

HISTORY W2330: EUROPE SINCE 1945: From the Nazi New Order to the European Union

Monday and Wednesday, 2:40-3:55

Professor Victoria de Grazia,

Office: Monday: 4:00-5:30 and by appointment

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Scope of Course:

This course covers the period 1940 to 2010 to provide you with the historical background, concepts, and research skills to understand the challenges Europeans face today. It starts with 1940, as all Europe was plunged into a global war and Nazi-Fascists had the audacity to claim that with their New Order, they would solve Europe's decline in the face of the Great Depression, the rise of U.S. and Soviet Great Power, intra-European imperial rivalries, and internal enemies, notably Jews and leftists. The course ends in 2010 as Europe is coming out of the Great Recession, and the European Union, with Germany as its most important member, is facing the new challenges of globalization within the framework of the American-led War on Terror, amidst fears of Muslim immigration, and neo-fascist, populist, and anti-EU movements.

The thrust of the course is to capture the greatness of Europe as it recovered after World War II to develop big visions, social inventions, new movements to overcome the past and make Europe a giant social experiment to turn it into a region of high growth, relative equality, peacefulness, and a rich memory politics dedicated to coming to terms with a terrible recent past. In turn, the course clarifies how these same outlooks and institutions, including ideals of human rights, social justice, the welfare state, as well as the very project of European, have faltered in the face of new challenges---including U.S. decline, Made in China, the Great Recession, new immigration, soaring youth unemployment, and the rise of neo-fascist and populist movements.

The course pivots around the two weekly lectures and a bi-weekly discussion group organized with your teaching assistant. We work with a big, rich narrative, *Post-War* by Tony Judt, *Postwar*, supplemented by essays in *The Oxford Handbook of Postwar Europe*, ed. Dan Stone; memoirs, notably, Primo Levi's *The Reawakening* and Czesław Miłosz *The Captive Mind*, historically-informed reportage in Ian Buruma's *Murder in Amsterdam*, and films, including *Paisan*, (R. Rossellini, Italy, 1945) *Kanal* (A. Wajda, Poland, (1956) *Battle of Algiers* (Gillo Pontecorvo, Italy, 1966); *Masculine-Feminine* (Jean-Luc Godard, France, 1967) ; *Marriage of Maria Braun*, Reinhold Fassbinder, BRD, 1979); *Man of Marble*, A.

Wajda, Poland, 1976); *Soul Kitchen*, Fatih Akin, Germany, 2010)

Course Books on order at Book Culture, 113th Street and Broadway:

Tony Judt, *Postwar* (2005); *Oxford Handbook of Postwar Europe*, (2014) Primo Levi, *The Reawakening* (1963); Czesław Miłosz *The Captive Mind* (1953); Ian Buruma, *Murder in Amsterdam* (2006)

Course Requirements

Undergraduates:

Class attendance, assigned readings, film viewing, participation in the bi-weekly discussion sections with TA or Professor (20% of final grade)

In class mid-term exam based on questions prepared in advance (20%)

12-15 page research paper (40%), topic with preliminary biblio. due on Nov 9.

In-class final examination based on questions prepared in advance (20% of final grade)

Graduate Students:

Class attendance, assigned readings, and film viewings, participation in discussion section 25%

15-18 page research paper 60%

In class final examination, based on questions prepared in advance 25%

SYLLABUS

Sep-07-16 Introduction:

Section I: Years of Reconstruction, 1945-1956 sets the rebuilding after World War II against the background of European imperialism, dictatorships, and two world wars. Here we explore the legacy of Hitler's New Order and the new international framework established by the Superpowers --the U.S.A. and the USSR -- within which Europeans had to sort out their conflicts and colonial empires after World War II We want here to compare US and Soviet hegemony: the Marshall Plan, vs. Comecon, NATO vs the Warsaw Pact, conservative liberal democracy vs Communist single party systems, etc. We want here to highlight how hard it was for European states and publics to give up their empires and how hard anti-colonial movements had to fight for national freedom. Finally, we want to discuss how the Cold War inhibited policy-makers, intellectuals and public opinion from taking stock of Nazi-fascist rule, the genocides, and other aspects of wartime violence, such as the carpet bombing of civilians

