

Fall 2013
History 222—Germany and Eastern Europe, 1848-1989

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Course Description:

Throughout the second half of the twentieth century, Europe was divided in two by Cold War politics—Western and Eastern Europe. In 2004, many (but not all) of the countries of Eastern Europe joined the European Union, symbolically ending this cleavage. Yet even as Europe celebrates—and struggles with—its supposed reunification, it is important to recall that the Cold War divide between East and West was only one of many configurations of power on the European continent over the past few centuries. In fact, the map of the region covered by this course (also referred to as “Central Europe”) underwent no less than seven different radical shifts during the one hundred and fifty year period we will be discussing. Just as state borders shifted with the political tides, the men and women of Central Europe also had to come to terms with a bewildering diversity of political forms—from Fascism to Stalinism and from Imperial rule to democracy. This course examines the political, social, and cultural history of this region, paying particular attention to the ways in which ethnicity, class, and gender factored into evolving national, local, and regional identities. We will also analyze the rise of nationalism and the decline of religious sentiment, and the rise and fall of Nazism and Communism.

Prerequisites and Requirements:

This course assumes a background in European history (either through taking AP European history or History 102). If you do not have this background, please come see me as soon as possible so that we can determine if this course is right for you.

All written work must be turned in to receive credit for this class.

Your grade in this class will be determined as follows:

5%	Reading Questions
10%	1919 & 1945 Conferences (5% each)
10%	Participation
30%	Quizzes
20%	Midterm Essay
25%	Final Essay

20% of the course grade is based on a six-page mid-term essay. In this essay, you will be asked to use the evidence presented in one of the course readings to argue both sides of one of the key debates in the history of either Germany or Austria-Hungary.

30% of the course grade is based on three reading & map quizzes. These quizzes will test your knowledge of both the readings and the changing map of Central Europe over the period covered by this course. **There will be no make-ups for quizzes except for medical emergencies. If you miss class on a quiz day, you will forfeit credit for that quiz.**

10% of the grade will be based on your preparation for and participation in two “conferences” over the course of the semester. You will be expected to turn in sheets answering specific questions about your assigned country. These sheets and your preparation in the conference itself will be graded on a $\sqrt{-}$, $\sqrt{}$, $\sqrt{+}$ basis.

25% of your grade will be based on a final essay. For this final essay you will further explore one of the themes through an examination of a packet of primary source materials.

5% of your grade is based on your reading and discussion questions. One time during the semester, you will be asked to send out questions in advance of the reading. You will do so in teams of 2-3 students. Your group will send reading questions to me to send out to the class by 5pm two days before the readings are due (so for a discussion on Tuesday, you will send them out by Sunday, etc.). There MUST be one email sent from the entire group, even if you are each responsible for different questions within that list. There should be between 6-10 questions for each day. If the day’s reading features multiple pieces, it is up to your discretion how to divide the questions but there must be at least one question for each piece, i.e. if you are reading 3 articles, you could have 3 questions on one article, 2 on another and 1 on the third. At a different time during the semester, you will be responsible for providing 1-2 questions for our discussion in class. Your discussion questions should not be a factual question nor should it just reiterate the reading questions (although it can build from them) but should be questions that are designed to generate discussion. If you miss class on the day your discussion questions were due, you cannot make them up. A sign-up sheet for reading and discussion questions will be distributed in the first week of class.

10% of your grade is based on your participation in class discussions. Attendance is a key component of participation and is therefore mandatory. If you need to miss a class due to a medical or other emergency, you must provide adequate documentation (such as a doctor’s note) to avoid the absence penalty. If you come late to class, it will count as a one-half absence. Currently, I am allowing you to bring computers and tablets to class. If they seem to be distracting from the classroom experience, I reserve the right to revisit this policy.

On October 14th, Pieter Judson will be coming to Oberlin to give a talk. If you attend his lecture and write a 2 page analytic response (not summary) to it, you will receive extra credit consisting of an additional 1% added to your final grade for the class. If you are unsure about the difference between a response and a summary, please contact me in advance of the talk.

All written work should be double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font on paper with 1” margins. Unless otherwise directed, you MAY NOT turn in papers online but rather, must drop it off at my office or in class on the day it is due. Papers must be stapled. Also, while your grade for any paper is primarily based on their content, errors in grammar or citation style can figure into the grade, especially if such errors are egregious.

