

## HISTORY 135A: Europe in the Twentieth Century

Spring Term 2008

W F 2:50 PM-4:05 PM (Science 204)

Instructor: Marie Hicks

meh20@duke.edu

### Course Description:

Events that transpired in 20<sup>th</sup> century Europe continue to influence our daily lives, and the actions of many persons and nations around the globe. Though it may not always be apparent, the history of Europe within the last century serves as a common political, cultural, and economic set of understandings and constraints, delimiting certain possibilities and inviting others, both directly, and through secondary or reverberating effects.

This course aims to familiarize you with this history, and in so doing, give you the background and intellectual tools to thoughtfully and intelligently engage in ongoing discussions about global politics. In the process, you will be given assignments designed to enhance your understanding of the concepts of history and historiography, as well as improve your writing, research, and analytical skills.

The following books are required reading for the course. (I suggest you purchase them.)

Robert O. Paxton, *Europe in the Twentieth Century*.

Joseph Conrad. *The Heart of Darkness*.

Virginia Woolf. *A Room of One's Own*.

Primo Levi. *Survival at Auschwitz*.

Carolyn Steedman, *Landscape for a Good Woman*

All books, except for the Paxton textbook, are available at the Regulator on Ninth Street (<http://www.regbook.com/>). The Paxton text is available at the Duke campus textbook store.

Please come to class having read the assignments for the day. Focus on the readings in the order they are listed for that day, but do not disregard the Paxton (textbook) reading. Even though we will not explicitly cover the Paxton material in class, Paxton contains background information that will be relevant to your essays and exams, as well as to your understanding of our class meetings and class discussions.

Final grades will be based on:

2 short writing assignments (3-5 pages): 20%

1 group project presentation: 20%

An in-class mid-term: 20%

A final paper: 20%

and class participation: 20%

\*Opportunities for extra credit will be given throughout the term—see syllabus.

Please be willing to seek assistance from the librarians in Perkins and Lilly. They will help you search for and evaluate books, scholarly articles, databases, and web sources. Some of the items listed in this syllabus require you to search library databases to find them. This is intentional—I would like to familiarize you with as many library-based information-finding tools as possible. Google should be the tool of last, not first, resort.

For your more in-depth library research (for your final paper and other assignments), you may wish to make an appointment with a librarian whose special interests match the issues in your essay. Find a reference librarian by going to: [www.lib.duke.edu/reference/refbios.htm](http://www.lib.duke.edu/reference/refbios.htm).

An \* near a reading on the syllabus indicates that an electronic copy of the reading is available on the **Blackboard** site for the course. Some articles are broken into several parts for quicker downloading—be sure to read ALL parts of the article.

### **Fri Jan 11 Course Introduction**

-Syllabus handed out, description of course, readings, and assignments

### **Wed Jan 16 Imperialism in Africa**

-Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* (This is not a long novel, but skim it if the dense prose begins to slow you down, and focus on chapters 2 and 3)

-Begin reading Paxton, Ch. 1

### **F Jan 18 Understanding and responding to Imperial Europe**

-\*Hobson, *Imperialism*

-\*Achebe, Response to Conrad

Finish reading Paxton, Ch. 1

### **W Jan 23 World War I**

-\*Mueller, “Changing Attitudes Towards War”

-WWI poetry:

[http://www.ppu.org.uk/learn/poetry/poetry\\_30s1.html](http://www.ppu.org.uk/learn/poetry/poetry_30s1.html)

[http://www.ppu.org.uk/learn/poetry/poetry\\_30s2.html](http://www.ppu.org.uk/learn/poetry/poetry_30s2.html)

[http://www.ppu.org.uk/learn/poetry/poetry\\_30s3.html](http://www.ppu.org.uk/learn/poetry/poetry_30s3.html)

-Paxton, Ch. 2, 3

-In class: each student will choose an event for the group assignment due later in the term

### **Th Jan 24 Lecture by Arthur Alderson, Indiana University**

**“Globalization and the World City System: Region, Role, and Position since 1981”**

More info: <http://www.jhfc.duke.edu/ducis/GlobalEquity/schedule.htm>

**NOTE: Please attend this talk in lieu of Friday’s Class (there will be no Friday class this week—see below).**

If you would like to get extra credit for attending this lecture, please do the extra credit response paper assignment below and hand it in at our Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> class.

