Instructor: Dr. Victoria Harms  
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and by appointment, 342 Gilman Hall

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Office hours: tba

Description

In this class we focus on such topics as the transatlantic alliance, the Cold War divide, détente, migration, European integration and the EU from the end of World War II until today. We will discuss academic literature, movies, documentary films, textual and visual primary sources, and more.

Students are expected to engage with recent academic and non-academic literature on the topic, primary sources, documentary and feature films. This is a discussion-based class. Be prepared to read short texts and watch short videos in class and discuss them. We will split up in smaller groups during some sessions to discuss primary sources, movies, or the reading assignment.

Learning objectives:

- Assessing secondary literature
- Analyzing historical narratives
- Analyzing and interpreting primary sources
- Understanding concepts such as nationalism, racism, gender, class, etc.
- Comparative history

General Reading:


*This syllabus serves as a contract between you and me that explains what I expect of you, and what you may expect of me. By enrolling in this class, you accept the terms laid out below. Please read them carefully. If at any time I need to make changes to the syllabus, I will provide as much advanced notice as possible.*
Grading:

20% Class Participation
30% Quizzes
25% Primary source analysis
25% Essay

Assignments:

Class Participation:
Make sure you come to class prepared and on time. You are expected to engage with the assigned material as well as with your fellow students during discussion sessions and group work. Common rules of courtesy apply.

Quizzes:
You will write at least six pop quizzes in the course of the term. The lowest grade will be dropped. The quizzes will contain one or two questions on the assigned reading(s) for that week. You will find all reading questions for each class on blackboard. They are identical with the questions on the quiz.

Primary Source Analysis:
Pick a primary source from the list provided on blackboard and analyze it. Make sure to properly introduce the source and author (W-questions). Pay attention to the target audience, the author’s intentions, message and possible biases. Be very clear about the historical context that has informed this source. Carefully differentiate between the pre-history and the aftermath/consequences. Explain the meaning and relevance. The essentials and requirements of a primary source analysis will be discussed in class. (max. 5 pages plus bibliography)

Please inform the instructors about your choice by 29 March 2018.
(Go to blackboard → Course Content → Journal: “Choice of Primary Source”)

Deadline: 8 April 2018 at 11.59 pm

Essay: Movie
Select a movie from the list on blackboard. You are expected to write a summary and analysis of the movie situating it within European history. You are expected to explain what parts of European history the selected movie reflects and which kind of story/stories of Europe it tells the audience. Compose a convincing, well-structured argument using references to material assigned and discussed in class in addition to sources and literature you researched yourself. (6 pages plus bibliography)

Please inform the instructors about your choice by April 26.
(Go to blackboard → Course Content → Journal: “Choice of Movie”)

Deadline: 10 May 2019, at 11.59 pm.
All Written Assignments:

- Margins 1” all around, 12 pt. font size, font: Times (New Roman), Arial, Calibri, Cambria or similar.
- Submit via blackboard.
- Add page numbers
- List of references/ bibliography (separate page)


In addition to the formal requirements, the essays are graded based on the primary and secondary sources consulted, clarity of argument, style of writing, and organization.

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Schedule

January 29
Introduction

January 31
End of World War II

UN Declaration of Human Rights, 10 December 1948.

February 5
The Allies


February 7
The Making of the Eastern bloc
February 12
Stalinism in Eastern Europe
Tony Judt, “Into the Whirlwind,” in Postwar, pp. 165-197.

February 14
The Beginnings of Western Europe

February 19
Western Integration
Dan Stone, “Golden Years? Western Europe, 1953-1973,” in Goodbye to All That?, pp. 81-123.

February 21
Decolonization I
Tony Judt, “Lost Illusions,” in Postwar, pp. 278-309. (not entire chapter, only first half!)