Sep-12-16 The Legacy of Hitler's New Order

- Sep-13-16 **Evening Film: *Paisan* (R. Rossellini, Italy, 1946): 8:00, RBA**
- Sep-14-16 From Truce to Cold War: 1945-1947
- Sep-19-16 Forging the Atlantic 'Community', 1948-1956
- Sep-21-16 Establishing the Soviet 'Bloc': 1948-1956
- Sep-21-16 **Evening Film *Kanal* (A. Wajda, Poland, (1956) 8:00 RBA**
- Sep-26-16 The Defeat of European Colonialism
- Sep-27-16 **Evening Film: *Battle of Algiers* (G. Pontecorvo, Italy, 1966) 8:00**
- Sep-28-16 Remembering War, Occupation, and Resistance

Section II: Years of Movement: 1956-1973 moves us into the decades of the great economic transformation or European "economic miracle." This was the so-called Golden Age of European Capitalism (and of Socialist Modernization as well). High growth rates brought about significant changes in every aspect of life in both Western and Eastern Europe: from consumer habits, sex, and women's emancipation to the class profile of European societies. The section ends by analyzing the so-called revolutions of 1968 cutting across Europe and connecting young people to Third World and U.S. protest movements.

- Oct-03-16 The Economic Miracle: East and West
- Oct-05-16 From Warfare States to Welfare States
- Oct-10-16 New Classes and Mass Consumption
- Oct-12-16 Re-gendering Europe: Population, Women, Sex, Family,
- Oct-12-16 **Evening Film: *Masculin-Feminin* (Jean-Luc Godard, France, 1967)**
- Oct-17-16 The Revolutions of 1968
- Oct-19-16 **In Class Midterm (questions posted Oct 12)**

Section III: Years Of Uncertainty, 1973-1989 highlights the confusion Europeans experienced with the end of the post-war boom and the onset of a new period of global economic uncertainty, fostered by U.S. monetary policies, the oil crisis. Here we examine how European countries diverged politically as they tried to adjust: in northern Europe, neo-liberalism, in southern Europe social democracy and eliminating dictatorships, in eastern Europe, "goulash socialism and 'really-existing socialism.'" We can see new tensions arising—terrorism growing animosity toward immigrants, post-modern cultural critiques attacks on the welfare state, the deep eroding of the Soviet bloc institutions, and cultural battles over how to interpret the past. We highlight the growing role of the European Union to integrate Western European policies.

- Oct-24-16 The Global Turning: 1973 Oil Crisis, Cyber-Revolution, Benetton
- Oct-26-16 Trying Out Neo-Liberalism: The Thatcher Experiment
- Oct-31-16 The Germanies: Wending Their Way
- Nov-02-16 Opening to the left: France and Italy
- Nov-02-16 **Evening Film: *Marriage of Maria Braun*, R. Fassbinder, Ger. 1979**

- Nov 07-16 **Election Day: Vote Early, Vote Often!**
- Nov 09-16 Sloughing Off Dictatorship: Spain, Greece, Portugal (pap. topic due)
- Nov-14-16 Softening Up, Cracking Down, Breaking Apart the Soviet Bloc
- Nov-14-16 **Evening Film: *Man of Marble* (A. Wajda, Poland, 1976)**
- Nov-16-16 Dredging Up The Past, East and West

SECTION IV: Years Of Globalization, 1990-2010 looks at the Europeans after the end of the Cold War as they seek new ways to relate to one another and to a more and more global world. Post-Post-War Europe asks us to look at the new shape of the European Union and New Europeans, meaning Eastern Europeans, emigrants, and young people. Once again, Europeans have to rethink their relationship to their past: can Europeans provide a global model of governance through its human rights record, soft power, and the expansion of the European Union? Or is Europe once more going to capitulate to the Great Recession, deep inequalities, and revived ethnic and nationalist animosities?

- Nov-21-16 Growing the European Union
- Nov-23-16 **Make-up Day**
- Nov-28-16 The Post-Cold War in the Balkans
- Nov-30-16 Identity at Issue: From Made in Europe to Made in China
- Dec-05-16 Dealing with Europe's 'Other' Peoples: new and old migrations
- Dec-06-16 **Evening Film: *Soul Kitchen* Dir. Fatih Akin, Turkish-German, 2010**
- Dec-07-16 Europe Redividing? New Regional and Social Inequalities
- Dec-12-16 Recharging the European Union: Back to a (Regulatory) Empire?
Germany Redux? And Great Britain after Brexit?