This course is an intermediate-level survey examining the myriad changes in European politics and society since the end of World War II. It has something of a "political" history slant, though that term is used in a broad sense. We will examine not only national and international political issues, but also extra-institutional "political" issues incorporating race, class, and gender, especially as they manifest themselves in popular culture. Particular attention will be devoted to understanding the construction then "deconstruction" of Cold War Europe, and what "European" means as a category of political or cultural identity.

The format of the course will be a mixture of lecture and discussion. Though the format will vary somewhat from week to week, as a rule of thumb, there will be two lectures per week, and one class per week in which some form of active class participation is required.

Readings:

The following should be purchased at the Oberlin College Bookstore. With the exception of Wegs and Ladrech, they are also available on reserve.


Richard Pells, *Not Like Us: How Europeans have loved, hated, and transformed American culture since World War II* (1997)


Students are advised to purchase early, as the bookstore returns unsold books at a certain point in the semester.

Finally, given the necessarily "presentist" orientation of the course, students are well advised to glance at relevant articles in some weekly news magazine. In the instructor's humble opinion, the best weekly in English is *The Economist*. Despite its mostly Tory political slant, it is superbly written and is pitched at an intelligent audience. *Time* or *Newsweek* are better than nothing, though not much.

Requirements:

Three varieties of written work will be required.
I. Essays:

There will be take-home midterm and final essays. Students will be expected to choose one of several questions. The questions will be distributed one week before the essays are due. As these are reflective essays drawing from class material and the readings, footnotes and bibliographies are not needed. There is no time limit, but a strictly enforced 5-page limit.

II. Discussion Papers:

A number of discussion days are noted on the syllabus. On each of these days, students will be required to turn in a one-page discussion paper, in which students identify and briefly explain issues in the readings. These papers are for students' benefit. Their purpose is to facilitate discussion and to provide a foundation for one "think" piece essay (see below). They are required, but will not be graded.

Because the primary purpose of these papers is to facilitate discussion, late discussion papers will not be accepted for any reason. These papers must be submitted by students themselves, in class. Failure to turn in discussion papers will be noted. Chronic non-submission will have an unfavorable impact on a student's final grade.

III. Five-page Paper on One Discussion

Students will be expected to write a "think piece" paper (as opposed to a research paper) on one of the in-class discussions. They may write about either the readings or one or more of the films (see below). A logical way to write this paper is either to write an expanded version of a discussion paper from the readings, or to write an essay answering one of the discussion questions for the films. This paper has a strictly enforced 5-page maximum limit, and is subject to the ground rules stated at the end of the syllabus. This essay is due the last day of class, May 9.

Students who submit their papers before April 24 may do a rewrite if they so choose. The final grade on the paper will be the rewrite, though the original must be resubmitted at the same time as the rewrite. The rewrite is due on May 9, the same day as the rest of the papers.

Films:

The class will be viewing and discussing four films: Cinema Paradiso (1989); Umbrellas of Cherbourg (1964); From Russia with Love (1964); and Kolya (1996). A collective viewing time will be set up on the Wednesday evenings before the Friday discussions. The films will be available throughout the semester in AV on the fourth floor of Mudd, so that students can view them at other times if they are not able to make the group time. Please consult AV for their hours. Please view the films on the premises, so that all students can have access to them. It is the responsibility of students to have seen the films by the time the class discussion takes place. Discussion questions will be handed out before the films are viewed, though discussion papers on films will not be required.
Schedule of Lectures and Assignments:

Part I: The Eclipse of Europe

February 3  Introduction: the Joys and Sorrows of Recent History

Readings: Paul Valéry, "Notes on the Greatness and Decline of Europe" (1927, E-res); Jacques Derrida "The Other Heading: Memories, Responses, and Responsibilities" (1990, E-res)

WARNING: Derrida is the most difficult reading in the entire course. Start early.

February 5  Europe in 1945: The Day After

Readings: Continue with Valéry and Derrida (HIGHEST PRIORITY); Wegs and Ladrech, Ch. 1; Pells, Ch.1-4

February 7  The Cold War: The Actors and the Crises

Readings: finish Valéry and Derrida

February 10  Discussion: Valéry and Derrida

ONE-PAGE DISCUSSION PAPER DUE

February 12  The Regimes, East and West

Readings: Wegs and Ladrech, Ch.2-3

February 14  Decolonization: Britain and France

Readings: Wegs and Ladrech, Ch.6, continue reading Pells, Ch.1-4

February 17  Divided Memories: Constructions of World War II in Postwar Europe

Readings: Begin Garton Ash, Parts I-IV (have read by discussion on March 5)

Part II: Politics, Economy, and Society in the Postwar States

February 19  Economic Recovery: Capitalism and Communism

Readings: Wegs and Ladrech, Ch.4; Pells, Ch.7

February 21  The Welfare State: East and West

Readings: continue Pells and Garton Ash

February 24  Postwar Nationalism and the Origins of the European Community

Readings: Wegs and Ladrech, Ch.8
February 26   In the Shadow of the United States

