

M. Standley
Twentieth-Century Europe
U.G.A., Fall 2007

TWENTIETH-CENTURY EUROPE
Defining the Borders of Europe, 1900-2000
History Dept. Course #3362

University of Georgia
2007

Fall

Meeting Times: T, Th 9:30-10:45
Classroom: 323 LeConte Hall

Instructor: Michelle A. Standley
Email: standley@uga.edu
Office: ?
Office Hours: Thursday, 10:45-1 and by appointment

Traditionally, European history courses have been taught according to the ideological boundaries of an East/West axis. In this schema “backward” countries belong in the East and “modern” ones belong in the West. While such divisions make for tidy storytelling, they also distort the fluidity of intellectual and cultural boundaries, as well as those of political and social developments. Thus, one of the main objectives of this course is to think, through, over and around the borders of Europe, from the imposition of new national borders in the first part of the century, to racial ones under fascism, and to the construction of the “Iron Curtain” in mid-century, and finally to the transcendence of certain economic and political boundaries within the European Union in the latter part of the century. To this end, we will consider the relationship between the various regions of Europe and will examine both the particularities of the respective regions as well as their shared developments, including two wars and their consequences, nationalism and the triumph of the nation-state, modernization, the rise of the welfare state as well as consumer culture, mass society and leisure.

In keeping with this agenda, the scope of this course will be necessarily broad and will incorporate western, eastern, central and to a lesser extent northern and southern Europe. In making connections between political, economic and social changes, on the one hand, and intellectual and conceptual transformations, on the other, we will ask such questions as: Is there such a thing as Europe? And, if so, who is a European? Who has defined what these terms have meant at different points during the twentieth century? How have different historical actors and collectivities defined progress and backwardness? Prosperity versus poverty, male versus female and insider versus outsider? How have the answers to these questions dictated the shape of twentieth-century Europe?

Requirements:

1. Weekly reading quizzes and participation
2. Map Quiz
3. Three Papers (circa 1000 words each)
4. Final Exam (take home=15%, in-class=15%)

Grading:

- 30%
- 10%
- 30%
- 30%

Important Dates:

1. Map Quiz August 28
2. Paper 1 September 25
3. Paper 2 October 30
4. Paper 3 November 27
5. Final Exam December ?

REQUIRED READINGS

The following texts are required. They are available at the U.G.A. bookstore.

1. Bonnie G. Smith, *Europe in the Contemporary World: 1900 to the Present. A Narrative History With Documents* (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 2007).
2. Witold Gobrowicz, *Ferdydurke*, (1937) Translated by Danuta Borchardt (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2000).
3. Georges Perec, *Things: A Story of the Sixties*, (1965) Translated by Andrew Leak (Boston: David R. Godine Publisher, 1990).
4. Dario Fo, *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, (1970) (London: A&C Black Publishing, 2003).

THE ASSIGNMENTS

Weekly Reading Quizzes and Participation: Class on Tuesdays will always begin with a very short quiz on the assigned reading. Students should also be prepared to participate in the frequent group discussions in a thoughtful and respectful manner. No make up quizzes will be given.

Map Quiz: This is a basic quiz on the political geography of Europe, in 1900 and 2000.

Short Papers: Papers are to be handed in at the beginning of class on the due dates. Late papers will not be accepted. Each will be approximately 4 pages (circa 1000 words) each. They are not summaries of the assigned material but rather are meant to engage the relevant works critically. With all three papers, students are to draw on and incorporate themes presented in lecture, the readings, and in class discussion.

Paper 1. Document Analysis. Students are to write on one document, three choices will be available. Additional instructions and the list of documents will be distributed in advance.

Paper 2. Film or Document Comparison. Students will have a choice of either comparing two films or two documents. Additional instructions and the names of the movies and documents will be distributed in advance.

Paper 3. Book Review. Students will select one book, among five choices provided, and write a critical review of it. The book review should (a) identify the book's core argument, (b) consider whether or not the author succeeds in supporting it, and (c) discuss the larger issues in twentieth-century European history to which this specific work speaks. Additional instructions and a list of books will be distributed in advance.