ALL late papers will be downgraded 1/3 of a grade for every day that they are late.

You will have a total of four “screw-ups” to use over the course of the semester. A “screw-up” can allow you to take a 24 hour extension for the midterm paper or the Judson extra credit (this does NOT apply preparation for the 1919 and 1945 conferences or the final essay) or it can be used to take an unexcused absence from class. So, for example, you could take a 48 hour extension on the midterm paper and miss two classes. If you wish for one or several “screw-ups” to apply to a late paper, please indicate that on the first page of the paper when you (finally) turn it in.

All work for this class is governed by the honor code. You must write and sign the honor code pledge at the end of each paper and exam. We will talk briefly about the honor code in class, but if you have further questions, please go to:
http://www.oberlin.edu/students/student_pages/honor_code.html.

Readings/Films:

The following **required** books are available for purchase at the Oberlin College Bookstore:

Alison Frank, *Oil Empire: The Struggle for Prosperity in Eastern Galicia* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2007)

Timothy Snyder, *Bloodlands* (New York: Basic Books, 2012)

Helmut Walser Smith, *The Butcher’s Tale* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2003)

The following books are **optional**. The readings from Fulbrook and Sked in the syllabus are mandatory but on blackboard. If you, however, want to get a sense of this subject in more detail or over a longer time frame, feel free to purchase one or both:

Mary Fulbrook, *A Concise History of Germany* (New York: Cambridge UP, 2004)—available at the bookstore

Alan Sked, *The Decline and Fall of the Hapsburg Empire 1815-1914* (New York: Longman, 1989)—out of print but many copies are available online

Additional required readings are marked with a * if available on blackboard or a # if available from an online journal. Probably the easiest way to find any online journal reading is to search for the name of the journal in Obis and go from there. If you have any problems accessing online journals, please let me know as soon as possible.

Two films are also required texts for this course and have been placed on reserve. I will arrange class screenings for these films. If you cannot attend the screening, it is your responsibility to watch the films on your own time.

Pandoras Büchse/Pandora's Box (Germany, 1926)
Człowiek z marmuru/Man of Marble (Poland, 1977)

Schedule of Readings and Assignments:

September 3	Introduction—What's in a Name? Eastern Europe, Western Europe, Central Europe & Mitteleuropa
September 5	1848
Readings:	#Robert Nemes, "The Politics of the Dance Floor: Culture and Civil Society in Nineteenth-Century Hungary" (<i>Slavic Review</i> , Winter 2001), 802-823.
September 10	German Unification/Creation of the Dual Monarchy
Readings:	*Alan Sked, <i>The Decline and Fall of the Hapsburg Empire 1815-1914</i> (New York: Longman, 1989), 187-238 *Mary Fulbrook, <i>A Concise History of Germany</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2004), 122-137
September 12	Nationalism in Germany
	*Mary Fulbrook, <i>A Concise History of Germany</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2004), 137-148
September 17	Nationalism in the Austro-Hungarian Empire
Readings:	*Steven Beller, "Kraus's Firework: State Consciousness Raising in the 1908 Jubilee Parade in Vienna and the Problem of Austrian Identity," <i>Staging the Past</i> , 46-71 #Pieter Judson & Tara Zahra, "Introduction," from Sites of Indifference to Nationhood section of <i>Austrian History Yearbook</i> 43 (2012): 21-27. #Robert Nemes, "Obstacles to Nationalization on the Hungarian-Austrian Language Frontier," <i>Austrian History Yearbook</i> 43 (2002): 28-44.
September 19	Austria Hungary's Eastern Borderlands
	Alison Frank, <i>Oil Empire: Visions of Prosperity in Austrian Galicia</i> , Chapters 2 & 3

*Nathaniel Wood, *Becoming Metropolitan: Urban Selfhood and the Making of Modern Cracow* (DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 2010), Chapter 5

September 24 Jews & Anti-Semitism

Readings: Helmut Walser Smith, *The Butcher's Tale* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2003)

September 26 World War I, pt. I

QUIZ #1

October 1 World War I, pt. II

Readings: *Belinda Davis, "Reconsidering Habermas, Gender and the Public Sphere: The Case of Wilhelmine Germany," *Society, Culture, and the State in Germany 1870-1930*
#Maureen Healy, "Becoming Austrian: Women, the State and Citizenship in World War I," *Central European History*, 35:1 (2002): 1-35.

