

# HIST 335:

## 20th Century European History



### FACULTY CONTACT INFORMATION

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Office Hours: Varies. Please contact me to request an appropriate time to meet.

### COURSE OVERVIEW

This course examines the history of modern Europe from approximately 1900 until the present, from the devolution of European monarchies to the growing expansion of the European Union. We will concentrate on the historical evolution of European political, cultural, and technological revolutions that transpired during this time period. While the course will cover a range of issues, two issues will be of primary concern. First, we will trace the evolution of ideas about democracy as well as the continent's record of living up to the democratic and liberal ideals. In other words, how did various socio-economic, religious, racial, and ethnic groups come to participate in the democratic experiment? Moreover, how did liberal democracy prevail over alternative conservative or radical ideologies? As you will find out, democracy's success was anything but assured over the course of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Second, we will investigate Europe's relationship to the world, not only because Europe exercised an enormous influence on the world community, but also because Europe changed profoundly as a result of that interaction. At the end of the course, you will determine for yourself the relative success of the democratic process and the nature of Europe's impact on the world and vice versa.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

#### I. Content:

By the end of the semester, students should:

- Thoughtfully discuss the political, social, economic, and cultural development of the European continent from 1900 to the present.
- Correctly identify the general chronology of modern European history.
- Concisely relay basic theories, generalizations, and debates about European history.
- Possess an in-depth understanding of the following topics:
  - European colonialism in Africa
  - The effects of WWI
  - Stalinism as practice and ideology
  - The rise of Nazism in Germany
  - De-colonization and the Algerian war for independence
  - The end of communism in Eastern Europe
  - Islamic communities and Islamic radicalism in Western Europe

## II. Cognitive & Communication skills:

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

- identify and relay an argument of a specific readings concisely and precisely
- reflect critically about an author's approach and execution of a historical problem.
- think historically about events, processes, and significant individuals.
- present their point of view concisely and persuasively while staying on topic.

## REQUIRED TEXTS

- \* David S. Mason, *A Concise History of Modern Europe: Liberty, Equality, Solidarity*  
**Please purchase the third edition: use this ISBN number: 978-1-4422-3697-4**
- \* Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa*
- \* Philipp Blom, *Fracture: Life and Culture in the West, 1918-1938*
- \* Erik Larson, *In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin*
- \* Roger Hardy, *The Poisoned Well: Empire and Its Legacy in the Middle East*
- \* Timothy Garton Ash, *The Magic Lantern: The Revolution of '89 Witnessed in Warsaw, Budapest, Berlin, and Prague*
- \* Robert Leiken, *Europe's Angry Muslims: The Revolt of The Second Generation*

## ASSIGNMENTS AND FINAL GRADE DISTRIBUTION

~ Map Quizzes – 10 % ~

There will be a total of five map quizzes that will give you a sense of how the political map of Europe changed over the course of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. On Blackboard, you will find links to maps of Europe in 1914, 1918, 1945, and 1991. The point of map quizzes is not only to test your

ability to recognize political entities on blank maps, but also to be able to state what had changed and why those changes occurred.

### **~ Quizzes on Textbook Material 30% ~**

Over the course of the semester, you will complete 12 quizzes dealing with the material the textbook (*A Concise History of Modern Europe*) covers. The quizzes will consist of both multiple choice and short answer questions. There will be about eight multiple choice questions and two short answer questions. The multiple choice questions come in several varieties: significant dates, significant individuals, causes of events, and consequences of events.

The short answer questions should be approximately 4-5 sentences in length and should explain, in clear and precise prose, your position on a given issue. For instance, I might ask why communism, as a theory, arose during the era of the industrial revolution.

You will have approximately 20 minutes to answer the multiple choice questions and 40 minutes to compose answers to the short answer questions. You won't be able to move on to analytical discussion of books until you have completed the testing on the textbook section since I expect you to be familiar with the general context before tackling a topic in depth.

On Demand requires that there be at least one proctored assessment in each class. Towards that end, there will be one proctored quiz. You will find it in the Proctored Quiz content area in the course menu. In order to schedule your proctored quiz, please go to the [On Demand Exams webpage](#) or contact On Demand via email at [ondemand@wku.edu](mailto:ondemand@wku.edu) or via phone at 270-745-4158, 270-745-4159, or 1-800-535-5926.

### **~ Analytical Discussion on Assigned Books 30 %~**

In order to examine a textbook topic in more depth, you will read six books that explore a specific historical problem. I have aimed to choose books that are written engagingly so that they're a pleasure to read.

For **four** of the reading assignments, I will outline a series of questions (usually four) that you will answer in approximately 500 words: in other words, 500 words for each of the questions.

### **~ Essays 30% ~**

For three of the books, instead of answering the specific questions, you will answer a larger essay topic in approximately 2000 words. The essay topics are as follows:

1. The European response (or lack thereof) to Belgian colonial rule in the Congo. In this essay you will grapple with how colonialism changed European culture for both better and worse.
2. The rise of Nazism in Germany. In this essay you will examine how one of the most tolerant, scientifically advanced, and cosmopolitan societies succumbed to fascism.
3. The problems of radicalized Muslim youth in contemporary West Europe. In this essay you will reflect on how Muslim youth are becoming radicalized in Western Europe and both discuss the roots of this problem and identify possible solutions to this growingly politicized issue.

## Course Policies and Requirements

### ~ Technical Requirements ~

This course is taken completely utilizing Blackboard. You must have regular access to a computer with an internet connection capable of utilizing Blackboard, uploading and downloading documents, and streaming video.

