

HI 420 Topics in Western History: Europe Since 1917

Meets: Mon. and Wed.: 9:30-10:50 in HSS 302

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Office Hours: M-W, 12:00 pm -2:00 pm

Course Description: The course is an introduction to Europe in the 20th century - when European power globally, while still significant, waned. It covers Europeans' cultural responses to revolution, mass society, decolonization, and political integration.

Objectives: Students will discuss, write, and present on how individual Europeans experienced and understood the 20th century. After the course, students will have a deeper perspective on Europe, the world, and the great conflicts and promises of the recent past.

Texts: Each week, students will read a selected document posted in the Moodle course schedule. The course also includes a textbook available on Moodle:

- Paul R. Waibel and Michael D. Richards, *Twentieth-Century Europe: A Brief History from 1900 to the Present*. New York: Wiley-Blackwell; 3rd edition (April 7, 2014)

University policies

- *Student Evaluation of Teaching*—The student course and faculty evaluations for courses will be administered at the completion of the semester within CollegeNet. Student participation is essential and appreciated. Student responses are anonymous and cannot be traced back to individual students. You will need your WebAdvisor login credentials to complete the evaluation. If you experience login issues, please refer inquiries to OIT staff to assist at 735-2630/40.
- *Plagiarism Statement*—The term “plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person (including AI) without full and clear acknowledgement. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials (UOG Student Handbook, p. 49). Proper citations of all research resources (i.e., direct or indirect quotations, ideas, suggestions, charts or graphs, and paraphrases or summaries of all articles, books, or audio/visual material) are required for all assignments. Students will not be permitted to submit the same work for more than one course unless approval is given by the instructors of the courses involved. Cases of plagiarism are referred to the Student Discipline and Appeals Committee. In this course, the penalty for plagiarism is up to the instructor and based on the severity of the infraction—most common penalties are no credit for the assignment or failure in the course.

- *Communication Policy*—University policy states that official communications will be sent using university assigned (@gotriton or @triton) email addresses. University electronic mail and messaging is to be used to enhance and facilitate teaching, learning, scholarly research, support academic experiences, and to facilitate the effective business and administrative processes of the University. (OIT policy manual, 3.10, p. 36)
- *EEO/ADA Statement*-- The University is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our community. Federal and local laws protect the University community from any act of sex discrimination. Such acts violate the essential dignity of our community members. If you need assistance with EEO (Equal Employment Opportunity) and/or Title IX concerns, please contact the Director of EEO/ADA & Title IX Office at (671) 735-2244, (671)735-2971, TDD (671)735-2243 or eeo-ada@triton.uog.edu.
- *ADA Accommodation Services*—For individuals covered under the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act), if you are a **student** with a disability requiring academic accommodation(s), please contact the Disability Support Services Office to discuss your confidential request. A Faculty Notification letter from the Disability Support Services counselor will be provided to me. To register for academic accommodations, please contact or visit Sallie S. Sablan, DSS counselor in the School of Education, office 110, disabilitysupport@triton.uog.edu or telephone/TDD 671-735-2460.
- *Tobacco Free Campus*—The University of Guam is a smoke-free campus. Smoking is prohibited at all times while on University property. For the health and safety of faculty and students please adhere to these regulations.
- *No Recording Policy*—Recording of class meetings is not allowed. Not only is the delivery of course content the intellectual property of the instructor, but students enrolled in the course have privacy rights. Unauthorized recording and distribution of courses may violate federal law.

Evaluation: I will evaluate your performance through ten reading responses, one book review, one scene analysis, and two take-home exams

- **Reading forum (50 percent total; 5 percent each):** Students will write a response to weekly readings.
- **Take-home essay exams (20 percent; ten percent each):** Each unit will close with an essay assignment. These will require that you synthesize course readings in a historically significant argument.
- **Book review (15 percent):** students will write an essay on one of the books from the weekly reading on the syllabus (excludes the textbook).
- **Scene analysis (15 percent):** students will present an analysis of one scene from a film on the syllabus.

Scale

97-100 A+	87-89 B+	77-79 C+	60-66 D
93-96 A	83-86 B	70-76 C	0-59 F
90-92 A-	80-82 B-	67-69 D+	

Resources

This class includes plenty of writing, and writing is hard to do well. Thankfully, UOG has the [DEAL Writing Center](#).

Getting involved – [Student Organizations](#) can be a great way to meet people you otherwise wouldn't and get more out of your time here than a grade and (hopefully) a degree. I recommend the Marianas History Club. I am also a booster of study abroad. We will cover backpacking because it was an important part of European political integration post-WWII. Living and studying in a foreign country is struggle while learning a new language is a struggle, for sure. But the experience is also transformative in the best ways. Talk to me for more details on study abroad.

Week 0 – Europe: place or idea?

- 20th Century Europe, preface and chapter 1

Week 1 – War and Revolutions, 1914-1923

Forum 1 Thurs.

Mon. – Russian Revolution

Wed. – Civil War/World Revolution?

- Reading: Isaac Babel, *Red Cavalry Tales*, selections, in *The Complete Works of Isaac Babel*. New York: Norton, 1926.
- Film: *The Oyster Princess*, 1919
- 20th Century Europe, chapters 2 and 3

Book Review choices:

1. Alexandra Kolantai (Soviet/Russian), *For Love of Worker Bees*, 1926
2. Mikhail Bulgakov (Soviet/Ukrainian), *Heart of a Dog*, 1925

Week 2 –Science and Mass Culture

Forum 2 Thurs.

