

Syllabus: B361/H509 (Subject to change)
Europe in the Twentieth Century I: 1914-1941
Tuesdays/Thursdays: 9:00-10:15 CA 221 (26190)

Professor Kevin Cramer
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Cavanaugh 503M
Tues./Thurs.: 3:00-5:00
and by appointment

Required Texts

1. David Stevenson, *Cataclysm: The First World War as Political Tragedy* (Basic Books, 2004).
2. Hiroaki Kuromiya, *Stalin* (Pearson/Longman, 2005).
3. Robert O. Paxton, *The Anatomy of Fascism* (Vintage Books, 2004).
4. Richard Overy, *The Road to War* (Penguin Books, 1999).

If you do not already own one, you are strongly advised to buy a scholarly style manual prior to writing your proposal/annotated bibliography and term paper, such as Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*.

Course Description

The first half of the twentieth century was a particularly violent and bloody forty years. Those decades left legacies of state-sanctioned violence and mass death that are still with us today. This relatively brief historical epoch included two world wars, two major civil wars, the dissolution of four imperial monarchies, the creation of the first communist state, the rise of fascism and Nazism, brutal political purges, mass deportations and executions, genocide, and, after Europe had devastated itself, the emergence of the United States and Soviet Russia as superpowers. In a violent flare of expansionist nationalism between 1914 and 1945 three centuries of European world domination came to a sudden end. This course begins with Europe's drift toward war in the first decade of the twentieth century as the continent seemed prepared to liquidate what it confidently believed to be its proudest achievement-- a century of progress, reason, and prosperity. World War I is explored in depth, from its origins to the peace settlements that led to communist revolution in Russia and democratic revolution in Germany. The apparent weakness of democracy, liberalism, and capitalism in the 1930s in the confrontation with totalitarianism is examined in units dealing with Stalinist Russia, Fascist Italy, Nazi Germany, and the Spanish Civil War. The course concludes with a discussion of Adolf Hitler's plans to reverse the German defeat in 1918 and the first two years of World War II. The course ends in 1941 with the entry of the United States into the war after Pearl Harbor, an event that marked the end of "Hitler's war" as a continuation of WWI and the beginning of a new global conflict.

Course Objectives

The aim of this course is to show how the international order of the first half of the twentieth century was dominated by the conflict between radical utopian ideologies of the left and right and how this conflict was particularly open to the use of mass murder as a political weapon. The course is also designed to further develop and improve the skills required by the university's "Principles of Undergraduate Learning" (for details and further information on the PUL go to www.iupui.edu/~history/ugprinciples.html.) Lectures and exams will introduce you to facts, concepts, themes, and terms that will allow you to understand the importance of these events while giving you the historical context for a better understanding of how this period continues to resonate in our world sixty years later. The term paper assignment, based on readings of primary

sources and current secondary literature, will enable you to develop your reflective, critical, and analytical abilities while requiring you to become familiar with library resources and research techniques. In-class participation and discussion will enable you to sharpen your communication skills as well as your capability to efficiently and spontaneously argue a position and summarize, categorize, interpret, and evaluate information. This part of the course also allows you to make a vital and necessary contribution to how topics and issues are brought into focus in each class.

Course Requirements

1. Test One: 25%
2. Test Two: 25%
3. Research Paper with Proposal and Bibliography (Topics and Format TBA; 25%). **NB: Students in the graduate section (H509) are required to submit a longer research paper (further details TBA).**
4. Participation in three debates (15%). **NB: Attendance and general participation in class are also factored into this participation grade.**
5. Reading Quizzes (Unannounced; 10%)