*****PLAGIARISM***** U.G.A.'s *Student Honor Code and Policy on Academic Honesty* are strictly enforced. Submitting work that is not entirely your own, or other forms of deception, will result in a failing grade on the assignment and possibly the course.

Final Exam: The final consists of two parts. First, there will be an in-class part, which will include a fill-in-the-blanks section, covering important names, concepts and dates. Second, there will be a take home essay, consisting of three questions. Students will be required to answer two out of the three.

MEETINGS

course introduction

August 16

What is Europe?

The Borders of Europe: Representations versus Reality

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- Week 1** ***The Long Century Comes to a Close, Europe up to 1914***
August 21 The Civilizing Process: The Rise of Nation-States and the Dusk of Empires
August 23 State and Society: The View from Above, Below and In-Between

Reading:

Smith, pp. 2-45; 55-60; 66-101; 104-105.
Joseph Roth, "The Bust of the Emperor" (1924) in *Hotel Savoy*, Translated by John Hoare,
Woodstock, New York: The Overlook Press (1986), pp.157-183. [Habsburg Empire]

Week 2 ***The Great War and Revolutions, 1914-1920***

- August 28 MAP QUIZ
 The War to End All Wars
August 30 National and Social Revolutions

Reading:

Smith, 128-161; 168-170; 174-180.
"Vox Populi: Intercepted Letters in the First World War" in *The Garden and the Workshop:
Essays on the Cultural History of Vienna and Budapest*, Princeton, New Jersey:
Princeton University Press (1998), pp.179-212. [Habsburg Empire]
Irina Livezeanu, *Cultural Politics in Greater Romania: Regionalism, Nation-Building, and Ethnic
Struggle, 1918-1930*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press (1995), pp.1-25.

Week 3 ***Modernity's Workshop: The Interwar Period I, 1920s-1930s***

- September 2 Nation-Building and Obstacles to Stability
September 3 Interwar Culture and Society

Reading:

Smith, pp. 186-222; 232-247.
Witold Gombrowicz, *Ferdydurke* (1937) pp.1-117. [Poland]
Films: In class excerpt from Fritz Lang's *Metropolis* (1926) [Germany]

Week 4 ***The Rise of Authoritarian Regimes: The Interwar Period II, 1920s-1930s***

- September 11 Economic Collapse and the Emerging German Threat
September 13 Stalinism and Fascism: Ideology, Aesthetics and Politics

Reading:

Smith, pp. 223-227; 254-294; 308-314.
The Nuremberg Laws (1935), in *Modern European History, 1871-2000: A Documentary Reader*,
edited by David Welch, London: Routledge (1999), pp. 138-142. [Germany]
Ruth Ben Ghiat, "Envisioning Modernity: Desire and Discipline in the Italian Fascist Film" in
Critical Inquiry, Vol. 23, No.1 (Autumn 1996), pp. 109-144.
Hannah Arendt, "Totalitarian Propaganda" in *The Origins of Totalitarianism* (1968), San Diego:
Harcourt, Inc. (1976), pp. 341-364.
Films: In class excerpts from Leni Riefenstahl's *Triumph of the Will* (1935) [Germany]
 and Grigori Aleksandrov's *Circus* (1936) [Soviet Union]

Week 5 ***The Second World War and German Occupation, 1930s-1945***

- September 18 World War II and Ethnic Cleansing
September 20 A War Without Boundaries: The Experience of War

Reading:

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Smith, pp. 320-355; 362-365; 368-379.

Christopher R. Browning, "One Day in Jozefow: Initiation to Mass Murder" in *Nazism and German Society, 1933-1945*, edited by David F. Crew, London and New York: Routledge (1994), pp. 300-314.

