

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

POL 324H: Themes in European Politics

Thursdays, 10:00-12:00, UC 161
Professor Randall Hansen

Office: Munk School, N110

Office Hours: Thursdays, 2-3pm

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, resistance, collaboration and postwar 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. Mid-term test: **March 3, 2011:** (30%)
2. A 3000 word major research paper (50%): **March 24, 2011**
3. In class test (20%): **April 7, 2011**

Penalty for late papers: 5 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: 3732422 (Politics 324). The password is: Stauffenberg. You should generate your own account and use it to submit your work. *Essays have to be submitted to turnitin.com before class. Submissions to turnitin.com after class count as late submissions.*

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>.

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*.

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. January 13: Introduction & Visions of Victory I: Hitler & Mussolini
 Weinberg, *Visions of Victory*, chapters 1-2
2. January 20: Visions of Victory II: Churchill, Stalin & Mussolini
 Weinberg, *Visions of Victory*, chapters 5-6, 8
4. January 27: Alternative German visions: Resistance to Hitler
 Peter Hoffman, *History of the German Resistance*, chapters 13-19, 35-45.
5. February 3: Film: *Valkyrie*
 Judt, *Postwar*, Chapters 1-4
6. February 10: 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. February 17: 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. February 24: Reading Week, no class
9. March 3: 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
10. March 10: Vichy France: collaboration, resistance, and facing up to the past
Judt, *Postwar*, chapters 2 and 3
Julian Jackson, *France: The Dark Years*, chapters 16-17, 24 & epilogue
11. March 17: 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
12. March 24: ***Essay due in class***
13. March 31: 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.
14. April 7: 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.