Grading System and Policy

Final grades in this course will be calculated with the four-point grading system used by the Registrar, e.g., A (4), A- (3.7), B+ (3.3) and so on. Tests, quizzes, and other course work will be graded on the traditional 100-point scale (and then converted for the final grade). An A-range grade evaluates work that goes substantially beyond the formal outlines of the assignment by showing marked originality, creativity, and strength of argument, organization, and conception. A B-range grade evaluates work that fulfills the assignment with noticeable, but not thorough, attention paid to these ideas. Such work might also include flawed reasoning and organization as well as stylistic problems (sentence structure, spelling, vocabulary, use of scholarly conventions, etc.). A C-range grade evaluates work of genuine effort that largely fulfills the assignment but displays substantial weaknesses in several of the above areas. D-range work is evaluated as meeting the bare minimums of the assignment in a perfunctory fashion. Obviously, an F grade indicates complete failure to fulfill the assignment. *You are graded and evaluated according to my evaluation and judgment of your participation in class, your willingness to ask questions during lectures (there are no stupid questions), the quality of your preparation for, and fulfillment of, assignments, and your willingness to risk thinking analytically and originally. You are not graded for "effort" and merely showing up each day.*

Course Policies

Make-up tests and quizzes will only be offered in emergencies (and given on the *next* class day) and when I am notified *no later than the morning* of the test or quiz class day. Keep me informed reasonably in advance of circumstances that will force you to miss lectures (via my office email or through Oncourse email). Lecture outlines, writing assignments, test reviews, film notes, debate questions, and other important information and course material will be posted on Oncourse, *so check it regularly*. All assignments must be completed for your final grade to be accurately calculated (an A+ on the introductory test, for example, does not give you the option of skipping the map quizzes). Failure to turn in assignments or take tests and quizzes will be noted as part of your participation grade. Late submission of the term paper will be penalized a full letter grade after one day; two full letter grades after two days. Unless there are extraordinary and documented circumstances that prevent timely submission, papers overdue by more than two days will not be accepted. I will not accept late papers via email attachments. If you are having

problems fulfilling the requirements of the course contact me sooner rather than later. The Student Advocate Office (<http://www.life.iupui.edu/advocate/>) is also available when you need help finding information or dealing with issues that affect your attendance and academic performance. The Student Advocate's office is in University College Lower Level 002. For general campus policies go to <http://registrar.iupui.edu/misconduct.html>.

Academic Misconduct

Plagiarism is usually defined as the deliberate theft of someone else's work and passing it off as your own. But inattention, ignorance of scholarly citation conventions, and sloppy note taking can also be construed as plagiarism, even if it is unintentional. *Cutting and pasting from web-based sources is plagiarism. The penalty for plagiarism (and all other forms of cheating and deleterious behavior) is an automatic failing grade for the course.* Please consult the *IUPUI Campus Bulletin* for further guidelines and information on plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct. For the Code of Students Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct go to http://life.iupui.edu/help/docs/Part_3all.html.

Administrative Withdrawal

A basic requirement of this course is that you will actively engage with your peers and instructor during class and conscientiously prepare for and complete all assignments. If you miss more than half our class meetings within the first four weeks of the semester without contacting me, you will be administratively withdrawn from the class. Our class meets twice per week; thus if you miss more than four classes in the first four weeks, you may be withdrawn, which will make room for students on the waitlist. Administrative withdrawal may have academic, financial, and financial aid implications. Administrative withdrawal will take place after the full refund period, and if you are administratively withdrawn from the course you will not be eligible for a tuition refund. For more details go to <http://www.registrar.iupui.edu/withdrawal-policy.html>.

Other Important Information

- As participation in class discussions is part of your final grade, and lecture material not covered in the assigned readings is tested on the exams, attendance is important (and it also affects your participation grade). For the same reasons, tardiness and leaving early will also be noted. Unexcused absences will adversely affect your overall participation grade. If circumstances prevent you from devoting the necessary amount of time and effort to be successful in this course, please drop the class as early as possible. For drop/add procedures, go to <http://registrar.iupui.edu/drop.html>.
- Lecture outlines will be posted on Oncourse no later than the day before the lecture.
- Learning to take effective notes is a skill rewarded by heightened comprehension, increased retention of information, and good grades; the recording of lectures is therefore prohibited barring special circumstances.
- The four debates will be based on questions posed by the readings. The positions for the debates will be posted in advance on Oncourse under "Schedule." Group assignments will be chosen in class.
- The readings for each week are intended to provide background information for that week's lectures. You will find the lectures much easier to follow if you do the readings in advance, so it is advisable to keep up with the readings. **There will be at least five unannounced reading quizzes over the semester.** The tests will have material drawn from the textbook that will not always be discussed in class.