Vasily Grossman, "Good is Stronger than Evil" [1944] in *Mass Culture in Soviet Russia: Tales, Poems, Songs, Movies, Plays and Folklore, 1917-1953*, edited by James von Geldern and Richard Stites, Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana Press (1995), pp. 380-386. [USSR]

Mark Mazower, "'Tired Out by History': Athens '44" and "Epilogue, 'No Peace Without Victory'" in *Inside Hitler's Greece: The Experience of Occupation, 1941-1944*, New Haven and London: Yale University Press (1993), pp. 340-377.

Week 6 ***The Emergence of a Bipolar World, 1945-1949***

September 25 PAPER 1 DUE

The Origins of the Cold War: An Ideological or Political Conflict?

September 27 The Communist Takeovers and the Rise of Soviet Hegemony

Reading:

Smith, pp. 384-421; 431-438.

Winston Churchill, "Iron Curtain Speech" (1946) [U.K.]

Available at www.historyguide.org/europe/churchill.html

Melvyn P. Leffler, "The Cold War: What do 'We Now Know'?" in *The American Historical Review* Vol. 104, No. 2 (April 1999), pp. 501-524.

Week 7 ***The Legacies of War:***

From Disorder and Scarcity to Reconstruction, Postwar I, 1945-1950s

October 2 War and Memory: Victim versus Perpetrator, Hero versus Villain

October 4 From Chaos to Order and the Rise of the Welfare State

Reading:

Smith, pp. 444-452; 475-477.

Henri Rousso, "Unfinished Mourning" in *The Vichy Syndrome*, Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press (1991), pp.15-59.

Elizabeth Heineman, "The Hour of the Women: Memories of Germany's 'Crisis Years' and West German National Identity" in *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 101, No. 2 (April 1996), pp. 354-395.

Films: View out of class, Roberto Rossellini's *Rome Open City* (1945) [Italy] and Wolfgang Staudte's *The Murderers are Among Us* (1946) [Soviet Zone of Occupied Germany]

Week 8 ***The Legacies of War:***

From Disorder and Scarcity to Reconstruction, Postwar II, 1945-1950s

October 9 Selling Miracles, Promising Utopia and Remaking the (National) Family

October 11 The Rise and Fall of Stalinism and Challenges to Soviet Hegemony

Reading:

Smith, pp. 452-468.

Charles S. Maier, "The Two Postwar Eras and the Conditions for Stability in Twentieth-Century Western Europe" in *In Search of Stability: Explorations in Historical Political Economy*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (1987) pp. 153-183.

“The Slansky Trial, Events of 1949-1952,” (1968) in *From Stalinism to Pluralism: A Documentary History of Eastern Europe Since 1945*, Second Edition, edited by Gale Stokes, Oxford: Oxford University Press (1996), pp. 71-77.
[Czechoslovakia]

Khrushchev’s “Secret Speech,” (1956) [USSR]

Available at <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1956khrushchev-secret1.html>

Imre Nagy, “Reform Communism” (1956) in Stokes, ed., 82-87. [Hungary]

Week 9 ***Making Europe “Modern”:***

The Everyday Under Capitalism and Under Communism, 1950s-1970s

October 16 Collectivization, Urbanization and the New Middle Classes

October 18 Mass Leisure and Consumption, and the Coca-Colonization of Europe

Reading:

Smith, pp. 468-474; 487-493; 554-573.

Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer, “The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception” (1944) in *The Cultural Studies Reader*, Second Edition, edited by Simon During, London and New York: Routledge (1999), pp. 31-41. [Germany and U.S.]

Georges Perec, *Things: A Story of the Sixties* (1965), 21-105. [France]

Roland Barthes, *Mythologies* (1957), Translated by Annette Lavers, New York: Hill and Wang (1972), pp. 36-38, 41-42, 58-61, 62-64, 78-80, 81-83. [France]

Films: In class excerpts from Jean Luc Godard’s *Week-end* (1967) [France] and Joachim Hasler’s *Hot Summer* (1968) [GDR]

Week 10 ***The Collapse of (West) European Empire, 1950s-1970s***

October 23 Decolonization and “Multi-Kulti” Europe

Reading:

Smith, pp.498-536, 540-548.

