

Course Description:

This course aims to introduce students to the main themes and problems of European history from end of the Second World War to the present. The most important feature of this period was the division of Europe into two opposing political blocs that in many ways faced sharply diverging fortunes. But the period since 1945 also witnessed various trends and developments that transcended national and bloc boundaries. This course therefore concentrates on parallel and divergent trends in both halves of the divided continent. We will concentrate on developments inside Europe but also address Europe's relationship to the wider world. In particular, the course will follow four themes throughout European History since 1945. First, we analyze European history specifically as postwar history, that is we will analyze the ways in which Europeans confronted the legacies of the Second World War in the postwar period. Secondly, we will analyze the international and transnational context of European history, especially as it pertains to the Cold War and to the collapse of European Empires. Thirdly, we will analyze the relationship between economic developments and political transformations in Eastern and Western Europe. Fourthly, we will discuss the dramatic transformation of European societies and cultures, especially as they manifested itself in youth cultures in East and West. Readings consist of primary and secondary sources. They include several novels and autobiographies that are supposed to convey an impression of what it meant to live through the postwar period. The course also includes three films. These films will be integrated into lectures, discussion, assignments, and exams. They are available on e-reserve, and their viewing is mandatory.

Course Readings:

William Hitchcock, *The Struggle for Europe*
Jan Gross, *Fear*
Buchi Emecheta, *Second Class Citizen*
Heda Kovaly, *Under a Cruel Star. A Life in Prague*
Peter Schneider, *The Wall Jumper*
Timothy Garton Ash, *The File*

(Books are available at Groundworks Bookstore and on reserve in Geisel Library)
Additional readings and films are available on e-reserves)

Course Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction and Background

March 29 : Introduction

March 31 : The Decline of Europe, 1914-1945

Jan Gross, *Fear*, ix-80

Week 2: The Search for Memory and Justice

April 5 : Post-War Retribution

Jan Gross, *Fear*, 81-166, 245-61

[Denazification Statistics for Western Zones](#)

April 7 : Divided Memory

Film: Rome. Open City

Week 3: The Cold War in Europe

April 12 : The Origins of the Cold War

Hitchcock, *Struggle for Europe*, 13-39

The Truman Doctrine," March 12, 1947

Andrei Zhdanov, "The Two-Camp Policy," September 1947

April 14 : The "German Question

Michael Geyer, "Cold War Angst: The German Opposition to Rearmament and Nuclear Weapons" (e-reserve)

[First "Stalin Note" \(1952\)](#)

[Telegrams by U.S. High Commissioner John McCloy to Secretary of State Dean Acheson in Response to Stalin Note](#) (March 1952)

[Refugee Movement, 1950-1963](#)

[A Neutral's Description of the Building of the Berlin Wall](#) (1961)

Week 4: Postwar Reconstruction -- West

April 19: Politics and Economics

Hitchcock, *Struggle for Europe*, 40-130, 192-220

Sir William Beveridge, "New Britain" (1942)

[The Bad Godesberg Program of the German Social Democratic Party](#) (1959)

April 21: Culture and Society

Uta Poiger, "Rock'n'Roll, Female Sexuality, and the Cold War Battle over German Identity" (e-reserve)

Start Kovaly, *Under a Cruel Star*

Week 5: Postwar Reconstruction -- East

April 26 : The Establishment of Communism

Hitchcock, *Struggle for Europe*, 98-130, 193-220

[Anton Ackermann, The "German Path to Socialism" \(1946\)](#)

Finish Kovaly, *Under a Cruel Star. A Life in Prague.*

April 28 : MIDTERM

Week 6: Decolonization and its Consequences

May 3: The Fall of European Empires

Hitchcock, *Struggle for Europe*, 162-192, 410-434

May 5: The Empire Strikes Back: Race and Immigration

Buchi Emecheta, *Second Class Citizen*

Film: The Battle of Algiers

Week 7: 1968

May 10 : Paris

Hitchcock, *Struggle for Europe*, 247-268

Herbert Marcuse, "Repressive Tolerance" (e-reserve)

Film: Herbert's Hippopotamus. A Story of Revolution in Paradise

May 12 : Prague

Hitchcock, *Struggle for Europe*, 288-93.

Ludvik Vaculik, "Two Thousand Words to Workers, Framers, Scientists, Artists and Everyone," June 27, 1968

The Brezhnev Doctrine

Week 8: Drifting Apart, The 1970s and 1980s

May 17 : Economic Crisis and Political Transformations

Hitchcock, *Struggle for Europe*, 243-46, 269-341

May 19 : Detente and Ostpolitik

Peter Schneider, *The Wall Jumper*
[Egon Bahr, "Change Through Rapprochement" \(1963\)](#)
[East-West German Immigration Statistics, 1950-1989](#)
The Helsinki Accords, August 1, 1975
Charter 77, January 1, 1977,

Week 9: 1989 and Beyond

May 24: The European Revolutions

Hitchcock, *Struggle for Europe*, 347-409.
Vaclav Havel, "The Power of the Powerless" (1979)
Solidarity's Program, October 16, 1981.
The Tageszeitung on the Opening of the Berlin Wall, Nov.11, 1989

May 26: Unifications and their Discontents

Timothy Garton Ash, *The File*
Mikhail Gorbachev, "A Common European Home"

Film *The Lives of Others*

Week 10: A New Europe?