### ~ Communication ~

The best way to reach me is through my WKU email: [marko.dumancic@wku.edu](mailto:marko.dumancic@wku.edu). I aim to respond to student emails within 24 hours if I receive them on a weekday; I do not always check my email on the weekend so the 24-hour rule does not apply for emails I receive after 5 p.m. on Fridays or before 9 a.m. on Mondays. Do not hesitate to email me should I fail to respond within 24 hours. I am happy to talk on the phone during the workweek. Please email me to schedule the phone call. You are also welcome to try reaching me on my office phone, but I am not always in my office since I teach and attend regular meetings. Feel free, however, to leave me a voicemail and let me know the best way to reach you.

Finally, please make sure that your emails or voicemails are professional and courteous. This will expedite the process and make it more productive for both of us.

### ~ On Demand ~

On Demand refers to non-semester based courses that are self-paced. Please review the On Demand policies found in the START HERE & Syllabus content area for more information on how many lessons may be submitted a week, registration, exams, etc. Please contact [On Demand](#) with any questions regarding your expiration date or On Demand policies.

### ~ Disability Statement ~

According to Western Kentucky University Policy: “Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Student Disability Service office located in the Student Success Center in DUC A-200 in Downing University Center, telephone 745 5004 and TTY, 745 3030. Per University policy, please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.”

### ~ Academic Honesty ~

In all aspects of this course, students are required to demonstrate academic honesty and integrity as outlined in the *University Statement on Student Rights and Responsibilities* (WKU Catalog, 333-5).

Violations of this include:

- Cheating by giving, sharing, or receiving unauthorized information before, during, or after an exam or assignment, whether verbal, written, code, or via electronic device used to read notes or search for information on the internet;
- Dishonesty, including misrepresentation or lying;
- Plagiarism

Penalties for academic dishonesty as noted in the *WKU Catalog* and in *Hilltopics: Handbook for University Life*: “Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the instructor a failing grade in that portion of the course work in which the act is detected or a failing grade in the course without possibility of withdrawal. The faculty member may also present the case to the Office of the Dean of Student Life for disciplinary sanctions.”

**Note:** All student work may be checked using plagiarism detection software, e.g., Turnitin.com. Specialized definitions of plagiarism and of cheating given on this syllabus (above), and on

supplemental handouts and/or by verbal instruction from the professor are binding on *all* students in this course.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

<b>Topical Units</b>	<b>Readings and Assignments Due</b>
<b>UNIT I</b> Context for 20th Century	<b>Chapter One:</b> The Old Regime and the Enlightenment <b>Chapter Two:</b> The French Revolution and Napoleon 1789: The Revolution Begins <b>Take Quizzes 1 and 2</b>
<b>UNIT II</b> Context for 20th Century Cont.	<b>Chapter Three:</b> The Industrial Revolution and the Birth of Capitalism <b>Chapter Five:</b> Marx, Marxism, and Socialism <b>Take quiz 3 and 4</b>
<b>UNIT III</b> European Imperialism	<b>Chapter Six:</b> Darwinism and Social Darwinism <b>Chapter Eight:</b> The Age of Imperialism and the Scramble for Africa <b>Take Quizzes 5 and 6</b>
<b>UNIT IV</b> The Belgian Congo	Adam Hochschild, <i>King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa</i> <b>Write the Essay I</b>
<b>UNIT V</b> WWI and the Russian Revolution	<b>Chapter Nine:</b> World War I <b>Chapter Ten:</b> The Russian Revolution and Communism <b>Take Quizzes 7 and 8</b>
<b>UNIT VI:</b> The Consequences of WWI and the Interwar Period	Philipp Blom, <i>Fracture: Life and Culture in the West, 1918-1938</i> Sheila Fitzpatrick, <i>Everyday Stalinism</i> , Chapters 3 and 4 only. <b>Complete the Analytical Discussions Assignments 1 and 2 for both <i>Fracture</i> and <i>Everyday Stalinism</i></b>
<b>UNIT VII:</b> WWII	<b>Chapter Eleven:</b> World War II and the Holocaust <b>Take Quiz 9</b>

Topical Units	Readings and Assignments Due
<b>UNIT VIII:</b> The Rise of Hitler	Erik Larson, <i>In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin</i>  <b>Complete Essay II</b>
<b>UNIT IX:</b> The Cold War and De-colonization	<b>Chapter Twelve:</b> Europe Divided, the Cold War, and Decolonization  <b>Take Quiz 10</b>
<b>UNIT X:</b> De-colonization in Algeria	Roger Hardy, <i>The Poisoned Well: Empire and Its Legacy in the Middle East</i>  <b>Complete the Analytical Discussion Assignment 3 for <i>The Poisoned Well</i>.</b>
<b>UNIT XI:</b> End of Communist and the Re-Unification of Europe	<b>Chapter Thirteen:</b> 1989: The Collapse of Communism and the End of the Cold War  <b>Take Quiz 11</b>
<b>UNIT XII:</b> Collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe	Timothy Garton Ash, <i>The Magic Lantern: The Revolution of '89 Witnessed in Warsaw, Budapest, Berlin, and Prague</i>  <b>Complete the Analytical Discussion Assignment 4 for <i>The Magic Lantern</i></b>
<b>UNIT XIII</b> Contemporary Problems	<b>Chapter Fourteen:</b> The European Union: Europe United and Free? <b>Conclusion:</b> Europe in the Twenty-first Century  <b>Complete Quiz 12</b>
<b>UNIT XIV:</b> Islamic Radicalism and European Liberalism	Robert Leiken, <i>Europe's Angry Muslims: The Revolt of The Second Generation</i>  <b>Complete Essay III</b>