- Because of the sheer number and profound differences in quality of Internet sources and references, they can only be used in the term paper with my approval. I will provide a list of web-based primary source archives with the Paper Topic and Format Guidelines.
- You *must* submit in advance a research proposal and annotated bibliography for your paper. Format and details will be provided. *I will not evaluate and grade your paper if you fail to submit this bibliography.*

Class Schedule and Readings

Week One

1. Introduction (Th 8/24): Introduction: The Syllabus and the Course

Week Two

2. Lecture 1 (T 8/29): The Militarization of Europe
3. Lecture 2 (Th 8/31): August 1914

Readings: Stevenson, chapters 1-2.

Debate 1 Positions posted on Oncourse; Debate Groups chosen; Paper Format and Topic Guidelines posted.

Week Three

4. Debate 1 (T 9/5): "What or Who was 'Responsible' for the Start of WWI?"
5. Lecture 3 (Th 9/7): The "Race to the Sea" and Trench Warfare

Readings: Stevenson, chapters 3-7.

Week Four

6. Lecture 4 ((T 9/12): The British Experience of War: The Somme to Passchendaele
7. Film 1 (Th 9/14): TBA

Readings: Stevenson, chapters 8-11.

Week Five

8. Lecture 5 (T 9/19): The French Experience of War: Verdun and the 1917 Mutinies
9. Lecture 6 (Th 9/21): The War's Periphery: Russia, Italy, and the Middle East

Readings: Stevenson, chapters 12-14.

Test One Format and Review Guide posted on Oncourse

Week Six

10. Lecture 7 (T 9/26): War's End: 1917-1918
11. Lecture 8 (Th 9/28): Peace and Revolution, 1918-1926

Readings: Stevenson, chapters 15-18.

Week Seven

12. Test One Review (T 10/3)
13. Test One (Th 10/5)

Week Eight

14. Lecture 9 (T 10/10): Pre-Revolutionary Russia
15. Film 2 (Th 10/12): "Battleship Potemkin"

Readings: Kuromiya, chapters 1-2.

Week Nine

- 16. Lecture 10 (T 10/17): The Russian Civil War
- 17. Lecture 11 (Th 10/19): Leninism and Stalinism

Readings: Kuromiya, chapters 3-5.

Debate 2 Positions posted on Oncourse; Debate Groups chosen

Week Ten

- 18. Lecture 12 (T 10/24): Italian Fascism
- 19. Lecture 13 (Th 10/26): National Socialism; **Paper proposals and bibliographies due.**

Readings: Paxton, chapters 1-4.

Week Eleven

- 20. Film 3 (T 10/31): "Triumph of the Will"
- 21. Debate 2 (Th 11/2): "Totalitarianism"

Readings: Paxton, chapters 5-6, 8.

Week Twelve

- 22. Lecture 14 (T 11/7): The Spanish Civil War
- 23. Film 4 (Th 11/9): "The Spanish Earth"

Readings: Overy, Introduction, chapters 1-4.

Debate 3 Positions posted on Oncourse; Debate Groups chosen

Week Thirteen

- 24. Paper Review Session (T 11/14): Paper Topics and How to Write a History Essay
- 25. Lecture 15 (Th 11/16): Hitler's Plans for Conquest

Readings: Overy, chapters, 5-7.

Week Fourteen

- 26. Debate 3 (T 11/21): "Appeasement: A Rational Policy?"

Thanksgiving Recess: 11/22-11/26 (No classes)

Week Fifteen

- 27. Film 5 (T 11/28): TBA; **Papers due.**
- 28. Lecture 16 (Th 11/30): World War I Resumed: 1939-1941

Readings: Overy, Conclusion.

Week Sixteen

- 29. Lecture 17 (T 12/5): 1942-1945: The End of the 19th Century?
- 30. Test Two Review (Th 12/7)

FINAL EXAM: Test Two is on Tuesday, December 12, 10:30-12:30, in CA 221