Fall 2008
History 222—Germany and Eastern Europe, 1848-1989

Annemarie Sammartino
Rice Hall 311
Email: annemarie.sammartino@oberlin.edu
Office phone: 775-6572
Office Hours: Wednesday 11-12; Thursday 3-4; and by appointment

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 the ideologies 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 Intro
10% 1919 & 1945 Conferences (5% each)
10% Participation
30% Quizes
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 √-, √, √+ 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 introduction. One time during the semester, you will be asked to introduce the readings for the class. 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.). In class, you will introduce the readings giving a five to ten minute account of your responses to the arguments, how you think they fit together, etc. This should not be a summary of the reading but rather an analysis. You will also briefly suggest 2-3 questions for us to begin our discussion with. Prior to doing a reading intro it is suggested (but not required) that you meet with me.

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.

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 a paper (this applies to the mid-term essay or the final essay, but not preparation for the 1919 and 1945 conferences) or it can be used to take an unexcused absence from class. So, for example, you could take a 48 hour extension on a 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:


The following books are **optional**. The readings from Fulbrook and Sked in the syllabus are mandatory but on ERes. 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:

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 ERes 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.

A number of 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.

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

Schedule of Readings and Assignments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>September 2</th>
<th>Introduction—What’s in a Name? Eastern Europe, Western Europe, Germany &amp; Mitteleuropa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 4</td>
<td>1848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 9</td>
<td>German Unification/Creation of the Dual Monarchy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Readings:  

September 11  
**Nationalism in Germany**  

September 16  
**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,” *Staging the Past*, 46-71  

September 18  
**Poland/Ukraine/Russia—The Problem of Identity & Statehood**  
Readings:  

September 23  
**Jews & Anti-Semitism in Central Europe**  
Readings:  
Helmut Walser Smith, *The Butcher’s Tale*  

September 25  
**NO CLASS**  

September 30  
**World War I, pt. I**  

October 2  
**QUIZ #1 & NO CLASS**  

October 7  
**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*  
October 9  
**NO CLASS—YOM KIPPUR**

October 14  
Post-War Settlements & Revolution  
Conference #1: 1918/19

October 16  
**NO CLASS**

October 17  
**MIDTERM PAPER DUE IN HISTORY DEPARTMENT OFFICE BY 4PM**

**FALL BREAK**

October 28  
Successor States and the Minorities Problem  
Readings:  

October 30  
Minorities, pt. 2  
Readings:  
Snyder, *Reconstruction of Nations*, 133-153

November 4  
Weimar Germany  
Readings:  
Film:  
Pandora’s Box (1926) Class Screening, November 3, 7-9pm (Location, TBA)

November 6  
The End of the Weimar Republic & the Consolidation of Nazi Germany  
**QUIZ #2**

November 11  
Consent & Coercion in Nazi Germany  
Readings:  
Viktor Klemperer, *I Will Bear Witness*, selections

November 13  
World War II, pt. I  
Readings:  

November 18  
World War II, pt. 2
Readings: Snyder, *Reconstruction of Nations*, 154-178

November 20 Representing the Holocaust

Visitors: Renate Stih/Frieder Schnock

November 25 The Holocaust

*Jan Gross, Neighbors* (New York: Penguin Books), 15-78; 95-101

November 27 THANKSGIVING

December 2 1945
Conference #2: 1945

December 4 Post-War Socialism, pt. I

Readings: Snyder, *Reconstruction of Nations*, 179-201
*Ludvík Vaculík, “Two Thousand Words to Workers, Farmers, Scientists, Artists, and Everyone,” From Stalinism to Pluralism*, 126-130

December 9 Post-War Socialism, pt. II

Readings: Daphne Berdahl, *Where the World Ended*, selections
Film: *Man of Marble* (Poland, 1977) Class Screening, December 8, 7-9pm (Location TBA)

December 11 1989 & After

**QUIZ #3**

Readings: *Václav Havel, “New Year’s Address,” From Stalinism to Pluralism*, 249-253

**FINAL PAPER DUE, 9:00AM, DECEMBER 18th IN MY OFFICE (311 RICE).**