LEARNING GOALS: Students will explore in detail moments in the social history of post-war 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, queer 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. 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 750-word reviews of individual books or articles on the syllabus 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. These must be submitted *on the day* in which we discuss the work in class. *I will not accept reviews of a reading after we have already discussed it.* If we’re only reading an excerpt of a work, you may confine your review to the section for that day’s class. You may review any text you choose, but you must have submitted at least two reviews by March 15; the remaining two are due on or before May 3. Reviews should 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**: a historiographic essay of 15-18 pp. on a topic of your choice within the course’s theme and time frame. You must discuss and analyze in detail at least three secondary works on that topic (an article counts as ½), due at the end of the semester. You may include no more than one work 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 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: The books below are recommended for purchase, as we’ll read extensively in them (plus they’ll be great additions to your library). Good alternatives to amazon.com are abebooks.com, powells.com, and Book Culture on 112th St. I will also put books on library reserve where possible. If a journal citation is given below, those articles can be accessed through GC library databases (JSTOR, Academic Search Complete). Other articles will be put up on Blackboard (Bb).

* NOTE: Judt will serve primarily as background, though we will certainly bring it into our discussion, as it makes a distinct argument. I’d prefer you not make it the focus of your short essays.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

2/1  
Introduction. 1945 – Zero Hour?  
READING: Judt, introduction / Herzog, Introduction & ch. 1

2/8  
1945-49: Reconstructing Europe, Reconstructing Gender  
READING: Judt chs. I-VI / Jerram pp. 101-54 & 358-72 / *Miracle Years* articles by Heineman, Biess / Herzog ch. 2

2/15  
The 1950s: Reconstructing Sex  

2/22  
The Explosion of Consumer Culture  

3/1  
The Explosion of Youth Culture  

* Have you submitted a review yet? *
3/8  Gay Subcultures before the Sexual Revolution  
READING:  Jerram pp 238-316 / Mort chs. 4-5 / McLellan ch. 5 / Clayton Whisnant, “The Homophile Movement” & “Struggle over the Gay Scene’s Boundaries” (from his Male Homosexuality in West Germany) [Bb]

3/15  Race in the New Europe: Guest Workers and Decolonization  
READING:  Judt pp. 278-309 / Todd Shepard, “Veiled ‘Muslim’ Women, Violent Pied Noir Men, & the Family of France” (from his Invention of Decolonization) [Bb] / Rita Chin, “Gender & Incommensurable Cultural Difference” (from her The Guest Worker Question in Postwar Germany) [Bb]

* You must have submitted 2 reviews by today *

3/22  The Early 1960s: A Turning Point?  

3/29  1968: A Revolutionary Year?  
READING:  Judt pp. 401-21 & 436-49 / Klimke pp. 71-266 & 307-24 / Herzog ch. 4

4/5  SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS

4/12  Terrorism – The Case of the Red Army Faction  
READING:  Judt pp. 453-77 / Klimke pp. 269-80 / Melzer, entire

4/19  The 1970s: A New Feminism & Gay Liberation  
READING:  Herzog ch. 6 / Jerram pp. 166-72 / Klimke pp. 281-305, 325-31 / Geoff Eley, “Feminism: Regendering the Left” (from his Forging Democracy) [Bb]

* Have you submitted a third review yet? *

4/26  The 1980s: Thatcher, AIDS, and Sex Under Communism  
READING:  Judt ch. XVII / Jerram pp. 372-84 / Herzog ch. 5 / McLellan chs. 6-8

5/3  The Collapse of Communism: Actors & Agency  
READING:  Garton Ash, entire; Kotkin, entire (as background: Judt ch. XIX)

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

5/10  Concluding Thoughts.  
READING:  to be announced

* 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) – 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) – hilarious screwball comedy about Coca-Cola & 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) – impeccably choreographed near-silent comedy about life in the new mod age

The Sixties: Youth Culture, Rebellion
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) – black 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 by Party hacks to work at a scrap yard

Gay Culture (pre- and post-1969):
Victim (GB, Basil Dearden, 1961) – first English film to use the term “homosexual.” Social drama about a barrister being blackmailed for his life on the DL. Banned in its day.
Fassbinder’s films from the 1970s depict the worlds of gay men and lesbians, particularly their internal power struggles. Among his best are Fox and His Friends and The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant.

1970s Terrorism:
The Lost Honor of Katharina Blum (W. Germany, Volker Schlondorff, 1975) – still timely satire penned by Heinrich Böll on 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
In the Name of the Father (Ireland, Jim Sheridan, 1993) – Daniel Day-Lewis stars as Gerry Conlon, wrongly framed by police as an IRA bomber
Carlos (Fr/It, Oliver Assayas, 2010) – stunning 6-hour drama on Carlos the Jackal, the best of the “narco terror” genre

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
Ashes and Diamonds, Man of Steel, Man of Iron – all compelling epics from Polish director Andrej Wajda
Legend of Paul & Paula (GDR, Heiner Carow, 1973) – beloved East German film about a love affair, notable for its blend of romanticism and everyday life under socialism

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
High Hopes (GB, Mike Leigh 1988) – an aging pair of ’68ers confront the fading of their utopian dreams in Thatcher’s Britain. All of Leigh’s films incisively depict class, gender, and race relations in Britain; among his best are Naked and Secrets and Lies.

Collapse of Communism:
Little Vera (USSR, Vasili Pichul,1987) – a milestone for its unflinching look at the problems of life in the late Soviet era
Goodbye Lenin! (Germany, Wolfgang Becker, 2003) – touching comedy about a mother who awakens from a coma to find her beloved communism has died, and her son’s efforts to keep it alive through strategic deployment of East German commodities