Methods of Management, 1931</a> <a href="#">Evening Post, Famine Grips Russia, Idle on Rise, Says Briton, 1933</a> <a href="#">Samadoghlu, Three Times I Changed My Mind, 1999</a>
6	Feb 25 & Feb 27	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	Mar 3 & Mar 5	Review (March 3) <b>Midterm Exam (March 5)</b>	<i>Review your notes on lectures and primary source readings.</i>
8	Mar 10 & Mar 12	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>
	Mar 17 & Mar 19	<b>Spring Break</b>	<i>Enjoy your break.</i>
9	Mar 24 & Mar 26	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	Mar 31 & Apr 2	Western Europe: Decolonization, EEC, <i>Wirtschaftswunder</i>	<a href="#">Orwell, Shooting an Elephant, 1936</a> <a href="#">Nehru, speech at Bandung Conference, 1955</a> <a href="#">MacMillan, The Wind of Change, 1960</a> <a href="#">deGaulle, Europe and Its Role in World Affairs, 1964</a>

11	Apr 7 & Apr 9	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	Apr 14 & Apr 16	<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	Apr 21 & Apr 23	<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	April 28 & April 30	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>
	May 4	<b>Research Essay Submission Deadline</b> (We don’t have class – email your essay)	<a href="#">Wikipedia, <i>Plagiarism</i></a> <a href="#">Sarah Eaton, <i>What’s the Difference Between a Citation and a Reference?</i></a>
	May 12	Brief Review <b>Final Exam</b> (@ 3:00pm in our regular classroom)	<i>Review your notes on lectures and primary source readings.</i>