



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM - FIRENZE

SSC 303 – Storia Politica dell'Europa Moderna (Political History of Modern Europe)

Spring 2020

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Orario delle lezioni: Tuesday, 10.30 - 13.15

CREDITS – 3 CSU semester units

Location of Course –CSU - Via G. Leopardi, 12~50121 Florence, Italy

Office hours: Tuesday 13.30 – 14.30 + 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 early 19th 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 or risk not passing 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.***

IMPORTANT:

Lessons will be in Italian. Exams and readings will be in English, however using Italian in exams will improve the grade of the student.

Learning Objectives

- Students will study the main European historical phenomena from the Napoleonic Era 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 1800 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:

| | | |
|----|---------------------|------|
| 1* | Midterm | 40 % |
| 2* | Final | 40 % |
| 3* | Class participation | 20% |

| | |
|--------------|----|
| 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.

VERY IMPORTANT: Failure to complete all work and exams assigned in the course could result in failure of the 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.

Safety

All students are expected to respect the safety and security policies in place at CSU Firenze. Students will be expected to follow the procedures outlined by CSU Firenze for the safe use of all spaces, including the upstairs. Refusal to respect these policies and procedures could lead to access restrictions or disciplinary actions.

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.

Students with Disabilities

Upon identifying yourself to the instructor and the university, students with disabilities will receive reasonable accommodation for learning and evaluations. For more information, contact the Resident Director.

"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 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 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 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) Eating is not allowed in 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 25:

Introduction to the course.

Napoleonic era, the Congress of Wien.

March 3:

Liberal revolutions and democratic movements in Europe in the first half of 19th century.

The communist manifesto (1848). The Victorian age.

March 10:

Italian (1861) and German (1871) unifications. Spread of socialism. The commune in Paris (1871).

March 17:

The development of the catholic social movement and christian democracy.

International relations in the end of 19th century until the First World War.

March 24:

The First World War.

March 31:

Peace treaties of Paris (1919 – 1922).

The Russian Revolution.

April 7:

Mid term exam (10.30-12.15)

movie (to be confirmed)

Spring Break: 10 - 19 Aprile

April 21:

Fascist Italy (1922 -1939).

April 28 :

Nazi Germany, Stalin in USSR and the crisis of western democratic regimes.

May 5:

Consequences of the great crisis in Europe (1929).

International balance in the 30s, the appeasement and the beginning of the Second world war (1939).

May 12:

The Second World War in Europe (1940 – 1942)

May 19:

The end of the Second World War and the beginning of the Cold War.

May 25 – 29:

FINAL EXAM (date and time to be announced)