The Graduate Center of the City University of New York
History Department
Hist 80200 Literature of Modern Europe II
Mondays 4:15-6:15

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Office hours Mondays 2:00-4:00 or by appointment

Course Description:
This course is intended to provide an introduction to the major themes and historians’ debates on modern European history from the 18th century to the present. We will study a wide range of literature, from what we might call classic historiography to innovative recent work; themes will range from state building and imperialism to war and genocide to culture and sexuality. After completing the course students should have a solid basic grounding in the literature of modern Europe, which will serve as a basis for preparation for oral exams as well as for later teaching and research work.

Requirements:
In a small seminar class of this nature effective class participation by all students is essential. Students will be expected to take the lead in class discussions: each week one student will have the job of introducing the literature for the week, while another student brings to class questions for discussion. Over the semester students will write a substantial historiographical paper on a subject chosen in consultation with me, due on the last day of class, May 16. The paper should deal with a question that is controversial among historians. Students must also submit two short response papers (2-3 pages) on readings for two of the weekly sessions of the course, and I will ask for annotated bibliographies for your historiographical papers on April 11.

Learning Objectives:
By the end of the course, students should be able: to demonstrate a command of several of the recent historiographical themes in twentieth-century European history; to analyze individual works in terms of cogency of argument, the appropriateness of the sources, and clarity of organization; and to put together several works into larger arguments in preparation for passing the first written examination.
Books:

As many books as possible will be placed on reserve at the Graduate Center library. Some other readings (marked with an * on the syllabus) will be posted to Blackboard. Although I will not require you to purchase any books, given the use we will make of the following (and the use I suspect they will be to you in the future) I recommend purchase of:

Jonathan Sperber, *The European Revolutions*
Timothy Snyder, *Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin* (also GC electronic resource)
Tony Judt, *Postwar: A History of Europe since 1945*
Dagmar Herzog, *Sex After Fascism*

Grade Breakdown

Final Paper 40%
Class Participation 30%
Response Papers 15% each total 30%

Week One February 1: Introduction to the course

... and an introduction to the gentle art of “gutting” a book

Week Two February 8: State Building

Linda Colley, *Britons: Forging the Nation*
John Brewer, *The Sinews of Power: War, Money and the English State 1688-1783*
James Allen Vann, *The Making of a State: Württemberg 1593-1793* (intro and p. 133 to the end)

Week Three February 15: Presidents’ Day, College Closed

Week Three February 22: Revolutions

Lynn Hunt, *The Family Romance of the French Revolution* (GC electronic resource)
Jonathan Sperber, *The European Revolutions 1848-1851*
David Bell, *The First Total War*
Week Four February 29: The German Problem

Hans Ulrich Wehler, *The German Empire 1871-1918*
David Blackbourn and Geoff Eley, *The Peculiarities of German History* (GC electronic resource)
*Helmut Walser Smith, “When the Sonderweg Debate Left Us”*

Week Six March 7: Imperialism

Isabel Hull, *Absolute Destruction: Military Culture and the Practices of War in Imperial Germany* (GC electronic resource)

Week Seven March 14: The First World War

Fritz Fischer, *Germany’s Aims in the First World War* (selections)
Christopher Clark, *The Sleepwalkers: How Europe Went to War in 1914* (selections)
*Terrence Zuber, “The Schlieffen Plan Reconsidered,” War in History* vol. 6(3) 1999: 262-305

Week Eight March 21: The Russian Revolution

Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution*
Richard Pipes, *A Concise History of the Russian Revolution*

Week Nine March 28: Fascism and Nazism

Robert Paxton, *The Anatomy of Fascism* chs 1-3, 5, 8
Ruth Ben Ghiat, *Fascist Modernities: Italy 1922-1945* (GC electronic resource)
Peter Fritzsche, *Germans into Nazis*

Week Ten April 4: Stalinism

Timothy Snyder, *Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin* (chs. 1-3, GC electronic resource)
Isaac Deutscher, *Stalin* (selections)
Sheila Fitzpatrick, *Everyday Stalinism* (selections, GC electronic resource)

**Week Eleven: April 11 World War II and the Holocaust**

*Annotated bibliographies due*

Max Hastings, *Inferno* (selections)
Saul Friedländer, *Nazi Germany and the Jews: The Years of Extermination* (selections)

**Week Twelve April 18: Memories**

Nicolas Berg, *The Holocaust and the West German Historians*
David Reynolds, *The Long Shadow*
*Benjamin Carter Hett, “‘This Story is About Something Fundamental’: Nazi Criminals, History, Memory, and the Reichstag Fire”*

**Week Thirteen April 25: Spring Break, No Class**

**Week Fourteen May 2: Culture Wars**

Tony Judt, *Past Imperfect*
Dagmar Herzog, *Sex After Fascism*

**Week Fifteen May 9: Ends of Empires**

Tony Judt, *Postwar* (ch. 9 “Lost Illusions”)
Caroline Elkins, *Imperial Reckoning: The Untold Story of Britain’s Gulag in Kenya* (GC library as “Britain’s Gulag”)
Todd Shepard, *The Invention of Decolonization*
Kristin Ross, *Fast Cars, Clean bodies: Decolonization and the Reordering of French Culture* (selections)

**Week Sixteen May 16: Fall of Communism**

*Final Papers Due*

Tony Judt, *Postwar* (selections)
Charles Maier, *Dissolution: The Crisis of Communism and the End of East Germany* (GC electronic resource)
Timothy Garton Ash, *The Magic Lantern* (selections)