

Political history of Modern Europe

SSC 303

The class will meet on Tuesday from 9.30 to 12.15 (Aula 2)
Semester: Spring 2015/2016

Instructor: Alice Martini, Ph. D.

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Office hours: Tuesday 12.30 - 13.30 by appointment
Friday 14 – 15 skypecalls only by appointment

Course description:

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) Active participation in the class and regular readings of assigned texts;
- 2) One mid-term test, made up by multiple choice questions and a brief essay to write in class;
- 3) One paper on a minor topic chosen together with the instructor to be done as homework;
- 4) One final exam, made up by multiple choice questions and a brief essay to write in class.

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.**

Textbooks:

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 homework papers.

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

Grading scale:

30% for the mid-term;

40% for the final exam;

20% for oral presentations;

10% active participation and attendance.

Correspondence between points in mid and final term and mark:

A 100-94

A- 93-90

B+ 89-87

B 86-84

B- 83-80

C+ 79-77

C 76-74

C- 73-70

D+ 69-67

D 66-64

D- 63-60

Tentative class calendar:

February, 23:

The effects of the French Revolution and Napoleon on Europe. Europe at the time of the Congress of Vienna and Restoration.

March, 1:

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.

March, 8:

The Unification of Italy (1861) and Germany (1871). The spread of anarchism and socialism in Europe. The Paris Commune (1871).

March 15: NO CLASS due to S. Italy field trip

March, 22:

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.

March 25 – April 3: Spring Break

April, 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.

April, 12:

Mid term

Movie or visit to Palazzo Vecchio

April, 19:

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.

April, 26:

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.

May, 3:

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.

May, 10:

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.

DEADLINE for homework papers.

May, 17:

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.

Review of the course

May, 23-26:

FINAL EXAM (date and time to be confirmed).

Class costs:

None. If some extra activity will be planned that has any kind of cost, the students will be informed in advance.

Attendance policy

A) 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 grade (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.**

B) 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.

C) **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 there 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.**

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

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

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