

**SSC 303, Political History of Modern Europe**  
**Storia Politica dell'Europa Moderna**

**Spring Semester 2014**

**SYLLABUS**

**Dr. Alice Martini**

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**The class will meet: Tuesday, 9:30 – 12,15**

**Office hours:** before (by appointment) and after class.

**THE AIM OF THE CLASS:**

The course aims at providing the instruments for understanding and interpreting the cultural, political, economic and social history of Europe from late 18th century until World War II. Lessons will start analysing the spread of liberalism and democratic ideals, the birth of socialism, the evolution of reactionary, conservative and authoritarian ideologies and movements. They will go on focusing on the social and economic crisis between the end of 19th and the begin of 20th centuries that led to World War I. The following dissolution of the Austrian, Russian and Ottoman Empires, and their aftermaths on the international relations will be dealt with, as well. The Communist revolution in Russia together with the crisis of liberal regimes in Europe and the seizure of power in Italy and in Germany by Fascism and Nazism will be dealt with particular attention. The last part of the course will focus on World War II, the Resistance movements, the rebirth of democracy in Western Europe, the Communist seizure of power in Central and Eastern Europe.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

- 1) One mid-term test and a final exam. Each will consist of a single essay to write in class.
- 2) Active participation in the class and regular readings of assigned texts.
- 3) In the second term students will work in groups to prepare at home a paper on a minor topic chosen together with the instructor.

Roll will be called at all classes.

**IMPORTANT**

- 1) **Lectures are in Italian.**
- 2) **Exams and readings are in English, but students who wish are encouraged to use Italian and this will count in favour of the final grade.**
- 3) **Mid-term and final exams only on the dates fixed for the class.**

**EVALUATIONS:**

30% for the mid-term.

35% for the final exam.

25% for groups' oral presentations.

10% for active participation in class.

## **CLASS SCHEDULE**

- 1) The effects of the French Revolution and Napoleon on Europe. Europe at the time of the Congress of Vienna and Restoration.
- 2) Liberal revolutions and democratic riots in Europe in the first half of the 19th century. The *Manifesto of the Communist Party* by Marx and Engels (1848). The British Empire.
- 3) The Unification of Italy (1861) and Germany (1871). The spread of anarchism and socialism in Europe. The Paris Commune (1871).
- 4) The attitude of the Roman Catholic Church towards modernity (*Syllabus*, 1864). The encyclical, *Rerum Novarum*, of Leo XIII and the growth of a social Catholic movement. Christian Democracy.
- 5) The European international relations in the age of imperialism and colonialism up until World War I. The new enemies of the liberal state: authoritarian nationalism and national populism. Different political regimes in Europe. Reformists and radicals in the socialist movement.
- 6) The First World War, Lenin's revolution, the dissolution of the Austrian, German, Russian and Ottoman Empires, the birth of new states, and postwar European instability.
- 7) Mussolini conquers power in Italy (1922). Hitler comes to power in Germany (1933). Stalin's dictatorship in the Soviet Union. Authoritarian regimes in Europe. Britain and France.
- 8) The Great Depression. Fascists and National Socialists offer their corporatism as the third way between capitalism and Communism. European international relations and Mussolini's wars (Ethiopia, 1935-1936, and Spain, 1936-1939). Popular Fronts in France and Spain; anti-Fascism and Communism, and *For Whom the Bell Tolls* by Hemingway.
- 9) Dying for Danzig? Hitler's expansionism towards Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Poland (1938-1939). The Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact and the "strange" alliance between Hitler and Stalin at the beginning of World War II. Mussolini's intervention in World War II (1940). The German invasion of the Soviet Union (1941). Pearl Harbour (1941). The Axis and Japan's military crisis between 1942 and 1943.
- 10) The Resistance movements in Europe, the fall of Mussolini, the victory of the Allies and the Soviet Union. Europe divided in two, the difficult peace, and the beginning of the Cold War.

## **EXAMINATION SCHEDULE:**

- a) Mid-term exam: April 15, 2014.
- b) Final Exam: May 2014 TO BE ANNOUNCED

## **TEXTBOOK:**

Asa Briggs & Patricia Clavin, *Modern Europe, 1789-Present* (Pearson 2003). Students may purchase the textbook (even second-hand) on Amazon (23 Euro), or order it at Paperback Exchange, via delle Oche 4/R.

The instructor will deliver students a few readings. They will be also functional to the preparation of their group oral presentations (to be held in Italian).

Movies or documentaries watched in class are course's components.

### **General CSU Attendance Policy 2013-2014**

#### **"3 – Hour" Attendance Policy (for classes that meet once a week for 3 hours)**

Attendance to all CSU courses is mandatory. One unexcused absence is allowed during the semester but more than one unexcused absence will lower your grade as follows (excused absences will be accepted for serious medical reasons or emergencies): **TWO** unexcused absences, lowers by 1.5 letter grades (i.e., B to C-); **THREE** unexcused absences, lowers by 3 letter grades (i.e., A to D). More than **THREE unexcused absences will result in failure of the course.**

In order not to disrupt the class, punctuality is required. Students are expected to be in class at the beginning of the class hour; any delay exceeding ten minutes will be considered an absence.

Dates of mid-term and final exams **can not** be changed for individual travel plans or personal needs. Students should take note of the dates and hours of the midterm and final exams and plan their trips after the last exam. It is important to inform friends and relatives about these exam dates so that no tickets are purchased for you that will interfere with these exam dates. Missing the midterm or the final exam will mean failure of the course.

During the academic year photocopies and other material may be distributed in class by the instructors. Students who were not in class are responsible for getting the material from their classmates and making their own photocopies.

#### **Other class policies:**

Use of the computer in class is restricted to oral presentations, unless previously approved by the professor.

Eating is NOT allowed in class.

Cellular phones must be **turned off** or placed on *silent mode* during class.