

History 346: Recent European History  
Prof. Jackson  
San Francisco State University  
Spring 2006  
Tu Th 9:35-10:50  
HSS 151

Office: Science 224 Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, 11:30-1:00; by appointment  
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This survey of 20<sup>th</sup> century Europe is designed to provide an overview of one of the most tumultuous periods in human history. War, revolution, Communism, Fascism, and economic crises are juxtaposed with revolutionary movements in art and literature. Using history, literature, and film, the course will also investigate the causes of World War I, the interwar period, as well as the era following World War II, including the Cold War, Decolonization, and the social turbulence of the late 1960s. We will finish with the collapse of the Soviet bloc and some notes on ongoing history. In addition to the text, many of the readings are novels written during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Note: This course fulfills the category B requirement of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Century European Contributions to World Culture segment of the university's Segment III requirement. Through the use of novels, films, historical essays and books, the students will develop the capacity to analyze and identify in writing the sources of social, cultural, and political stability and instability in European societies and between states during the 20<sup>th</sup> century and beyond.

**Learning objectives:**

- Students will acquire knowledge of historical developments within Europe from the origins of World War I to the collapse of the Soviet bloc.
- Students will learn to analyze and identify the sources of social, cultural, and political stability and instability in European societies and between states during the 20th century.
- Students will understand the role class and ethnic differences played in the shaping of events and movements in 20th-century Europe.
- Through analytical papers, students will critically assess European historical development in the 20th century using both primary and secondary sources.

**Course requirements:** three brief (4-5 pages each) papers (each worth 25% of the final grade), and a final examination (worth 25% of the final grade) on May 23rd, 8:00-10:30. **Paper topics will be linked to the web page.** The first paper will be due March 9th. The second paper will be due April 13th. The third paper will be due May 11th.

Note: Failure to complete all course requirements will result in a grade of “F.” The instructor will not initiate withdrawals. If you choose not to complete the course, it is up to you to drop it in time (February 25 is the deadline). Incompletes will only be given in genuine emergency situations, and suitable documentation will be required.

**Required Reading:**

Timothy Garton Ash, *The Magic Lantern*

Richard Bessel, ed., *Life in the Third Reich*

Tadeusz Borowski, *This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen*

Hans Fallada, *Little Man, What Now?*

Felix Gilbert, *The End of the European Era*, 5th edition (Norton 0393976424)

Arthur Koestler, *Darkness at Noon*

Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*

**Lecture topics:**

Week 1: - Introduction: Definition of an Era; Imperialism and Battleship Building; Origins of World War I

Reading: Gilbert, chaps. 1-3

Week 2: - The Great War; Revolution and Reaction in Germany; The Treaty of Versailles

Reading: Gilbert, chaps. 4-6; Remarque, entire

Week 3 - Italy and the Rise of Fascism

Reading: Gilbert, chap. 7

Week 4 - Revolution and Civil War in Russia; Soviet Communism

Reading: Koestler, entire

Week 5 - Depression in Weimar Germany

Reading: Gilbert, chap. 8; Fallada, entire

Week 6 – Hitler’s Rise to Power; Nazi Germany

Reading: Bessel, entire

Week 7- The Spanish Civil War

Reading: Gilbert, chap. 9

Week 8- World War II

Reading: Gilbert, chap. 10

Week 9 - The Holocaust

Reading: Borowski, entire

Week 10 - Occupied Germany and the Origins of the Cold War

Reading: Gilbert, chap. 11

Week 11 - NATO, German Politics and the "Wirtschaftswunder"

- Reading: Gilbert, chap.12
- Week 12 Post-War Britain and France.
- Week 13- Decolonization; The Revolt of 1968  
Reading: Gilbert, chaps. 13, 14
- Week 14 - Europe In Between "The Euromissiles"  
Reading: Gilbert, chap.16
- Week 15 - A Brave New World -- Communism Collapses and the Future of Europe  
Reading: Gilbert, chap.17; Timothy Garton Ash, entire