February 26
Decolonization II
1.) National Liberation Front FLN, Proclamation, Nov 1945
2.) François Mitterand, Speech, Nov 1954
both in Voices of Decolonization. A Brief History with Documents, ed. by Todd Shepard. Boston/ New York: Beford/ St. Martin’s, 2015, pp. 96-103.

February 28
Consolidation in the East

March 5
Popular Uprising
Tony Judt, “Lost Illusions,” in Postwar, pp. 309-323 (second half of chapter!).
Selection of Primary Sources (read two):

- Doc 67 & 67: Telegrams by Imre Nagy
- Doc 111: The February 1957 Resolution of the HSWP Provisional Central Committee Concerning Current Questions and Tasks.


March 7
The Sixties in Western Europe


March 12
The Sixties in the East


March 14
The End of West European Social Democracy

Spring break (March 18-22)

March 26
Détente

Egon Bahr, “Change through Rapprochement,” speech delivered on July 15, 1963, at the Evangelical Academy in Tutzing, in GHDI. (2 pages)
March 28
Opposition to State Socialism


** March 29: Choice of Primary Source Due **

April 2
Eastern Europe’s Decomposition

April 4
1989
Mikhail Gorbachev, “Address given to the Council of Europe,” Strasbourg, France, July 6, 1989.

*** April 8: Primary Source Analysis Due ***

April 9
German Unification
DW Documentary: *German Reunification - a Short History*, January 13, 2017, 43 mins.

April 11
The Collapse of the Soviet Union
Tony Judt, “A Fissile Continent,” in *Postwar*, pp. 652-664. *(not the entire chapter!)*


April 16
The Breakup of Yugoslavia
Tony Judt, “The Reckoning,” in *Postwar*, pp. 665-685. *(not the entire chapter!)*


April 18
European Union

April 23
Diversity & Urban Control
April 25
**United in Neoliberalism**


**April 26: Choice of Movie due**

April 30
**21st Century**
Philipp Ther, “The Road not Taken,” in ibid., *Europe since 1989*, (Princeton University Press, 2016), pp. 306-337. (not the entire chapter!)

May 2
**Europe: Current Challenges**
Last Week Tonight Show with John Oliver, “Migrants and Refugees,” HBO, 28 September 2015, 18 mins.

**tba EU Elections March 2019**
**tba Brexit**

**May 10: Movie Essay Due**

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**General policies**

**Absences**
Absences are excused for illness, religious observance, participation in certain university activities, and other circumstances described in the university’s policies and must be explained at least 6 hours before class.

**Academic Integrity**
The strength of the university depends on academic and personal integrity. In this course, you must be honest and truthful. Ethical violations include cheating on exams, plagiarism, reuse of assignments, improper use of the Internet and electronic devices, unauthorized collaboration, alteration of graded assignments, forgery and falsification, lying, facilitating academic dishonesty, and unfair competition. See Ethics Board Web Site (http://ethics.jhu.edu) for more information.
Accommodations
Accommodations will be made for those who need them. Please come talk with me in the first two weeks of the semester to discuss your needs. Any student with a disability who may need accommodations in this class must obtain an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services, 385 Garland, (410) 516-4720, studentdisabilityservices@jhu.edu.

Communication
I read and respond to email during regular business hours, 9-5, Monday thru Friday. Please use proper formatting and address when writing your email. The best way to reach me is to come to my office hours.

Mental Health
The University is aware that many students experience anxiety, depression, and other emotional challenges. If you would like to speak to a professional counselor, please visit the campus Counseling Center. Information is available on the Counseling Center's website: https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/counselingcenter/

Screen Policy
Laptops, electronic readers, and cell phones are both a boon and a distraction to higher education. Current research suggests that most of us learn better through longhand note taking. Computers are not forbidden in this class, you will actually need them for some in-class assignments. It is your choice how to make the best use of them. Social media, texting, chatting, email, and other non-class related activities are prohibited during class time. Make sure all of your devices are silenced.
AS100.270
Europe since 1945
Selection of Movies