Mon. – Uncertainty in the sciences

Wed. – Modern art

- [Albert Einstein, “The Principal Ideas of the Theory of Relativity,” in The Digital Einstein Papers, Princeton University.](#)
- Film: *Man with the Movie Camera*, 1927
- 20th Century Europe, chapter 4

Book Review choices:

1. Franz Kafka (Czechoslovakian), *The Castle*, 1925
2. Alberto Moravia (Italian), *A Time of Indifference*, 1929

Week 3 – Fracture

Forum 3 Thurs.

Mon. – Socialism in One Country

Wed. – Popular Front fails

- George Orwell, *Homage to Catalonia*, selections
- Film: *The Blue Angel*, 1930
- 20th Century Europe, chapter 5

Book Review choices:

1. Evelyn Waugh (British), *Scoop*, 1938
2. P.G. Wodehouse (British), *The Code of the Woosters*, 1934

Week 4 – Darkness at Noon

Forum 4 Thurs.

Mon. – The Great Terror

Wed. – Nazism

- Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents*, selections
- Film: *Olympia*, 1938
- 20th Century Europe, chapter 6

Book Review choices:

1. Louis-Ferdinand Celine (French), *Journey to the End of the Night*, 1934
2. Arthur Koestler (Austrian), *Darkness at Noon*, 1940

Week 5 – The Fire This Time

Forum 5 Thurs.

Mon. – German Soviet Alliance, 1939-41

Wed. – Nazi Empire

- Svetlana Alexievich, “Tiny Potatoes,” in *The Unwomanly Face of War*
- Film: *The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp*, 1943
- 20th Century Europe, chapter 7

Book Review choices:

1. Victor Serge (Soviet/Russian), *The Case of Comrade Tulayev*, 1947
2. Albert Camus (French), *The Stranger*, 1942

Week 6 – WWII

Mon – Total War, 1941-45

Wed – Holocaust

- Primo Levi, *The Reawakening*, selections
- Film: *Battle of San Pietro*, 1944
- 20th Century Europe, chapter 7

Book Review choices:

1. Vassily Grossman (Soviet/Russian), *Stalingrad*, 1952
2. Agatha Christie (British), *M or N*, 1941

Week 7 – Ashes

Forum 6 Thursday

Mon. – No Class, Guam History Day

Wed. – The postwar settlement

- [George Orwell, *You and the Atomic Bomb*, 1945](#)
- Film: *Germany: Year Zero*, 1948

Book Review choices:

1. Primo Levi (Italian), *Survival at Auschwitz*, 1947
2. George Orwell (British), *1984*, 1949

Week 8 – Europe in retreat

Essay exam 1 Thurs.

Mon. – Cold War

Wed. – Decolonization

- V.S. Naipaul, *Finding the Centre*, selections
- Film: *The Third Man*, 1949
- 20th Century Europe, chapter 8

Book Review choices:

1. Simone Beauvoir (French), *America Day by Day*, 1948
2. Aimee Césaire (Martinique/French), *A Tempest*, 1969

Spring Break

Week 9 – East/West

Forum 7 Thurs.

Mon. – Thaw

Wed. – The European Project

- Joseph Brodsky, “Spoils of War” in *On Grief and Reason*
- Film: *La Dolce Vita*, 1960
- 20th Century Europe, chapter 9

Book Review choices:

1. Boris Pasternak, *Dr. Zhivago* (Soviet/Russian), 1956
2. Graham Greene (British), *Our Man in Havana*, 1959

Week 10 – All the Young Dudes

Forum 8 Thurs.

Mon. – Backpacking and Beatles

Wed. – 1968

- Milan Kundera, *The Joke*, selections
- Film: *A Taste of Honey* 1961
- 20th Century Europe, chapter 10

Book Review choices:

1. Herbert Marcuse, *One-Dimensional Man* (German), 1964
2. Anthony Burgess, *A Clockwork Orange* (British), 1962

Week 11 – Real, Existing Socialism

Forum 9 Thurs.

Mon. – The Golden Age

Wed. – Stagnation

- Charter 77
- Film: *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, 1975
- 20th Century Europe, chapter 11

Book Review choices:

1. John LeCarre (British), *Tinker Tailor, Soldier, Spy*, 1974
2. Heinrich Boll (German), *The Lost Honor of Katerina Blum*, 1974

Week 12 – Western Revisions/Eastern Revolutions

Forum 10 Thurs

Mon. – Thatcherism

Wed. – Eastern European Revolutions

- Vladimir Voinovich, *Moscow 2042*, selections
- Film: *Baji on the Beach*, 1993
- 20th Century Europe, chapter 12

Book Review choices:

1. Umberto Eco (Italian), *The Name of the Rose*, 1983
2. Julia Voznesenskaya (Soviet/Russian), *Women's Decameron*, 1987

Week 13 – A Common European Home

Make-up Forum Thurs.

Mon. – Soviet Union, 1989-1991

Wed. – European Union, 1993-2008

- Hanif Kureishi, “My Son the Fanatic,” 1997
- Film: *Three Colors: White*, 1994

Book Review choices:

1. Zadie Smith (British), *White Teeth*, 2000
2. Bernhard Schlink (German), *The Reader* 1997

Week 14 – Where are we now?

Book Review Thurs.

Mon. – Financial Crisis and Brexit

Wed. – Ukraine, 2014-2025

- [Branko Milonovic, Hopelessness?](#)
- Film: *The White Ribbon*, 2009

Book Review choices:

1. Svetlana Alexievich (Belorussian), *Secondhand Time*, 2013
2. Kazuo Ishiguro (British), *Klara and the Sun*, 2021

Week 15 - Future

Mon. – Guest speaker

Wed. – Review and wrap up

Final essay due noon Tuesday, May 16.