

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

POL 324H1 F L0101

THEMES IN EUROPEAN POLITICS

Professor Randall Hansen

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12:00-2:00pm, Sidney Smith (SS) 1069

Office: Munk School, NORTH HOUSE 110 [***NOT NORTH 204***]

Office Hours: Thursdays, 2:30-4:20pm

Europe is where the twentieth century was. Two world wars, the second of which cost the lives of 60 million people (mostly civilians), genocide on a hitherto unimaginable scale, the Cold War, unprecedented postwar prosperity, the creation and consolidation of the modern welfare state, the crumbling of Communist totalitarianism, all occurred within Europe.

Designed largely for students with some background in European politics and history (but above all for those interested in Europe), the course adopts a thematic and broadly chronological approach to explore a set of issues that have defined Europe's institutions, culture, and identity. The focus is on Europe's 'big three,' with particular focus on Germany, the country that defined in all possible manners Europe's last century.

Beginning with the major World War II leaders' (and the German resisters') visions for a post-victory Europe, the course will focus on and account for the origins, nature, and implications of defining moments in postwar Europe: the morality of war, denazification, the start of the cold war, democratization in West Germany, Gaullism in France, British imperialism and the death of empire, British welfare and British economic decline, Thatcherism, the end of the cold war and German reunification.

Requirements

Students are required to successfully complete three assignments in order to pass the course:

1. Quiz (20 questions, factual): 15%: **June 7**
2. A 2500-word major research paper (60%): **June 21**
3. In class test (25%): **June 23**

Penalty for late papers: 3 percent for the first day, 2 percent per day thereafter. Extensions are exceptionally granted on medical or compassionate grounds when they are requested *before* the essay is due. *No extensions will be granted after the due date.*

In medical cases, you must submit the *original copy* of a University of Toronto student medical certificate: <http://www.healthservice.utoronto.ca/pdfs/medcert.htm>.

A medical certificate alone does not entitle you to an extension; rather, the instructor has to be satisfied that the illness was genuine and that it prevented the student from completing the assignment.

Submission

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textually similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

Submitting your essay through Turnitin: our class ID is: 4018238 (Politics 324 Summer). The password is: Widerstand. You should generate your own account and use it to submit your work. *Essays have to be submitted to turnitin.com by 4pm on the day the essay is due. Submissions to turnitin.com after this time constitute late essays.*

ESSAYS MUST ALSO BE HANDED IN AT THE START OF CLASS; AN ESSAY HANDED IN AT AFTER ALL THE ESSAYS HAVE BEEN COLLECTED ON THE DUE DATE CONSTITUTES A LATE ESSAY

Double-sided initiative: This course is taking part in the University of Toronto's double-sided initiative; you are encouraged to print your essays on both sides of the page.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and will be dealt with accordingly. For further clarification and information, please see the University of Toronto's policy on plagiarism at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>).

Students are strongly advised to keep rough and draft work and hard copies of their research paper and assignments before handing in to the instructors or the department. These should be kept until the marked assignments or paper has been returned.

Accessibility Needs

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or

course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: disability.services@utoronto.ca or <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility>.

Blackboard

We will be using blackboard for this course. The syllabus will be posted, and it will be used for regular email communication. The first two slides will be posted. NO OTHER SLIDES WILL BE POSTED.

Role of the Teaching Assistant

A senior PhD student, Adrian Atanasescu, is the Teaching Assistant for this course. His email is adatanasescu@yahoo.com. Mr. Atanasescu will be actively involved in course marking. If you have concerns about your essay, communication with him would be advisable.

Emailing policy & Emailing Hours

Emailing is an accepted part of teaching. It is not, however, a substitute for proper student-teacher interaction. If you have questions about your essays, I would advise you to take advantage of office hours. If you cannot make the office hours or have brief questions, please send emails from **8am-2pm on Tuesdays or Thursdays. Emails sent at other times will not be answered.**

Reading:

Two texts are available for purchase from the bookstore:

Gerhard Weinberg, *Visions of Victory* (Cambridge University Press, 2005/2007)
Tony Judt, *Postwar: A History of Europe since 1945* (Penguin, 2005).

You may, as well, purchase John L. Gaddis's *Cold War: A New History*, Niall Ferguson's *Empire* and Hugo Young's *One of US*.

All the other required readings are on short-term loan at Robarts library.

In addition to these readings, it is recommended that students subscribe to the weekly magazine *The Economist* and read the sections on Europe. Among the dailies, the *Financial Times* (London) has the best English-language coverage of events in Europe, followed by the *New York Times*.

Schedule and Weekly Readings

1. May 17: Introduction & Visions of Victory I: Hitler & Mussolini
Weinberg, *Visions of Victory*, chapters 1-2
2. May 19: Essays: writing a first-class research paper

3. May 24 Visions of Victory II: Churchill, Stalin & Mussolini
Weinberg, *Visions of Victory*, chapters 5-6, 8
4. May 26: Alternative German visions: Resistance to Hitler
Peter Hoffman, *History of the German Resistance*, chapters 13-19, 35-45.
5. May 31: Film: *Valkyrie*
Judt, *Postwar*, Chapters 1-4
6. June 2: The origins of the cold war
'X' [George F. Kennan], *The Sources of Soviet Conduct*
Arthur Schlesinger Jr, "Origins of the Cold War" *Foreign Affairs*, 46, October, 1967, pp. 22-52.
Herbert Freis, *From Trust to Terror*
William Appleman Williams, *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy*
John Lewis Gaddis, *The Cold War: A New History*
Judt, *Postwar*, chapter 5.
7. June 7: **In-class quiz** (20 FACTUAL QUESTIONS)
British Empire & the death of imperialism
John Darwin, *Britain and Decolonization*, chapters 5 & 6
Niall Ferguson, *Empire: the Rise and Demise of the British World Order*
8. June 9 British welfare and British economic decline & Thatcherism
Kenneth O. Morgan, *Labour in Power: 1945-1951*, chapter 4.
Hugo Young, *One of US*.
Judt, *Postwar*, chapters 10 and 11
9. June 14: French foreign policy and the Gaullist tradition
Sudhir Hazareesingh, *Political Traditions in Modern France*, Chapter 3.
Philip G. Cerny, *The Politics of Grandeur*
Judt, *Postwar*, chapter 9
10. June 16: The collapse of communism & German reunification
Konrad H. Jarausch, *The Rush to German Unity*
Margaret Thatcher, *The Downing Street Years*, 792-815.
Judt, *Postwar*, chapter 14.
11. June 21: **Essay due in class**
12. June 23: In-class test

Essay Questions

1. Did détente or containment lead to the fall of the Soviet Union?
2. What effect did empire have on immigration to Britain and France?
3. Why was Algeria called the “cancer” of French politics? How did de Gaulle remove it?
4. Did Attlee make Thatcher possible?
5. Has France come to terms with its past? Why did it take so long?
6. Analyze the influence of Vichy on postwar French politics.
7. Critically analyze Gaullism. Did de Gaulle serve or harm collective security?
8. Thatcherism was harsh, but necessary. Discuss.
9. Germany in 1990 was at its most vulnerable when it appeared to be at the peak of its powers. Discuss.
10. Critically analyze Helmut Kohl’s role in unifying Germany.
11. Did *Ostpolitik* strengthen or weaken East Germany?
12. Critically analyze Ronald Reagan’s role in ending the cold war.
13. As IR theory entirely failed to predict the fall of Communism, it proved its worthlessness. Discuss.

