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 and to bring to class questions for discussion. Over the semester students will write a substantial historiographical paper (approximately 20 pages or 6000 words) on a subject chosen in consultation with me, due on the last day of class, May 13. 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 March 28.

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 have been 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*
Tony Judt, *Postwar: A History of Europe since 1945*
Dagmar Herzog, *Sex After Fascism*

Often it is helpful, depending on your background, to read a textbook to get some of the basic narrative of periods or regions of history with which you may not be familiar. For this course I recommend in particular the following unusually good textbooks:

Jonathan Sperber, *Revolutionary Europe 1780-1850* and *Europe 1850-1914*
Robert Paxton, *Europe in the Twentieth Century* (any edition is fine)
David Blackbourn, *The Long Nineteenth Century*
Stephen Kotkin’s *Stalin: Paradoxes of Power* and *Stalin: Waiting for Hitler* are in effect textbooks on Russian and Soviet history between the 1870s and the 1940s
Peter Clarke, *Hope and Glory: Britain 1900-2000*
. . . and Tony Judt’s *Postwar* from the list above

**Grade Breakdown**

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

**Week One January 31: Introduction to the course**

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

**Week Two February 7: 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 14: Revolutions**
Lynn Hunt, *The Family Romance of the French Revolution*
Jonathan Sperber, *The European Revolutions 1848-1851*
David Bell, *The First Total War*

**Week Four February 21: 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 Five February 28: Imperialism**

Isabel Hull, *Absolute Destruction: Military Culture and the Practices of War in Imperial Germany*

**Week Six March 7: The First World War**

Fritz Fischer, *Germany’s Aims in the First World War* (ch. 2)
Christopher Clark, *The Sleepwalkers: How Europe Went to War in 1914* (chapters 6-12)
*Terrence Zuber, “The Schlieffen Plan Reconsidered,” War in History* vol. 6(3) 1999: 262-305

**Week Seven March 14: Fascism and Nazism**

Robert Paxton, *The Anatomy of Fascism* chs 1-3, 5, 8
Ruth Ben Ghiat, *Fascist Modernities: Italy 1922-1945*
Peter Fritzschte, *Germans into Nazis*

**Week Eight March 21: Stalinism**

Timothy Snyder, *Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin* (chs. 1-3, GC electronic resource)
Isaac Deutscher, *Stalin* (selections)
Sheila Fitzpatrick, *Everyday Stalinism*
Stephen Kotkin, *Magnetic Mountain: Stalinism as a Civilization*
Week Nine March 28: World War II and the Holocaust

Annotated bibliographies due March 28

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

Week Ten April 4: Memories and Culture Wars

Nicolas Berg, *The Holocaust and the West German Historians*
Tony Judt, *Past Imperfect*
Dagmar Herzog, *Sex After Fascism*

Week Eleven April 11: Ends of Empires

Tony Judt, *Postwar* (ch. 9 “Lost Illusions”)
Todd Shepard, *The Invention of Decolonization*
Kristin Ross, *Fast Cars, Clean bodies: Decolonization and the Reordering of French Culture* (find what is relevant to decolonization)

Week Twelve April 18: End of Communism

Tony Judt, *Postwar* (chapters XVIII and XIX)
*Charles Maier, *Dissolution: The Crisis of Communism and the End of East Germany*, chapter 2
Timothy Garton Ash, *The Magic Lantern* (selections)

Week Thirteen April 25: Spring Break!

**And Note: No class May 2 because the last two classes are shifted to Monday, 4:15-6:15, Room 4422**
Week Fourteen May 6: NOTE DATE Jointly with Professor Nasaw and the US Lit Class: Brave New Worlds I


Week Fifteen May 13: NOTE DATE Jointly with Professor Nasaw and the US Lit Class: Brave New Worlds II

    *Final Papers Due May 13*

    Alfred W. McCoy, *In the Shadows of the American Century: The Rise and Decline of the US Global Power*
    *”Der Spiegel Reveals Internal Fraud,” Der Spiegel, December 20, 2018
    * Timothy Snyder, *The Road to Unfreedom*, Chapter 1

*** Your First Year Written Exam is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21 ***