**Optional Extra Credit Response Paper:** How are the residents of cities more tied into the global economy than rural persons? Is this dichotomy specious or helpful? What implications does Alderson’s work hold for our understanding of cities, nation-states, international politics and global economic cooperation?

### **F Jan 25 World War I and the Birth of Communism**

**NOTE: There will be no class meeting today so that you may instead attend the Arthur Alderson Lecture on Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>.**

Optional readings:

-\*Marx, “The Machine Vs. The Worker”

-Lenin, *The State and Revolution*:

<http://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1917/staterev/ch01.htm#s1>

-Paxton, Ch. 4

### **W Jan 30 European Artists: Modern Art, Expressionism, and more**

**\*\*\*\*Meet at Nasher Museum of Art:**

We will meet at the Nasher Information Desk today instead of our usual classroom. We will view artwork in storage and in the prints collection that relates to the events we are studying, and will study later in class.

-Marinetti’s “Futurist Manifesto” on the web:

<http://www.cscs.umich.edu/~crshalizi/T4PM/futurist-manifesto.html>

-Biography of Kathe Kollwitz at:

<http://www.mystudios.com/women/klmno/kollwitz.html>

-Paxton, Ch. 5, 6

### **F Feb 1 The Aftermath of WWI**

-\*Keynes, John Maynard. *The Treaty*. Ch. 4: The Economic Consequences of the Peace, pp. 56-112.

-**Assignment:** Find a copy of the Treaty of Versailles on the web and read some of the sections referred to in the Keynes article. What is your impression after reading the primary document?

Write 3-5 pages and bring it to class.

-Paxton, Ch. 7

### **W Feb 6 Women's Suffrage and World War I**

-\*Fair, "The Political Aspects of Women's Suffrage During the First World War"

-Paxton Chapter 8

### **F Feb 8 Dystopia of the Modern Industrial State**

-Viewing in class: *Metropolis* (dir. Fritz Lang, 1929)

-Paxton Chapter 9

### **M Feb 11 Panel Discussion: The Microsoft Antitrust Case in the EU**

Law School, Room 3041, 12:15 until 1:15 PM

More info: <http://calendar.duke.edu/calendar.nsf/EventID/7AGR5Y>

**NOTE: Please attend this talk in lieu of Wednesday's Class (there will be no Wednesday class this week—see below).**

If you would like to get extra credit for attending this panel discussion, please do the extra credit response paper assignment below and hand it in at our Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> class.

**Optional Extra Credit Response Paper:** What are some of the different issues that Microsoft ran into in their EU litigation versus the antitrust suit brought against them in the USA? How has the different make-up of the EU (economically cooperating nation-states) versus the USA made it more or less difficult for Microsoft to come to a resolution?

**W Feb 13 NOTE: There will be no class meeting today so that you may instead attend the panel (above) on Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>.**

-Please read Paxton Ch. 10

### **F Feb 15 Shades of Social Justice**

Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*

### **W Feb 20 RARE BOOKS ROOM MEETING**

**We will meet at the Rare Books Room in Perkins, at our usual class time.**

-Paxton, Ch. 11, 12

### **F Feb 22 The Sun Begins to Set on The British Empire**

-George Orwell, "Shooting an Elephant":

[http://www.orwell.ru/library/articles/elephant/english/e\\_eleph](http://www.orwell.ru/library/articles/elephant/english/e_eleph)

alternate link:?

<http://www.k-1.com/Orwell/index.cgi/work/essays/elephant.html>

### **W Feb 27 Mid-Term Examination in Class**

**Bring your own Blue Books.**

Midterm will consist of several identifications, and some short essay questions. You will choose the identifications and essays you wish to do from several options.

## **F Feb 29 Hitler**

Hitler, Speech of April 12, 1921, and excerpt from Mein Kampf:

<http://history.hanover.edu/courses/excerpts/111hit1.html>

The 25 Points of Hitler's Nazi Party:

<http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/riseofhitler/25points.htm>

Hitler's Anniversary Speech, Jan 30, 1939:

<http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/timeline/threat.htm>

[http://yad-vashem.org.il/about\\_holocaust/documents/part1/doc59.html](http://yad-vashem.org.il/about_holocaust/documents/part1/doc59.html)

-Paxton, Ch. 13, 14

## **W Mar 5 Survivors and Perpetrators**

-Primo Levi, *Survival at Auschwitz*.

