

## **History 127 - Europe: 1890 to 1945**

University of Pennsylvania

Fall Semester 2006

Mondays and Wednesday at 11.00

Instructor: Jonathan Steinberg

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Course description:

### *The Subject to be Studied*

This course continues the history of the modern world in Europe from the high point of Empire and world domination at the end of the nineteenth century, where History 126 stopped, to collapse and ruin in 1945. The grand societies and rich states which composed the European state system in 1890 destroyed themselves in these fifty-five years. As many as eighty million Russians, Germans, Poles, Yugoslavs, Greeks, Italians and other Europeans died through war, disease and famine. Hundreds of thousands died in slave labor camps, and six million Jews were systematically murdered. Europe's flourishing Jewish community east of the Rhine was wiped out. On the 9<sup>th</sup> of May 1945, the day Nazi Germany surrendered, the once prosperous continent was a gigantic smoking ruin, covered by rubble, pock-marked by craters and full of miserable starving people. This course will try to explain how and why Europe committed suicide in such a horrific way. It will cover Fascism, Nazism, Stalinism, the two world wars, the great economic depression and the holocaust. It is not a happy story, but it forms the background to the world in 2006. We need to try to understand these catastrophic years in order to explain our own situation, possibly to learn some modest lessons.

### **Required reading:**

John Merriman, *A History of Modern Europe. Vol 2 From the French Revolution to the Present* Second ed. (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2004). ISBN: 0393924955

Marvin Perry, Matthew Berg, James Krukones, *Sources of Twentieth Century Europe* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co, 2003). ISBN: 0395925681

### **Course requirements:**

**I. Book Review:** Each student is asked to write one short book review **not longer than 1200 words** on one of the books in the list below. The word count for the book review matters. Students will be expected to put the word-count on the first page under their names. Saying what you have to say within a tight word limit teaches you to think clearly and economically, virtues needed in every profession. The book review will be due on Wednesday, October 25 not later than 12 noon in 208 College Hall in my mailbox.

### **Book review choices:**

- 1) Joseph Roth, *The Radetzky March*, Nadine Gordimer (Introduction), Joachim Neugroschel (Translator) Overlook Press; (September 2002) ISBN: 1585673269
- 2) Robert Graves, *Goodbye to All That*, Anchor; 2nd Revised edition (February 1, 1958) ISBN: 0385093306

- 3) Carlo Levi, *Christ stopped at Eboli*, Noonday Press, ISBN: 037 4503 168
- 4) George Orwell, *Homage to Catalonia* Harvest Books; (October 1969) ISBN: 0156421178
- 5) Mikhail Bulgakov, *The Master and Margarita* Lulu Press (April 2006) ISBN: 1411683056
- 6) Curzio Malaparte, *Kaput*, New York Review of Books (April 10, 2005) ISBN: 1590171470
- 7) Jorge Semprun, *The Long Voyage*, Overlook TP; Reprint edition (March 29, 2005) ISBN: 158567639X

**II. Final Examination:** There will be a conventional, **two-hour, final examination**. Students will be asked to identify six persons, events or concepts from a list of twenty-four and to write one essay from a selection of a dozen essay questions. We will provide help in tackling IDs precisely and economically as well in essay-writing technique.

Grade distribution:

Recitation work	15%
Book Review	35%
Final Examination	50%

In addition to the required reading, other readings for the course will be available on the course website on-line on *Blackboard* or at Campus Copy in bulk-pack form. We will make every effort to put copies of the texts on reserve at the Rosengarten Reserve in the Van Pelt Library (3420 Walnut Street).

**Week 1. Sept 6: The European Scene in 1890 and how History is studied**

Merriman, *Modern Europe*, pp 858-897 Perry, Berg and Kukones, *Sources*, pp 1-48

**Week. 2 Sept 11 and 13: Imperial Germany-the explosive society**

Roberts, *Europe*, pp 60-96 [2<sup>nd</sup> edition: 82-127]

Mary Fulbrook, *Germany* pp 181-228 [on-line/bulkpack]

**Week 3. Sept 18 and 20: Austria-Hungary: ancient and modern (Freud's Vienna)**

Merriman, *Modern Europe*, pp 886-891.

S.R. Williamson, Jr *Austria-Hungary and the Origins of the First World War* (London: Macmillan, 1991) pp 1-57 [on-line/bulkpack]

**Week 4. Sept 25 and 27: Empires- the Russian and the Colonial**

Merriman, *Modern Europe*, pp 898-939

Martin Pugh, *Modern British Politics*, pp. 89-146 [on-line/bulkpack].

