

HISTORY 408

Dictatorship and Democracy

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Hours: Wednesday 11-12:30 or by appt.

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COURSE OVERVIEW

This course examines the interplay between democracies and dictatorships in Europe during the Interwar period (1919-1939). We will focus on a comparison of Great Britain and France (democracies), Germany (a democracy turned Nazi dictatorship), and the Soviet Union (Bolshevist communism). We will explore key political, social, cultural, and economic transformations of the era through four broad themes: the legacy of World War I; economic boom, bust, and recovery; public hygiene and national strength; and politics and power in mass society.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Papers (4 @ 17% each) - Each of the four thematic sections of the course will conclude with a comparative essay (~5-6 pages). Paper topics and guidelines will be handed out in advance and based on class material (i.e. no outside research). For each essay, a rough draft is due by Friday noon (Sept. 22, Oct 20, Nov 10, Dec. 8); the final draft is due the following Sunday night by 11:59 pm.

Discussion (26%) - Class discussion is a key component of this course. Your discussion score will be based on a combination of participation, preparation, and attendance as follows:

- Most classes will include some discussion. Your participation in these discussions will be graded. A rubric will be available on Blackboard.
- Classes designated as DISCUSSION on the course schedule (Fridays and some additional dates) will be devoted to the discussion of assigned readings.

Preparation for these discussions includes:

- Reading the assigned reading (or completing the assigned paper) before class and bringing a copy with you. (Electronic copy is acceptable.)
- **Completing assigned Reading Questions** (on Blackboard) and turning them in to Blackboard by **12 pm on the day of the discussion**. (On paper days, a draft of your paper is due.)

Why? They encourage you to read the text closely, prepare you to discuss the text in depth, and help me focus the discussion. As a bonus, you get a set of reading notes that will aid you in your written essays.

Note: Because preparation and discussion reinforce each other, reading questions will receive no credit if you are absent from the discussion itself (exceptions for pre-approved absences or emergencies at my discretion).

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, hiring another to do your work, copying etc.) is unacceptable and will not be tolerated in this course. The penalty for academic dishonesty will be failure for the course and a forwarding of the case to the Dean of Students for university review.

Plagiarism is the un-credited use of another's words or ideas. Examples include failure to put quotation marks around direct citations; paraphrasing material without citing the source; cutting and pasting from web sites and other sources; and turning in someone else's work as your own.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements (class cancellation, reduction of reading assignments, etc.) will be made in Blackboard. Students are responsible for checking Blackboard announcements.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is required. Regular class attendance is crucial for understanding the material, developing analytical skills, and cultivating class discussion.

Because illnesses and extracurricular obligations do occur, absences will not count against your grade until the sixth absence. *With the sixth absence, I will deduct two points per absence from your final grade.*

See also Discussion/reading questions policy.

Kershaw Reading Questions (6%): Reading questions for Kershaw will be due as sets. (Exception: when a Kershaw reading is assigned for a designated discussion period.) Due dates (all Mondays): **Set 1: September 18; Set 2: October 16; Set 3: November 6; Set 4: December 4**

TEXTBOOKS

Texts for Purchase:

Books that are available on 2-hour reserve in the HSSE library (check-out at the circulation desk) are identified below.

- Ian Kershaw, *To Hell and Back: Europe 1914-1949*
ISBN: 9780143109921 - Available on Amazon and at Folletts & University Bookstore
NOT available on reserve
- Eugen Weber, *The Hollow Years: France in the 1930s*
ISBN: 9780393314793 - Available on Amazon and HSSE Reserve
- Modris Eksteins, *Rites of Spring: The Great War and the Birth of the Modern Age*
ISBN: 978035937587 - Available on Amazon and HSSE Reserve
- Michael Geyer and Sheila Fitzpatrick, *Beyond Totalitarianism: Stalinism and Nazism Compared*
ISBN: 9780521723978 - Available on Amazon and HSSE Reserve
- Richard Overy, *The Twilight Years: The Paradox of Britain Between the Wars*
ISBN: 9780143118114 - **This book is on HSSE Reserve and available on Amazon as an ebook. Used print copies (both hardcover and paperback) are also available.**

Other Readings: (available on Blackboard)

- Sheila Fitzpatrick, *Everyday Stalinism* (select chapters)
- Adam Tooze, "The German National Economy in an Era of Crisis and War, 1917-1945"

COURSE SCHEDULE

This schedule includes assigned readings, discussions, and assignment deadlines. Discussion readings are *to be completed on the date assigned*. Kershaw readings are (highly) *recommended* to be completed on the date listed, **except** when they are listed as a discussion reading when they are *required* as a source for discussion.

On discussion days, we will discuss the assigned readings or the conclusions of your papers. Other class periods will be devoted to a combination of lectures, films, and additional class discussion.

August 21: Introduction

THEME 1: THE LEGACY OF WAR: PACIFISTS, MILITANTS, & NIHILISTS

August 23: Overview

August 25: (Kershaw, 93-101)

COMPUTER USE POLICY

Use of computers/tablets for notetaking (except for documented disabilities) or other activities is **prohibited** in this class. Why? Recent research (links on Blackboard) suggests that computer notetaking is a distraction and that it *decreases* learning and comprehension.

On discussion days, E-Readers/tablets/phones are permissible to access readings for discussions.

