



2016-2017

SYLLABUS

European History of the 20th Century

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1.- COURSE DETAILS

Course:	European History of the 20 th Century
Degree/Diploma:	International Relations from a Spanish Perspective
Faculty:	Facultad de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales
Length	One Semester
ECTS:	5
Department:	International Relations
Office:	
Office hours:	On appointment
Key issues:	European History, Cultural History, Political History, Contemporary European History, Diplomacy, European Integration
Course Requirements:	Basic knowledge of European History during the 20 th century

2. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The aim of this course is to provide students with a general overview of the main issues that define the course of European history during the 20th century (and first decades in 21st century!) This includes the study of conflicts between European states, internal political developments, cultural issues, as well as analysis of the mentalities and the ideologies that shaped the continent.

Essays writing will allow you to explore themes in more depth.

You will be familiar with changing geo-political pattern of Europe nation-states and empires; the causes and effects of wars; the main political movements; changes in living standards; and the range of experiences that Europeans have lived through.

The student will be able to read a complex historical text.

Course seminars will be thematic in organisation. Students will prepare for seminars by reading set texts in advance. Discussion of these texts will form the basis of seminar discussion.

Students will be penalised for late submissions unless an extension is granted in advance: causes for requesting extensions are illness or a serious personal problem.

How to succeed in this course

The course emphasizes reading, debating, and writing skills that are sometimes unfamiliar, but essential. There are no notes available, but all materials needed would be available.

The readings are only the beginning as they will be used as a springboard in many

lectures. You should be taking notes on the readings, and deepening your knowledge of the historical issues through more reading.

At the end of the course, students will have a sophisticated understanding of contemporary European political issues and can place them within the broader context of 20th century history.

3. -CONTENTS

-MODULE 1: EUROPE. FROM ITS ZENITH TO CATASTROPHE-

- 1.1. *The Great Empires: Culture, Science, Society.*
- 1.2. *Conflicts and Tensions. Arms and Alliances. The Road to War.*
- 1.3. *The First World War and Its Consequences.*

-MODULE 2: THE INTERWAR YEARS AND THE SECOND WORLD WAR-

Part 1: A HOPE FOR PEACE

- 2.1.1. *Versailles. The Flawed Peace.*
- 2.1.2. *The Rise of Totalitarian regimes.*
- 2.1.3. *A New War on the Horizon.*

Part 2: THE SECOND WORLD WAR

- 2.1. *General Characteristics of the Conflict. The Western Front.*
- 2.2. *General Characteristics of the Conflict. The Eastern Front.*

-MODULE 3. TOWARDS THE EUROPEAN COMMON HOUSE-

Part 1: EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

- 3.1.1. *The Partition of Europe and the Beginning of Cold War.*
- 3.1.2. *The Treaty of Rome and the Challenges of Integration. From EC to EU.*

Part 2: THE CHALLENGES OF THE NEW EUROPE

- 3.2.1. *The Fall of the Berlin Wall and the New Borders of Europe.*
- 3.2.2. *The Future and its Challenges.*

4. -CLASS SCHEDULE

MODULE 1: EUROPE. FROM ITS ZENITH TO CATASTROPHE

1.1.1. *The Great Empires. Culture, Science, Society* (SESSION 1)

Required reading:

-Röhl, J.C.G. (2005). *Kaiser Wilhelm II. New interpretations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: Cambridge. (Selected readings).

Suggested reading:

-Zweig, E. (2009) *The world of yesterday*. London: Pushkin Press. (Selected readings).

General discussion

1.1.2. *Conflicts and Tensions. Arms and Alliances. The Road to War.* (SESSION 2)

General discussion: the causes of war

-*Austro-Hungarian Ultimatum to Serbia,*
-*Serbian answer to Ultimatum*

1.2.3. *The First World War and Its Consequences.* (SESSION 3)

Required Reading:

-Ferguson, N. (1999). *The pity of war*. London: Penguin. (Selected readings).