-Sample page from *Maus* by Art Spiegelman:

[http://www.randomhouse.com/pantheon/graphicnovels/maus1\\_4.html](http://www.randomhouse.com/pantheon/graphicnovels/maus1_4.html)

## **F March 7 Creation of Israel**

-\*Reich, "Themes in the History of the State of Israel"

-Background:

[http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study\\_collections/israel/large/israel.htm](http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/israel/large/israel.htm)

-Official Document of recognition:

<http://www.trumanlibrary.org/photos/israel.jpg>

--Paxton, Ch. 15

**\*\*\*\*\*Spring Recess: March 8 through 16<sup>th</sup>\*\*\*\*\***

## **W March 19 Beginnings of the Cold War**

-Churchill's Iron Curtain speech:

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/churchill-iron.html>

**Assignment:** Churchill feared that older models of balancing power in Europe (which had helped produce 2 World Wars) were inadequate, and looked to Britain's special relationship with the United States to reconfigure this "balance." Discuss what Churchill is advocating. How did his call for greater unity in fact heighten tensions? Was this intended or unintended? Why? Write 3-5 pages and bring it to class.

-Paxton, Ch. 17, 18

**Th March 20** Beth Simmons, Harvard University

"Credible Commitments and the International Criminal Court"

**More info:**

**NOTE: Please attend this talk in lieu of Friday's Class (there will be no Friday class this week—see below).**

If you would like to get extra credit for attending this panel discussion, please do the extra credit response paper assignment below and hand it in at our Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> class.

**Optional Extra Credit Response Paper:** What problems have arisen that have hindered consensus on the International Criminal Court? Are these ongoing? What solutions have been offered or are being worked on presently? Discuss the importance of consensus to an international endeavor to create common legal and moral standards.

**F March 21 There will be no class meeting today so that you may instead attend the talk (above) on Mar 20<sup>th</sup>.**

-Please Read Paxton Ch. 16 and 19

## **W March 26 War and Aftermath: Institutionalizing Social Welfare: Socialism without Communism**

-\*Excerpts from *The Beveridge Report* (pp.5-20)

-\*Woods and Watson, "The British Ministry of Health's 8F Wheelchair"

**F March 28 Postwar Memories and Generations**

-Part 2 and 3 from *Landscape for a Good Woman*

**W April 2 MEET IN LILLY LIBRARY TRAINING ROOM**

**Where Margaret Brill will introduce us to some digitized primary sources on modern European history**

-Paxton, Ch. 20, 21

**F April 4 Paris Algerian massacre**

-\*Gordon, "World Reactions to the 1961 Paris Pogrom"

-Flame article: <http://www.fantompowa.net/Flame/algerians.htm>

-Paxton, Ch. 22

**W April 9 The Shadow of Memory.**

-Elie Wiesel, "Shame in Germany," *New York Times*. Jan 20, 1996.

-A.M. Rosenthal, "Einsatzgruppe B, 1941," *New York Times*. June 13, 1997.

-Michael Ignatieff, "Lemkin's Word," *The New Republic*, Feb 26, 2001, 25-28. (in Lexis-Nexis)

-Begin reading Paxton, Ch. 23

**F April 11 The Siege of Sarajevo.**

-Binder, Anatomy of a Massacre (JSTOR)

-King, "The Siege of Sarajevo, 1992-1995":

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/report/2002/MOUTKing.htm>

-Finish reading Paxton, Ch. 23

**W April 16** Class members will briefly present their Final Paper topics to the class.

**F April 18** Class members will briefly present their Final Paper topics to the class.

**W April 23 The Heart of Africa and the Post-Colonial Conscience.**

-Samantha Power, "Rwanda: The Two Faces of Justice," *The New York Review of Books*.  
January 16, 2003, 47-50

-Paxton, Epilogue

**Take-home Final Exams due** Wednesday, April 30 at 4:00 PM