October 3 **NO CLASS—BUT FIRST PAPER DUE VIA BLACKBOARD BY 11AM**

October 8 Post-War Settlements & Revolution
Conference #1: 1918/19

October 10 Successor States and the Minorities Problem, pt. 1

Readings: *Mark Mazower, *Dark Continent: Europe's Twentieth Century* (New York: Vintage Books, 2000), 41-75
*Forum: "What's in a Name? Anointing the Nation State," *Austrian History Yearbook 2004*, only read Judson intro and article on Bratislava
#Tara Zahra, "The Minority Problem: National Classification in the French and Czechoslovak Borderlands," *Contemporary European History* 17 (2008): 137-165.

October 14 Pieter Judson, "Is Eastern Europe Different? Borderlands, Backwardness, and Nationalist Ideas of Difference," Hallock Auditorium, 4:30pm

October 15 Visit from Pieter Judson

Readings tba

October 17 Successor States and the Minorities Problem, pt. 2

Readings: *Eva Hoffman, *Shtetl*, (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1997), Chapter 4.
Frank, *Oil Empire*, Chapter 7.

FALL BREAK

October 29 Weimar Germany

Readings: *Fulbrook, *A Concise History of Germany*, 155-179

Film: *Pandora's Box* (1926) Class Screening, October 28, 7-9pm (Location, TBA)

October 31 The End of the Weimar Republic & the Consolidation of Nazi Germany

Readings: *Fulbrook, *A Concise History of Germany*, 179-187

QUIZ #2

November 5 Consent & Coercion in Nazi Germany

Readings: *Viktor Klemperer, *I Will Bear Witness*, selections

November 7 World War II, pt. I

Readings: *Fulbrook, *A Concise History of Germany*, 187-204
Snyder, *Bloodlands*, Chapters 4-6

November 12 World War II, pt. 2

Readings: *Browning, "One Day in Jozefow: Initiation to Mass Murder" in David
Crew, *Nazism and German Society, 1933-1945* (New York: Routledge:
2003), 300-315.
*Jan Gross, *Neighbors* (New York: Penguin Books, 2002), 15-78; 95-101

November 14 World War II, pt. 3

#Chad Bryant, "The Language of Resistance? Czech Jokes and Joke-
Telling under Nazi Occupation, 1943-1945," *Journal of Contemporary
History* 41 (2006): 133-151.
Snyder, *Bloodlands*, Chapter 7-9

November 19 1945
Conference #2: 1945

November 21 Establishing Socialism

- Readings: Snyder, *Bloodlands*, Chapter 10.
 *Katherine Lebow, “‘We Are Building A Common Home’: Destruction, Reconstruction, and the Moral Economy of Citizenship in Postwar Poland.” In *Histories of the Aftermath: The Legacies of the Second World War in Europe*, Frank Biess and Robert G. Moeller, eds., (New York: Berghahn Books, 2010), 215-30.
- November 26 Cold War East & West
- *Alice Weinreb, “Matters of Taste: The Politics of Food and Hunger in Divided Germany, 1945-1971” (PhD Dissertation, University of Michigan, 2009), selections.
- November 28 **THANKSGIVING**
- December 3 Rebellions
- *Ludvík Vaculík, “Two Thousand Words to Workers, Farmers, Scientists, Artists, and Everyone,” *From Stalinism to Pluralism*, 126-130
- December 5 Late Socialism
- Film: *Man of Marble* (Poland, 1977) Class Screening December 4, 7-9 pm (location: TBA)
 *Katherine Verdery, “What was Socialism and Why did it Fall?” *What Was Socialism, and What Comes Next?* (Princeton: Princeton UP, 1996), 19-38.
- December 10 1989
- December 12 Epilogue
- QUIZ #3**
- Readings: *Václav Havel, “New Year’s Address,” *From Stalinism to Pluralism*, 249-253

FINAL PAPER DUE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18TH AT 4PM VIA BLACKBOARD