LEARNING GOALS: Students will explore in detail moments in the social history of postwar Europe, East and West, using sex and gender as key categories of analysis. We will explore how the story of Europe changes when sex and gender are the focus, re-examining such phenomena as postwar reconstruction, the Economic Miracle, consumer culture, the rise of youth culture, “deviant” subcultures, second wave feminism, 1968, terrorism, and the revolutions of 1989.

REQUIREMENTS: You are expected to come to class each week prepared to discuss the readings; students will choose a week to serve as discussion leader. You will also produce written reviews throughout the semester – one goal of this course is help you master the art of the academic book review. Your grade will be based on the following:

- **Four book reviews:** four reviews of individual books or articles are due throughout the semester. A review must summarize the work’s argument; discuss its strengths, weaknesses, and use of sources; and assess its contribution to the field. Reviews must be written before the class in which the work is discussed and be submitted that day. *I will not accept reviews of a work after we have already discussed it.* If we’ve only read an excerpt of a work, you may confine your review to the section read for that day’s class. You may review any text you choose, but you must have submitted at least two reviews by Oct. 20; the remaining two are due on or before **Dec. 1**. Reviews may not exceed 750 words – learning how to be both concise and analytical is a key part of this exercise. (First 2 reviews worth 10% each, second 2 worth 15% each = 50% of final grade)

- **Final review essay:** an essay of 15 pages that defines a research question related to the course and analyzes three secondary works on that topic, due at the end of the semester. The topic is up to you. You may include no more than one text discussed in class. (30%)

- **Class participation and discussion facilitation:** each of you will serve as discussion leader for 1 session. Your semester-long participation will also be evaluated. Discussion and debate are essential parts of doing history, and your active participation is vital both to the success of this class and to your growth as a historian. Excessive absences will bring down your grade. Please inform me of any emergencies that prevent you from attending, otherwise I expect to see you here every week. (20%)

READINGS: All books below have been ordered through Barnes & Noble 18th St. @ 5th Ave.; all books and articles are also on reserve in GC Library (password = histsneeringer), except where a journal citation is given – those can be accessed through library databases (JSTOR, Academic Search Complete).

- Drakulic, Slavenka. *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed.* Harper Perennial, 1993. ISBN: 0-060-975401. $13.00 (all prices are paperback, current list price)
* NOTE: Judt and Mazower will serve primarily as background each week, though we will certainly bring them into our discussion, as both make a distinct argument about postwar Europe.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

9/1 Introduction. 1945 – Zero Hour?
READING: Judt, introduction / Weeks ch. 1

9/8 1945-49: Reconstructing Europe, Reconstructing Gender
READING: Judt chs. I-VI / Mazower, ch. 7 / Miracle Years articles by Heineman, Biess / Herzog, ch. 2

9/15 The 1950s: Reconstructing Sex
READING: Judt pp. 226-77 / Herzog, ch. 3 / Weeks pp. 23-46 / Miracle Years articles by Hoehn, Fehrenbach, Schissler

9/22 The Explosion of Consumer Culture

9/29 NO CLASS – CUNY is closed.

10/6 The Explosion of Youth Culture
READING: *Miracle Years* articles by Poiger, Maase / Mark Fenemore, “A Teenage Revolution?” (ch. 5 of his *Sex Thugs and Rock’n’Roll*)

* Have you submitted a review yet? *

10/13  Gay Subcultures before the Sexual Revolution

10/20  Decolonization: The Case of France
READING:  Judt pp. 278-309 / Mazower pp. 320-26 / Ross, entire / Todd Shepard, “Veiled ‘Muslim’ Women, Violent Pied Noir Men, & the Family of France” (ch. 7 of his *Invention of Decolonization*)

* You must have submitted 2 reviews by today *

10/27  The Early 1960s: A Turning Point?