CONTINGENCY DISCLOSURE

In the event of a major campus emergency (such as a natural disaster, epidemic, campus shutdown etc.) the requirements, deadlines, grading policies and percentages as detailed in this syllabus are subject to changes that may be required by an officially revised semester calendar. Any such changes in this course will be posted, once the course resumes, on the course site on Blackboard or can be obtained by contacting the instructor.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

During this course, you should achieve the following objectives:

- Summarize key themes in the political, social, economic, and political history of Interwar Europe
- Read secondary historical sources in depth both for information and argument
- Synthesize information and evaluate arguments from a variety of secondary sources.
- Engage in comparative historical analysis.
- Compose analytical essays in fluid English prose with thesis statements, clear organization, and appeals to concrete evidence.

August 28: (Kershaw 121-133)

August 30: (Kershaw 134-141, 322-234)

September 1: **DISCUSSION:** France

Reading: Weber, Chapters I, IX, X (through p. 345) [59 pages]

READING QUESTIONS DUE AT NOON

September 4: Labor Day – No Class

September 6: (Kershaw 108-113)

September 8: **DISCUSSION:** Great Britain

Reading: Overy, Chapters 5, 6, 8 [138 pages]

READING QUESTIONS DUE AT NOON

September 11: (Kershaw 114-121)

September 13: (Kershaw 102-108, 142-148)

September 15: **DISCUSSION:** Germany

Reading: Eksteins, Preface, Chapters IX, X [60 pages]

READING QUESTIONS DUE AT NOON

THEME 2: BOOM, BUST, AND RECOVERY

September 18: **KERSHAW QUESTIONS SET 1 DUE AT NOON**

September 20: (Kershaw 149-160, 178-182)

September 22: **DISCUSSION:** Paper 1

PAPER ROUGH DRAFT DUE AT NOON

FINAL DRAFT DUE ON SUNDAY 9/24 AT 11:59 PM

September 25:

September 27: (Kershaw 183-96)

September 29: **DISCUSSION:** Soviet Union

Reading: Fitzgerald, Chapter 2 (link through BB), Kershaw 160-65

READING QUESTIONS DUE AT NOON

October 2: (Kershaw 197-216)

October 4:

October 6: **DISCUSSION:** Germany

Reading: Tooze (on Blackboard); (Kershaw 216-227) [34 pages]

READING QUESTIONS DUE AT NOON

October 9: FALL BREAK – No class

October 11:

October 13: **DISCUSSION:** France and Britain

Reading: Weber, Chapter II; Overy, Chapter 2 [71 pages]

READING QUESTIONS DUE AT NOON

THEME 3: PUBLIC HYGIENE AND NATIONAL STRENGTH

October 16: **KERSHAW QUESTIONS SET 2 DUE AT NOON**

October 18: (Kershaw 165-177)

October 20: **DISCUSSION:** Paper 2

PAPER ROUGH DRAFT DUE AT NOON

FINAL DRAFT DUE ON SUNDAY 10/22 AT 11:59 PM

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

In the Course Information folder on Blackboard, you will find a document from the provost's office on Emergency Preparedness. It explains the university warning signals as well as provides links to building evacuation and shelter-in-place procedures.

GRADES AND GRADING SCALE

Grades will be posted regularly throughout the semester on blackboard.

Grading scale:

94-100 = A

90-93 = A-

87-89 = B+

83-86 = B

80-82 = B-

77-79 = C+

73-76 = C

70-73 = C-

67-69 = D+

63-66 = D

60-62 = D-

0-59 = F

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY

Late assignments will NOT be accepted, except for in cases of preapproved extensions or *documented* emergencies (death in family, hospitalization, etc.), as determined by the instructor. Leaving assignments to the last minute and encountering unexpected problems does not constitute an emergency. *Late assignments will be treated as uncompleted and receive no points.*

System problems do occur. Blackboard issues will receive extensions only at the discretion of the instructor. Report problems right away.

October 23: (Kershaw 227-46)

October 25:

October 27: **DISCUSSION:** Eugenics in the West

Reading: Overy, Chapter 3; Weber, pp. 76-86 [53 pages]

READING QUESTIONS DUE AT NOON

October 30: **DISCUSSION:** Bio-politics in Germany and USSR

Reading: Geyer, Chapter 3 [46 pages]

READING QUESTIONS DUE AT NOON

November 1:

November 3: **DISCUSSION:** National Community

Reading: Geyer, Chapter 6; Weber, Chapter 4 [59 pages]

READING QUESTIONS DUE AT NOON

THEME 4: POLITICS AND POWER IN MASS SOCIETY

November 6: **KERSHAW QUESTIONS SET 3 DUE AT NOON**

November 8: (Kershaw 260-294)

November 10: **DISCUSSION:**

PAPER ROUGH DRAFT DUE AT NOON

FINAL DRAFT DUE ON SUNDAY 10/12 AT 11:59

November 13: (Kershaw, 303-345)

November 15:

November 17: **DISCUSSION:** Hitler and Stalin

Reading: Geyer, Chapter 1, 2 [86 pages]

READING QUESTIONS DUE AT NOON

November 20: **DISCUSSION:** Socialization

Reading: Geyer, Chapter 7, 8 [79 pages]

READING QUESTIONS DUE AT NOON

November 22, 24: Thanksgiving - No Class

November 27:

November 29: **DISCUSSION:** Great Britain

Reading: Overy, Chapter 7 [85 pages]

READING QUESTIONS DUE AT NOON R

December 1: **DISCUSSION:** France

Reading: Weber, Chapter 5, 6 [71 pages]

READING QUESTIONS DUE AT NOON

December 4: **KERSHAW QUESTIONS SET 4 DUE AT NOON**

December 6:

December 8: **DISCUSSION:**

ROUGH DRAFT DUE AT NOON

FINAL DRAFT DUE EXAM WEEK, TBA