General discussion

MODULE 2. THE INTERWAR YEARS AND THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Part 1: A HOPE FOR PEACE

2.1.1. *Versailles. The Flawed Peace.* (SESSION 4)

Required Reading: -Ferguson, N. (1999). *The pity of war*. London: Penguin. (Selected

<p>readings). -Wilson 14 Points. -Treaty of Versailles. (Selected articles).</p> <p>General discussion</p>
<p>2.1.2. <i>The Rise of Totalitarian regimes. (SESSION 5)</i></p>
<p>Required Reading: -Brendon, P. (2000). "The roots of fascism" in <i>The dark valley. A panorama of the 30s</i>. New York: Vintage Books.</p> <p>General discussion</p>
<p>2.1.3. <i>A New War on the Horizon. (SESSION 6)</i></p>
<p>Required Reading: -Overy, R. (2010). <i>1939. Countdown to war</i>. London: Penguin (selected readings)</p> <p>General discussion</p>
<p>Part 2: THE SECOND WORLD WAR</p>
<p>2.2.1. <i>General Characteristics of the Conflict. The Western Front. (SESSION 7)</i></p>
<p>2.2.2. <i>General Characteristics of the Conflict. The Eastern Front. (SESSION 8)</i></p>
<p>Required Reading: -Keegan, J. (1997): <i>The Second World War</i>. London: Pimlico. (Selected readings).</p> <p>Complementary Readings: -Overy, R. (1995). <i>Why the Allies won</i>. London: Jonathan Cape.</p> <p>General discussion</p>

<p>MODULE 3. TOWARDS THE EUROPEAN COMMON HOUSE</p> <p>Part 1: EUROPEAN INTEGRATION</p>
<p>3.1.1. <i>The Partition of Europe and the Beginning of Cold War. (SESSION 9)</i></p>
<p>Required Reading: -Col. Hughes-Wilson, J. (2006). <i>The Cold War</i>. London: Constable & Robinson.</p> <p>General discussion</p>
<p>3.1.2. <i>The Treaty of Rome and the Challenges of Integration. (SESSION 10)</i></p>
<p>Required Reading: - The European Union. Current challenges and prospects (Congressional Research document)</p> <p>Complementary Readings: -Sakwa, R., Stevens, A. (2012). <i>Contemporary Europe</i>. Basingstoke: Palgrave. Selected chapters.</p> <p>General discussion</p>
<p>Part 2: THE CHALLENGES OF THE NEW EUROPE</p>
<p>2.1. <i>The Fall of the Berlin Wall and the New Borders of Europe. (SESSION 11)</i></p>
<p>Required Reading: -Leonard, M. (2005). <i>Why Europe will lead the 21st century</i>. London: Fourth State.</p> <p>General discussion</p>
<p>2.2. <i>The Future and its Challenges. (SESSION 12)</i></p>
<p>Required Reading: -Media articles on the current economic and political crisis.</p> <p>General discussion</p>

5. - METHODOLOGY

The course will be organized in the form of seminars, with each session covering a specific topic of the syllabus. Seminars -if not specifically indicated otherwise in the class schedule- will be composed by a general introduction carried out by the course organiser followed by discussion of the set texts. Students are expected to participate actively throughout the seminar. Apart from the readings included in the *Class Schedule*, these general studies are recommended:

Prof. Dr Almudena González del Valle

- Applebaum, A. (2012) *Iron Curtain: The Crushing of Eastern Europe*
- Bayly, C.A. (2004). *The birth of the modern world*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Blanning, T.C.W. (1996) *The Oxford Illustrated History of Modern Europe*
- Calvocoressi, P. (2009). *World politics since 1945*. Harlow: Pearson.
- Davies, N. (1998) *Europe. A history*. London: Harper Perennial.
- Dedman, M. (2009). *The Origins and development of the European Union 1945-2008*. London: Routledge.
- Feis, H. (1970). *From trust to terror. The onset of the Cold War 1945-1950*. London: Anthony Blond.
- Gilbert, M. (2004). *Winston Churchill. The wilderness years*. London: Pimlico
- Gilbert, M. (2012). *European Integration: A concise history*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers Inc.
- Graebner, N.A., Bennett, E.M. (2011). *The Versailles Treaty and its legacy: The failure of the wilsonian vision*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Joll, J. (various) *Europe since 1870* Keegan, J. (1999). *The First World War*. London: A. Knopf.
- Judt, T. *Postwar*
- Kennedy, P. (1998). *The rise and fall of great powers*. London: Unwin Hayman
- Klemperer, V. (2006): *The language of the Third Reich: LTI: Lingua Tertii Imperii*. London: Continuum.
- Liddell Hart, B. (2007). *German generals talk*. New York: Perennial.
- Massie, R.K. (2004). *Castles of steel. Britain, Germany and the winning of the war at sea*. New York: Ballantine Books.
- Massie, R.K. (2007). *Dreadnought. Britain, Germany and the coming of the Great War*. New York: Vintage Books.
- Mazower, M. (1997) *Dark Continent*
- McCormick, J. (2017). *Understanding the European Union: a concise introduction*. 7th edition. Palgrave
- Overy, R. (1997). *Russia's war*. London: Allen Lane.
- Overy, R. (1995). *Why the Allies won*. London: Jonathan Cape.
- Roberts, J. (1970). *A general history of Europe 1880-1945*. London: Longman.
- Roberts, J. (1997). *The history of Europe*. New York: Viking.
- Sassoon, D. (1996) *One Hundred Years of Socialism: the West European Left in the Twentieth Century*
- Wasserstein, B. (2008) *Barbarism and Civilization: A History of Europe in our Time*
- Vinen, R. (2000) *A History in Fragments: Europe in the Twentieth Century*
- Leonard, M. (2005). *Why Europe will lead the 21st century*. London: Fourth State.
- Taylor, A.J.P. (1961). *The origins of the Second World War*. London: Hamish Hamilton.
- Tuchman, B. (1962). *The guns of august*. London: Macmillan
- Zubkov, V.M. (2007): *A failed empire. The Soviet Union in the Cold War. From Stalin to Gorbachev*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press.

Also recommended

Chris Cook and John Paxton, *European Political Facts, 1848–1918*
Chris Cook and John Paxton, *European Political Facts, 1918–1990*
J.A.S. Grenville (1980) *A World History of the Twentieth Century, Vol, 1 Western Dominance, 1900–1945*, Fontana, 1st ed
J.A.S. Grenville (1994) *The Collins History of the World in the Twentieth Century*
Martin Kitchen, *Europe between the Wars: a political history* (London, 1988)
Thompson, D. (various) *Europe since Napoleon*
Derek Urwin (1989) *Western Europe since 1945: a political history* (fourth ed)
David Welch (1994) *Modern European History, 1871–1975: a documentary reader*
<http://www.archive.org>

6. ASSESSMENT

Assessment will be based on the following four elements:

1. Final Exam. Student will critically analyse different but relevant texts not just to assess their knowledge but also their ability to provide a sophisticated and original analysis of the subject.

(50% of the final mark).

2. Course final essay. At the beginning of the course, students will choose a topic related to the subject syllabus from a list provided by the course organiser. This will form the basis of a 2.500 words dissertation.

(30% of the final mark).

3. Class activities: *More information will be given along the course on the format and content.* **(10% of the final mark).**

4. Seminar participation. Students will be encouraged to participate with their comments and questions throughout the course.

(10% of the final mark).

Please note:

-If a student does not attend to at least 80% of classes, coursework will not be assessed and a "not completed" grade will be issued. Attendance will be checked periodically.

-Tutorials are an essential part of the course. Students will be encouraged to ask questions and take part in debate. The course organiser will provide guidance on the preparation of the final dissertation and the short essays.

- Plagiarism of published material or other students work will result in an automatic fail.

-Students will be provided with the relevant guidelines for the production of academic pieces of research. Not fulfilling the standard of these guidelines will result in the dissertation being graded with 0 points.

-Students should only use scholarly academic material for the dissertation. Although the Internet can be used as a research tool, the use of general websites such as Wikipedia is not acceptable.

-All essays will be handed through a web tool (Moodle). Except in exceptional cases, late essays will not be accepted.

-Every student must complete all elements of course assessment to pass the course.