Frantz Fanon, “Concerning Violence” (1961) in *The Wretched of the Earth*, Translated by Richard Philcox, New York: Grove Press (2004), pp. 1-62. [The French Colony of Martinique]

Films: View out of class, Gillo Pontecorvo’s *The Battle of Algiers* (1966) [Italy and Algeria]

Week 11 ***Dissent and Challenges to the Old Order, 1960s-1970s***

October 30 PAPER 2 DUE

“1968” East and West and the Elusive Third Way

November 1 The Legacies of ’68

Reading:

Smith, pp. 573-580; 605-612

Dario Fo, *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* (1970). [Italy]

Ludvik Vaculik, “Two Thousand Words” (1968) in Stokes, ed., 126-130. [Czechoslovakia]

Films: View in class, Jan Nemeč’s *Oratorio for Prague Spring* (1968) [Czechoslovakia]

Week 12 ***Utopia Abandoned? Reform, Dissent and Fragmentation, 1970s***

November 6 Second Wave Feminism and the Double Burden

November 8 A Decade of Stagnation? and Actually Existing Socialism and its Discontents

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Reading:

Smith, pp. 575-577; 580-593.

Irmtraud Morgner, "The Rope" (1974) in Edith Hoshino Altbach, et al, ed., *German Feminism: Readings in Politics and Literature*, Albany: State University of New York Press (1984), 215-219. [GDR]

Maxie Wander, ed. "Waiting for a Miracle" (1978) in Altbach, ed., 170-176. [GDR]

Vaclav Havel, "The Power of the Powerless" (1979) in John Keane, ed., *The Power of the Powerless*, New York: ME Sharpe (1985), 23-96. [Czechoslovakia]

Week 13 ***The End of the Postwar Order? Part I, 1980s-1990s***

November 13 Solidarity, Glasnost and the Collapse of the Socialist Regimes

November 15 Nationalism Reemerges? The Yugoslav Tragedy and the Velvet Divorce

Reading:

Smith, pp. 628-652.

"Solidarity's Program" (1981) in Stokes, ed., pp. 209-213. [Poland]

Milan Kundera, "The Tragedy of Central Europe" (1984) in Stokes, ed., 217-223.
[Czechoslovakia and France]

Leslie Holms, "Theories of the Collapse of Communist Power" in *Post-Communism: An Introduction*, Durham: Duke University Press (1997), 23-62.

Rogers Brubaker, "Traditions of Nationhood in France and Germany" in *Citizenship and Nationhood in France and Germany*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press (1992), 1-17.

Films: In class excerpts from Wadja's *The Man of Iron* (1981) [Poland]

Week 14 ***The End of the Postwar Order? Part II, 1980s-1990s***

November 20 From Thatcher and Kohl, to Blair and Schroeder: The End of the Welfare State?

Reading:

Smith, pp. 620-628; 653-656.

Read book selected for book review.

Week 15 ***The Return of (Repressed) Memory? The Dawn of the New Europe***

November 27 PAPER 3 DUE

Defining the Future through the Past

November 29 The European Union and its Discontents

Reading:

Smith, pp. 678-711; 716-719; 725-734.

Tony Judt, "The Past is Another Country: Myth and Memory in Postwar Europe" in Istvan Deak, et al, ed., *The Politics of Retribution in Europe: World War II and its Aftermath*, Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press (2000), pp. 293-323.

Margaret Thatcher, "A Family of Nations" (1988) in *The European Union: Readings on the Theory and Practice of European Integration*, edited by Brent Nelson, Boulder and London: Lynne Rienner Publishers (1994), pp. 49-54. [U.K.]

Jacque Delors, "A Necessary Union" (1989) [France] in Nelson, ed., pp. 55-68.

Films: In class excerpts from Marcel Ophuls's *The Sorrow and the Pity* (1972) [France]

*****Last Class*****

December 6 ***What is Europe? Recap and Review for Final***

December ? ***Final Exam***