Orlando Figes, *A People's Tragedy. The Russian Revolution 1891-1924* (London: Jonathan Cape, 1998) pp 3-121 [online/bulkpack]

**Monday October 2, NO CLASS ROSH HASHANNAH**

**Week 5. Oct 4 The France of Dreyfus**

R.P. Tombs, *France, 1814-1914* (New York: Addison Wesley, 1996) pp 435-483. [on-line/bulkpack]

Michael Burns, *France and the Dreyfus Affair: A Documentary History*, pp. 1-60 [on-line/bulkpack].

**Week 6. Oct 9 and 11. The July Crisis and The First World War**

Merriman, *Modern Europe*, pp 943-1015

Martin Pugh, *Modern British Politics*, 147-178 [on-line/bulkpack]

Perry, Berg, Kukones, *Sources* pp 57-60.

S.R. Williamson, Jr *Austria-Hungary and the Origins of the First World War* (London: Macmillan, 1991) pp 164-216 [on-line/bulkpack]

**Week 7. Oct 16 and 18. The Peace Settlement of 1919 and Europe in Revolution**

Merriman, *Modern Europe*, pp 1001-1016, 1057-1089. [1<sup>st</sup> edition: 1071-1084, 1139-1159]

J.M. Roberts, *Europe*, pp 253-284 [2<sup>nd</sup> edition: pp 319-358]

Mary Fulbrook, *Germany*, pp 235-257 [on-line/bulkpack]

Perry, Berg and Kukones, pp 77-89

**October 23, No Class Fall Break**

**Week 8. Oct 25. The Russian Revolution and Stalinism**

Merriman, *Modern Europe*, pp 1017-1055 [1<sup>st</sup> edition: pp 1097-1138]

J.M. Roberts, *Europe*, pp 336-349 [2<sup>nd</sup> edition: pp 422-438]

Perry, Berg, Krukones, pp 92-141

**Wednesday, October 25: The book review will be due not later than 12 noon**

**Week 9. Oct. 30 and Nov 1. The Interwar Economic and Social Crisis**

Merriman, *Modern Europe*, pp 1077-1092 [1<sup>st</sup> edition: pp 1160-1174]

Martin Pugh, *Modern British Politics*, pp 179-242 [on-line/bulkpack].

Mary Fulbrook, *Germany*, pp 258-298 [on-line/bulkpack]

**Week 10. Nov 6 and 8. The Fascist and Nazi Seizures of Power**

Merriman, *Modern Europe*, pp 1111-1140 [1<sup>st</sup> edition: pp 1194-1221]

Mary Fulbrook, *Germany*, pp 298-318 [on-line/bulkpack]

**Week 11. Nov 13 and 15. Mussolini and Hitler: two types of charisma**

Merriman, *Modern Europe* pp 1093-1103 [1<sup>st</sup> edition: 1186-1194]

Mary Fulbrook, *Germany*, pp 318-338

Jonathan Steinberg, *All or Nothing: the Axis and the Holocaust, 1941-1943*, pp 1-12, 168-205 [on-line/bulkpack]

**Week 12. Nov 20 and 22. The Spanish Civil War**

Merriman, *Modern Europe*, pp 1141-1146 [1<sup>st</sup> edition: pp 1222-1230]

Perry, Berg, Krukones, *Sources*, 188-196

Paul Preston, *The Politics of Revenge. Fascism and the military in twentieth century Spain*, (London/New York: Routledge, 1995) pp 3-29 [on-line/bulkpack]

Francisco J. Romero Salgado, *Twentieth-Century Spain. Politics and Society in Spain, 1898-1998* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1999, pp 48-125 [on-line/bulkpack])

**Week 13. Nov 27 and 29 : The Origins and Course of the Second World War**

Merriman, *Modern Europe*, pp 1147-1206

Martin Pugh, *Modern British Politics*, pp 243-257

Perry, Berg, Krukones, *Sources*, pp 214-249

**Week 14. Dec 4 and 6: The Extermination of the Jews of Europe**

Perry, Berg, Krukones, *Sources*, pp 250-255

Mary Fulbrook, *Germany*, pp 339-360 [on-line/bulkpack]

Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz : The Nazi Assault on Humanity*, Stuart Woolf (Translator)

Chs 9 – 11 pp. 87-115

**FINAL: TBA**