   Readings: Pells, Ch.5-6; be sure to have completed Ch.1-7 by discussion on March 5

   **Tonight: Showing of Cinema Paradiso, 7:00 PM, room TBA**

February 28   Discussion of Cinema Paradiso

   Readings: be sure to have completed Pells, Ch.1-7 and Garton Ash, Parts I-IV by
   the discussion on March 5

March 3   In the Shadow of the Soviet Union

   Readings: Wegs and Ladrech, Ch. 7;

March 5   Discussion of Pells and Garton Ash

   **ONE-PAGE DISCUSSION PAPER DUE**

   **Tonight: Showing of Umbrellas of Cherbourg, 7:00 PM, room TBA**

March 7   Discussion of Umbrellas of Cherbourg

   **MIDTERM ESSAY QUESTIONS HANDED OUT**

   **Part III: Growing Pains: The 1960s**

March 10   The Fault Lines: Class

   Readings: Wegs and Ladrech, Ch.9-10; Pells, Ch.8-9

March 12   The Fault Lines: Gender

   **Tonight: Showing of From Russia with Love, 7:00 PM, room TBA**

March 14   Discussion: From Russia With Love

   **MIDTERM ESSAYS DUE**

March 17   Protesting the Postwar Order: 1968 in Prague

   Readings: Wegs and Ladrech, Ch.12

March 19   Protesting the Postwar Order: 1968 in France

March 21   Above it all: Tito's Yugoslavia

   Readings: Glenny, Ch.1-5; be sure to have read Charef, Tea in the Harem  for the discussion
   on April 7

   **Spring Break!!!**
Part V: "Fragments Floating in the Here and Now": 1970-1989

March 31 The End of the Miracle: Oil Shock, Inflation, Stagnation, Unemployment
  Readings: Wegs and Ladrech, Ch. 11, 14; Pells, Ch.10

April 2 The Perpetual Rising and Falling of European Integration
  Readings: Review Wegs and Ladrech, Ch. 8

April 4 No Class

April 7 The “New” Fault Line: Race
  Discussion of Charef, Tea in the Harem

ONE PAGE DISCUSSION PAPER DUE

April 9 The Turn to the Right: The Case of Margaret Thatcher

April 11 No Class

April 14 "Palest Pink": 1980s Socialism in France and Spain
  Readings: Wegs and Ladrech, Ch.14

April 16 Nationalism vs. Communism in Poland
  Readings: Wegs and Ladrech, Ch.13; be sure to have finished Garton Ash by
discussion on April 30

Tonight: Showing of Kolya, 7:00 PM, room TBA

April 18 Discussion: Kolya

April 21 Anti-Americanism and Cold War II
  Readings: Pells, Ch.11

April 23 Discussion of East vs.West in Garton Ash, The File ; begin Zlata's Diary

ONE PAGE DISCUSSION PAPER DUE


April 25 The Implosion of Communism
  Readings: Wegs and Ladrech, Ch.16, Glenny, Ch.6-end

April 28 The Rebirth of Central Europe

April 30 Nightmares Come True: The Disintegration of Yugolsavia
May 2 Discussion: *Zlata's Diary*

**ONE PAGE DISCUSSION PAPER DUE**

May 5 Life After Communism in Central Europe

May 7 Europe at the Millenium

Readings: Pells, Ch.12

**FINAL ESSAY QUESTIONS DISTRIBUTED**

May 9 Review for Final

**FIVE-PAGE DISCUSSION PAPER DUE**

**FINAL ESSAY DUE END OF READING PERIOD**

TUESDAY, MAY 13

Additional Ground Rules:

1. Deadlines and page-limit requirements are to be taken most seriously. I am not in the business of persecuting students if a genuine problem exists, but in principle I strongly dislike giving extensions. Normally, I take off 1/3 of a letter grade for every 24 hours a paper is overdue. Three excuses for requesting extensions will never be acceptable: 1) a self-defined character flaw of procrastination; 2) extracurricular activities, including artistic performances and political activism; 3) work in other classes. Two possible exceptions exist for unacceptable excuse #3. I am prepared to exercise some indulgence concerning students doing Seniors Honors projects or, in the case of Conservatory students, Senior recitals. This is because of the "once-in-a-lifetime" character of these projects.

2. Papers must be double-spaced and have one-inch margins. They must also be word-processed with near letter quality resolution. I reserve the right to return any paper that is not legible. Papers must be submitted in hard copy. E-mailed papers will not be accepted.

3. All written work at Oberlin College is subject to the Honor Code, which must by sign on all work submitted for a grade. The Honor Code presently reads: "I have adhered to the Honor Code in the writing of this exercise."

4. All written work submitted for a grade must be completed in order to pass the course. That is to say, if two instead of three papers are turned in, a student will fail the entire course. Incompletes are governed by college rules; unofficial incompletes will not be given.