

Syllabus, 20th Century Europe

Rutgers University, Newark

1. Course and Instructor Information

Semester: Summer 2019

Time: Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:00pm to 9:45pm

Location: Conklin 342

Identifiers: Unit 21, Subject 510, Course 358, Section B6

Credits/Hours: 3

Instructor: Ray Ojserkis, PhD

Contact: ray.ojserkis@gmail.com

Office: Conklin 326, Tuesdays 5:00pm 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 20th century Europe, 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	25% (lowest quiz score will be dropped)
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, and mark essays using Track Changes in MS Word. 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 May 24th, 2019, and the last date to withdraw from a course with a "W" grade is June 3rd, 2019.

8. Academic Integrity and Honor Pledge

Please familiarize yourself with the Rutgers Academic Integrity policy:

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

On each examination, 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

10. Schedule

CLASS	DATES	TOPIC	ASSIGNED READING
1	May 29	Origins of First World War & First World War	Erich Maria Remarque, <i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i>, excerpt Douglas Haig, final dispatch, 1919 Clemenceau, response to German delegations objections to proposed peace, 1919 Excerpts, Treaty of Versailles, 1919
2	June 3	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
3	June 5	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]
4	June 10	Stalinism	Stalin, <i>Industrialization of the Country</i> speech, 1928 Stalin, <i>New Methods of Work, New Methods of Management</i>, 1931 Evening Post, <i>Famine Grips Russia, Idle on Rise, Says Briton</i>, 1933 Samadoghlu, <i>Three Times I Changed My Mind</i>, 1999
5	June 12	Nazism and Failure of Collective Security	Hitler, confidential memo on autarky, 1936 Munich Agreement, 1938 Chamberlain, "peace in our time" statements, 1938 Hitler, Obersalzberg speech, 1939
6	June 17	Midterm Exam	n/a
7	June 19	World War Two in Europe and Nazi "New Order"	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
8	June 24	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
9	June 26	Eastern Europe: Soviet Role, 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
	June 28	Research Essay Submission Deadline (This is a Friday. Email your essay from home.)	Wikipedia, <i>Plagiarism</i> Rutgers University Academic Integrity Policy
10	July 1	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
11	July 3	Final Exam	n/a