



**SSC 303 – Storia Politica dell’Europa Moderna
(Political History of Modern Europe)
Spring 2019**

Alice Martini, Ph. D. – a.martini@csufirenze.it - Skype ID: alice_martini_

CLASS: Thursday, 11.00 – 13.45

Office hours – Thursday, 14.00 -15.00 + Skype upon 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 analyzing 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.

CSU GE category: D5

Required Books/ Readings

Asa Briggs & Patricia Clavin, Modern Europe, 1789-Present (Pearson 2003).
Available on Amazon and in the library.

Movies or documentaries watched in class are course's components.
Additional readings and web resources may be given during the semester.

General Course Requirements

- 1) Active participation in the class and regular reading of assigned texts;
- 2) One mid-term test, made up by multiple choice questions and a brief essay to write in class;
- 3) One final exam, made up by multiple choice questions and a brief essay to write in class.

Students must complete ALL requirements to pass the course.

You are responsible for the weekly readings, the information given to you in class, on handouts **and via email**. Part of your grade will be determined by regular attendance, participation in class discussions and active engagement in all activities of this course. ***Make sure to check your email on a regular basis for updates and additional information.***

Learning Objectives

- Students will study the main European historical phenomena from the French Revolution to the end of the Second World War;
- Students will learn the historical origins of the main political ideologies and European political movements;
- Students will learn to identify the links “cause-effects” among the main European political events of 19th and 20th century.

Learning Outcomes

- At the end of the semester students will be able to identify the main political changes in the history of Europe between 1789 and 1945;
- They will be able to give presentations about topics of European history;
- When given a time span, they will be able to identify the major events of the European context.

Grades and Exams

Your grade will be determined by the following assignments:

- Midterm 45 %
- Final 45 %
- Class participation 10%

100-94	A
93-90	A-
89-88	B+
87-83	B
82-80	B-
79-77	C+
76-73	C
72-69	C-
68-67	D+
66-63	D
62-60	D-
59 and below	F

The + and - symbols will be used for grading (except for A+). Specific information about the presentation, exams and other projects will be given to you during the semester.

A Student performance has been outstanding and indicates an exceptional degree of academic achievement in meeting learning outcomes and course requirements.

B Student performance has been at a high level and indicates solid academic achievement in meeting learning outcomes and course requirements.

C Student performance has been adequate and indicates satisfactory academic achievement in meeting learning outcomes and course requirements.

D Student performance has been less than adequate and indicates deficiencies in meeting the learning outcomes and/or course requirements.

F Student performance has been unacceptable and indicates a failure to meet the learning outcomes and/or course requirements.

Class Code of Conduct

Activities unrelated to the course (including private conversations, emailing, text messaging, reading, web surfing, etc.) are not permitted during class time. Please turn off or put all electronic devices on silent mode prior to the beginning of the class.

Academic Dishonesty Will Not Be Tolerated.

Any form of plagiarism or cheating may result in a failing final grade in the course and might be reported to IP and your campus. You are better off spending your time studying for the class. If you have questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty, please refer to the student handbook and catalog of your campus and also ask me and/ or the Resident Director for more information.

"3-Hour" 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 could 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 five 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 could 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) Eating is not allowed in class.

Class Code of Conduct

Activities unrelated to the course (including private conversations, emailing, text messaging, reading, web surfing, etc.) are not permitted during class time. Please turn off or put all electronic devices on silent mode prior to the beginning of the class.

Important: Exams

You must attend all exams and quizzes as scheduled. Make-up exams are given only for valid reasons. Please check your academic calendar **BEFORE** you book trips, flights and hotels.

Copyright and Privacy Laws

No portion of the texts, films, videos, and other material used in this course can be reproduced in any format including scanning, electronic downloading or sharing of files.

In addition, no portion of class lectures, discussions, and activities can be reproduced and used in any format, including electronic, without the written consent of the instructor and/or guest speakers.

Changes - Important

Information contained in this syllabus, including the class calendar, other than that mandated by the University, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Class Calendar

February, 28:

- *The effects of the French Revolution and Napoleon on Europe.*
- *Europe at the time of the Congress of Wien and Restoration.*

March, 7:

- *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, 14: No class due to CSU field trip to Naples

March, 21:

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

March, 28:

- *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.*

- *The European international relations in the age of imperialism and colonialism up until World War I.*

April, 4:

- **MID TERM: 11.00 – 12.15**
- *The First World War.*

April, 11:

- *Lenin's revolution.*
- *The dissolution of the Austrian, German, Russian and Ottoman Empires, the birth of new states, and postwar European instability.*
- *The new enemies of the liberal state: authoritarian nationalism and national populism. Different political regimes in Europe.*

April, 18:

- *Mussolini conquers power in Italy (1922) and the Fascist regime.*

Spring break: Apr. 19 – 28

May, 2:

- *Hitler comes to power in Germany (1933).*
- *Stalin's dictatorship in the Soviet Union.*
- *The Great Depression. Fascists and National Socialists offer their corporatism as the third way between capitalism and Communism.*

May, 9:

- *European international relations and Mussolini's wars (Ethiopia, 1935-1936, and Spain, 1936-1939). Popular Fronts in France and Spain; anti-Fascism and Communism. Dying for Danzig? Hitler's expansionism towards Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Poland (1938-1939).*

May, 16:

- *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).*

May, 23:

- *The German invasion of the Soviet Union (1941). Pearl Harbour (1941). The Axis and Japan's military crisis between 1942 and 1943.*
- *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.*

May, 27 – 30: **FINAL EXAM** (date to be announced).