May 31 : The Nightmare Come True: War in Yugoslavia

Hitchcock, *Struggle for Europe*, ???
Veljko Guberina, January 20, 1989, "Serbian Nationalism"

Jun 2 : Contemporary Europe

Course Requirements:

[Attendance](#) [Exams](#) [Writing Assignment](#) [Course Participation](#) [Grading](#) [Course Policy](#)

1. Attendance:

This is an upper-division lecture course. Most student in the class will have completed their lower-division requirements, although exceptions are possible with the consent of the instructor. Students are expected to have a basic curiosity about European history and to show a willingness to engage with the course material. Regular class attendance will be absolutely essential for the successful completion of this course. The lectures and discussions will complement, not duplicate the readings, and they will contain essential information for the various written assignments. The course includes several optional discussion sections. Students will have a choice between attending one of the sections or

taking an in-class midterm exam. If at all possible, I strongly encourage attendance of the sections.

2. Exams and Writing Assignments:

The course includes an in-class midterm for those students who did not sign up for the sections (see above) as well as in-class final exam. Writing assignments include a short response paper due in Week 2 as well as a 10-12 page research paper due in Week 10. I will provide a list of possible topics for the longer paper and I will place several book titles relevant to each topic on reserve in the library. But you are also free to choose your own topic in consultation with the TAs. Your final grade will be calculated as following: Short paper 10%, midterm or sections 20%, research paper 35%, final exam 35%.

4. Grading:

Every student has to make a reasonable, good faith effort to complete all the course assignments in order to pass the course. Late papers will be penalized, make-up exams are only possible in the case of documented valid excuses. Throughout the quarter, I will coordinate with the TAs grading policies and criteria for evaluating the written assignments. If you are unhappy with a grade you have received for one of the assignment, you must submit a **written** complaint to me **no later than one week** after we have returned the assignment. This will ensure a fair and standardized procedure for dealing with your complaint. I will not consider any later complaints. I will not determine the final grade on a purely mathematical basis. For example, I will take into consideration improvement over the course of the quarter.

6. Course Policy:

a. Academic Integrity:

It is your responsibility to know and observe all the UCSD rules concerning academic integrity and plagiarism. Please familiarize yourself with the History Department's [definition of plagiarism and academic misconduct](#). This course has a turnitin.com account attached to it, and you will need to submit your writing assignments electronically via e-mail.* Any student found to have committed a violation of the university rules concerning academic integrity will face academic and administrative consequences. I will report all suspected academic misconduct to the Academic Integrity Office, in accordance

with University policy. Administrative sanctions can range from disciplinary probation to suspension and dismissal from the university. Academic sanctions can range from an F on the assignment to an F in the class. Please also make sure to observe the rules for collaboration in preparing the writing assignment and the final take-home exam. It is fine, even encouraged, to discuss the course material with your peers. But your papers should reflect your own individual original thinking about the course themes and material. If you have any questions whatsoever about what constitutes plagiarism, how to properly credit the work and ideas of others, what constitutes permissible cooperation with other students, how to evaluate sources for quality and reliability, and so on, please feel free to contact me. I view it as one of my chief responsibilities to help each of you produce first-rate academic work that reflects your own original thinking about the course themes and material.

b. Conduct in Class.

Please don't talk during class. Lecturing is hard and requires my full concentration. If I see you talking, I get very insecure and begin to wonder why you are not listening to me. Such incidents throw off my concentration and everybody else will wonder why I no longer speak in complete sentences. Also, please do not start packing up your belongings before the end of the class. I will end my lectures on time (even if I have to stop in mid-sentence), so please give me the full 80 minutes. Finally, this course makes heavy use of a course website and online materials. This means that the classroom has a wireless Internet connections. We (the reader and I) will consider it an act of extreme unfriendliness if we catch you surfing the Internet or writing e-mails during the lectures. If you want to use your laptop for note-taking, I request that you sit in the front rows of the classroom.

c. Course Website

Throughout the quarter, I will make extensive use of a course website. Please make sure to check back on the website, I will update it throughout the quarter. It is essential that every student has regular access to this website. You will need your UCSD user ID and password to log on. The site contains will include lecture outlines. However, I would like

to emphasize strongly that the online materials are not sufficient to replace attendance of the lectures. They should help students to follow the lectures and to review the course material in preparation for the exams; they are not supposed to substitute face-to-face interaction in the classroom.

*Students agree that by taking this course all required papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com site. Students have the right to refuse submission of their papers to turnitin.com. But they need to do so by Week 2 of the quarter and they are required to contact the instructor in order to make alternate arrangements.

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