11/3  1968: A Revolutionary Year?
READING:  Judt pp. 401-21, 436-49 / Klimke pp. 71-266, 307-24 / Herzog ch. 4

11/10  The 1970s: Terrorism
READING:  Judt pp. 453-77 / Klimke pp. 269-80 / Varon, entire

11/17  The 1970s: A New Feminism, Gay Liberation
READING:  Weeks pp. 72-98 / Herzog ch. 6 / Geoff Eley, “Feminism: Regendering the Left” (ch. 22 of his *Forging Democracy*) / Klimke pp. 281-305, 325-31

* Have you submitted a third review yet? *

11/22  (Tuesday!) The 1980s: Thatcher, AIDS, and Life Under Communism
READING:  Judt ch. XVII / Mazower ch. 10 / Drakulic, esp. chs. 1-13 / Weeks pp. 98-106 / Herzog ch. 5

12/1  The Collapse of Communism: Actors and Agency
READING:  Garton Ash, Kotkin (as background: Judt ch. XIX, Mazower ch. 11)

* You must have submitted your last 2 reviews by today *

12/8  Concluding Thoughts.

* Final Papers due today *

A Postscript: A Very Brief List of Recommended films
The history of Europe after 1945 is beautifully illustrated in the films that were made during the period, as well as newer films looking back. Below is a list of some easily available films worth checking out:

1945 & the Rubble Years:
* A Foreign Affair (US, Billy Wilder, 1947) – screwball comedy and Marlene Dietrich too!
* Germany Year Zero (Italy, Roberto Rossellini, 1947) – intense drama about survival, filmed amid the ruins
* Murderers are Among Us (Germany, Wolfgang Staudte, 1947) – soul-searching rubble film about German guilt
* A Woman in Berlin (Germany, Max Färberbock, 2008) – a Berlin woman survives rape by the Russians in May 1945, true story based on her diary

Cold War:
* One, Two, Three (US, Billy Wilder, 1961) – screwball comedy about Coca-Cola and Communism
* The Spy Who Came in from the Cold (GB, Martin Ritt, 1965) – classic spy drama in vivid black & white

1950s and the Economic Miracle:
* The Marriage of Maria Braun (W. Germany, R.W. Fassbinder, 1978) – melodrama about Germany’s rise from ruin, embodied by the indomitable, corruptible Maria Braun
* Play Time (France, Jacques Tati, 1967) – classic comedy about life in the modern age & killer appliances

The Sixties: Seeds of Revolt:
* A Hard Day’s Night (GB, Richard Lester, 1964) – Beatlemania in glorious black & white, fab!
* A Taste of Honey (GB, Tony Richardson, 1961) – kitchen-sink drama about teen pregnancy, interracial love
* Masculin-Feminin (France, Jean-Luc Godard, 1966) – the children of Marx and Coca-Cola, über-stylish

Prague Spring:
* Closely Watched Trains (CZ, Jiri Menzel, 1966) – dark comedy about life under Nazi occupation, noted at the time for its sexual undertones (quite racy for East bloc cinema!)
* Larks on a String (CZ, Jiri Menzel, 1968) – banned satire about nonconformists forced to work at the scrap yard by Communist hacks

West German Terrorism:
* The Lost Honor of Katharina Blum (W. Germany, Volker Schlondorff, 1975) – still timely satire about how media hysteria ruins the life of a woman linked to a ‘known terrorist’
* Baader-Meinhof Complex (Germany, Uli Edel, 2008) – action-packed, if superficial, treatment of the group

Immigrants & Guest Workers:
* Ali: Fear Eats the Soul (W. Germany, R.W. Fassbinder, 1973) – a Moroccan ‘guest worker’ and a German widow start a relationship, to the horror of everyone around them
* Head-On (Germany, Fatih Akin, 2005) – riveting drama about German Turks living in two worlds.
* The Edge of Heaven (Germany, Fatih Akin, 2008) – another great Akin film about German Turks and Turkish Germans, filmed in Hamburg and Istanbul

Life Under Communism:
* East Side Story (France/Germany, Dana Ranga, 1997) – fascinating & funny look at Communist musicals
* The Lives of Others (Germany, Florian von Donnersmark, 2006) – gripping drama about the Stasi system

Thatcherism:
* The Filth and the Fury (GB, Julien Temple, 2000) – artful documentary about the Sex Pistols, brilliantly portrays the desperate state of Britain 1975-82

Collapse of Communism:
* Little Vera (USSR, Vasili Pichul,1987) – gritty drama notable for showing problems of real life late USSR
* Goodbye Lenin! (Germany, Wolfgang Becker, 2003) – touching comedy about communist nostalgia