

Spring 2014
History 225—Europe 1945-present

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Office Hours: Tuesday 1:30-2:30 & Thursday 4-5; and by appointment

Course Description

This class examines the history of the European continent from the end of World War II to the present day. As the class begins, Europe lay in ruins after an immensely devastating war that left tens of millions of people dead and a similar number as refugees, while entire cities had been destroyed and major ideologies discredited. In its aftermath, Europe was divided in two, an American-dominated Western Europe and a Soviet-dominated Eastern portion. Today, Europe is largely prosperous, democratic, and peaceful. This transition was, of course, not without its strains and complications. In this class, we will examine and question this process. We will explore the political, cultural and social history of both sides of Cold War Europe. We will also examine decolonization and the development of a multicultural Europe. And finally, we will look at the aftermath of the Cold War and the processes and complications of forging a new European identity,

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:

10%	Blackboard Contributions
10%	Map Quizzes
20%	Essay #1
25%	Essay #2
25%	Final Exam
10%	Participation

10% of your grade is determined by your blackboard contributions. Over the course of the semester, one time you will have to post an initial response to the reading. This is due 24 hours before the class where we will discuss that reading. Your post should be

approximately 2-3 double spaced pages and address what you consider the most important issues raised by the reading. You should also include 4-5 questions for discussion. You will also have to sign up to be a respondent for a different class session. Respondents will not have to post on blackboard, but will be responsible for speaking in class for no more than 5 minutes responding to the original blackboard posts. They may answer the questions, pose new ones, synthesize the blackboard responses, agree with or disagree with a respondent's ideas, etc. Your grade will be determined by your service in both of these roles.

10% of your grade will be determined by two map quizzes. Each quiz is worth 5% of your grade. You will have to identify cities, countries, and rivers as they exist at the period under discussion. You will also be given other questions to answer.

20% and 25% of your grade is determined by your midterm and final essays respectively. Each essay will take a packet of primary sources that I give you and will evaluate them in light of class readings and class discussions. Your focus in each case will be the documents under review and using them to generate a thesis and argument, not using them to recapitulate what you have already learned.

25% of your grade is determined by your final exam. The final exam will consist both of identifying terms from throughout the semester and answering several essay questions. A list of possible terms and of several potential essay questions will be distributed prior to the exam.

Finally, 10% of your grade is determined by your participation. 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.

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 one of the two essays (this does NOT apply to your blackboard response) or it can be used to take an unexcused absence from class. So, for example, you could take a 48 hour extension on Essay #1 and miss two classes. If you wish for one or several "screw-ups" to apply to either of the two essays, 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.

If you have specific learning or psychological disabilities that require accommodations, please let me know as early as possible during the semester. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to Jane Boomer at Disability Services. She can then provide me with a letter explaining your accommodations.

Readings

The following books are available for purchase at the Oberlin College bookstore:

Timothy Garten Ash, *The Magic Lantern* (New York: Vintage Books, 1993)
Ian Buruma, *Murder in Amsterdam* (New York: Penguin Press, 2007)
Christiane F., *Zoo Station* (New York: Zest Books, 2013)
Vaclav Havel, *The Garden Party and Other Plays* (New York: Grove Press, 1994)
Samuel Moyn, *The Last Utopia: Human Rights* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press, 2010)
Todd Shepherd, *The Invention of Decolonization* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2008)
Carolyn Steedman, *Landscape for a Good Woman* (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1987)

Additional readings are also on the syllabus. Those marked with a * are available in blackboard under “Library Readings.” Those marked with a # are available online in academic journals, accessible from the Library website.

Schedule of Classes, Readings & Assignments

February 4: Introduction

February 6: Stunde Null

Readings: #Atina Grossmann, “A Question of Silence: The Rape of German Women by Occupation Soldiers,” *October* 72 (1995): 42-63.

February 11: Cold War—Origins

Readings: #Melvyn Leffler, “The Cold War: What do ‘We Now Know?’” *The American Historical Review* 104 (2)(April 1999): 501-524
*John L. Gaddis, “Soviet Unilateralism and the Origins of the Cold War,” in Robert Baker and Paula Griffith, eds., *Major Problems in American History since 1945* (New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2006), 124-138
#Tara Zahra, “The Psychological Marshall Plan: Displacement, Gender and Human Rights after WWII,” *Central European History* 44 (March 2011): 37-62.

February 13: Establishing States in Western Europe

Readings: Carolyn Steedman, *Landscape for a Good Woman*

February 18: Establishing States in Eastern Europe

MAP QUIZ #1

- February 20: Cracks in the Eastern Bloc
 Readings: *Eli Rubin, *Synthetic Socialism: Plastics and Dictatorship in the German Democratic Republic* (Chapel Hill: North Carolina University Press, 2008), Chapters 2 & 4.
- February 25: Decolonization—Algeria, pt. 1
 Film: *Battle of Algiers* (1966)
- February 27: Decolonization—Algeria pt. 2
 Readings: Todd Shepherd, *The Invention of Decolonization*
- March 4: Berlin Wall
 Readings: *Patrick Major, *Behind the Wall* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011), Chapter 5.
- March 6: 1968
 Readings: *Daniel & Gabriel Cohn-Bendit, “The Battle of the Streets: ‘C’est Pour Toi Que Tu Fais La Révolution,’” *New Left Reader*, 254-266.
 *Michael Seidman, *The Imaginary Revolution: Parisian Workers and Students in 1968* (New York: Berghahn, 2004), 17-52.
- March 11: 1968
 Readings: *Ludvík Vakuš, “Two Thousand Words to Workers, Farmers, Scientists, Artists, and Everyone,” *Stalinism to Pluralism*, 126-130
 *Jeremi Suri, “The Promise and Failure of ‘Developed Socialism’: The Soviet ‘Thaw’ and the Crucible of the Prague Spring, 1964-1972” *Contemporary European History* 15 (2006): 133-158.
- March 13: 1970s Terrorism
 Readings: *Karrin Hanshew, “‘Sympathy for the Devil? The West German Left and the Challenges of Terrorism,’” *Contemporary European History* (2012): 511-532.
- March 18: International Politics: Ostpolitik & Human Rights
 Readings: Samuel Moyn, *The Last Utopia*
- March 20: **NO CLASS—BUT FIRST PAPER DUE VIA BLACKBOARD BY 11AM**

SPRING BREAK

- April 1: Stagnation: West
 Readings: Christiane F., *Zoo Station: The Story of Christiane F* (New York: Zest Books, 2013)

- April 3: The European Melting Pot?
Film: *My Beautiful Laundrette* (1985)
- April 8: Stagnation: East
Readings: Vaclav Havel, *The Garden Party and Other Plays*, 1-52.
- April 10: NO CLASS
- April 15: 1989
Readings: Timothy Garten Ash, *The Magic Lantern*
- April 17: Class Visit to AMAM—Legacy of Socialist Realism Exhibit
- April 22: 1989, pt. 2
- April 24: German Unification
- April 29: Yugoslav Wars
MAP QUIZ #2
- May 1: After 9/11
Readings: Ian Buruma, *Murder in Amsterdam*
- May 6: The Euro/Unification Political, Cultural and Monetary
Readings: Tony Judt, “A Grand Illusion,” in *A Grand Illusion*, 3-44
- May 8: Final Discussion
ESSAY #2 DUE VIA BLACKBOARD AT 11AM

FINAL EXAM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 9-11AM, LOCATION TBA