

Cold War Europe and Age of Unity

Dr. William Glenn Gray
History 337 / Spring 2018

This course examines the predicament of a Europe ruined by war, caught between the might of the United States and the Soviet Union. How did Europeans respond to American cultural, military, and economic power? What explains Western Europe's remarkable recovery in the 1950s and the cultural turbulence of the 1960s? Why did the Soviets fail in their quest to dominate East Central Europe? From the Marshall Plan to the fall of the Berlin Wall, this course aims to place disagreements between "Old Europe" and the New World in a broader historical context while considering the future prospects for European integration.

Course Objectives

By the end of the semester, you will have improved your skills in the following areas:

- Reading and analyzing literary texts as primary sources
- Contributing to classroom discussions about the assigned readings
- Listening actively and taking notes on interpretive lectures
- Responding to complex historical questions with original and well-argued exam essays that synthesize course lectures and reading assignments
- Writing interpretive essays in response to major works of literature

Course Readings

Böll, Heinrich. *Billiards at Half-Past Nine*, trans. Patrick Bowles. New York: Melville House, 2010. ISBN-13: 978-1-935-55418-9. (\$13.32 on amazon)

Gilbert, Mark. *European Integration: A Concise History*. Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield, 2012. ISBN-13: 978-0-742-56664-4. (\$26.66 on amazon)

Hitchcock, William. *The Struggle for Europe: The Turbulent History of a Divided Continent 1945-2002*. New York: Anchor, 2004. ISBN-13: 978-0-385-49799-2. (\$14.69 on amazon)

Kundera, Milan. *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*. New York: Harper Perennial. ISBN-13: 978-0-061-14852-1. (\$12.62 on amazon)

In addition, a small number of additional article-length readings will be made available to you. This applies to the readings listed [in brackets] below on the lecture & reading schedule.

Course Requirements

Participation (10% of course grade). We will have several class sessions devoted to discussions of the reading; the participation grade evaluates your contributions. Also factored in here is your attendance and your performance on a map quiz (scheduled for Monday, Jan. 22).

Böll paper (20% of course grade). Early in the semester, you will be writing a short paper (ca. 5 pages) on the Böll novel. The paper will be due on Thursday, Feb. 15 at day's end.

Midterm exam (20% of course grade). This will feature a combination of short factual questions and long essays. You will receive the essay questions in advance so that you can prepare well-considered responses. The exam is scheduled for Monday, February 26.

Kundera paper (20% of course grade). Later this semester, you will write another short paper – this time on the Kundera novel. This paper will be due on Sunday, April 8 at day’s end.

Take-home final exam (30% of course grade). This is not quite the same thing as a formal paper. You will be asked broad, synthetic essay questions to assess how effectively you have learned the course material. The essays will be due at the end of exam week (Friday, May 4).

Course Policies

Attendance is essential. You are allowed six absences; after that, each absence will be counted against you. Obviously if you are representing Purdue in an official capacity (sports, band, etc.) you are excused; likewise, certain leeway can be granted for medical emergencies. However, if you miss too much of the course, no matter what the reason, I will insist that you withdraw.

Common courtesy suggests that you should arrive on time. If you must leave early, please inform us ahead of time and then raise your hand at the appropriate time. Your coming and going may represent a significant distraction – particularly in such a small course.

Contemporary students are tempted by all kinds of electronic distractions that inhibit their ability to learn effectively in class. I am going to ask that you refrain from using any electronic devices during class: no laptops, no tablets, and no phones will be permitted during lecture or discussion sections. This is your opportunity to perfect the art of note-taking by hand!

Academic integrity: The assignments in this course require you to formulate complex thoughts in your own words. Attempts to pass off another’s words as your own – be it on an exam or in your written work – will carry harsh penalties. Plagiarized papers will earn a “zero” for the assignment and may lead to further consequences.

Disclaimer: In the event of a major campus emergency, the above requirements, deadlines and grading policies are subject to changes that may be required by a revised semester calendar. Any such changes in this course will be posted, once the course resumes, on the course website or can be obtained by contacting the instructor via email or phone.

Contact Information

Prof. Gray (wggray@purdue.edu)
Office hours in University Hall 328:
MW 10:00 - 11:30 am or by appointment
Office phone: (765) 494-2772

Lecture and Reading Schedule

Jan. 8	Introduction: Does Europe still matter?	
Jan. 10	In the rubble	Hitchcock 1-39
Jan. 12	An “Iron Curtain”?	Hitchcock 40-68
Jan. 15	NO CLASS	
Jan. 17	The breaking of Britain	Hitchcock 69-97
Jan. 19	Prague and Berlin: Cold War descends	Hitchcock 98-125
Jan. 22	NATO and the divided continent	[map quiz!]
Jan. 24	The Schuman Plan and the EDC	Gilbert 1-44
Jan. 26	Discussion: <i>Billiards</i> , Part I	Böll, 1-67
Jan. 29	Consumer culture in the West	Hitchcock 127-161
Jan. 31	The Treaty of Rome	Gilbert 45-60
Feb. 2	Discussion: <i>Billiards</i> , Part II	Böll 68-156
Feb. 5	Khrushchev’s secret speech	Hitchcock 193-220
Feb. 7	Consumer culture in the East	Ciesla/Poutrus chapter
Feb. 9	Discussion: <i>Billiards</i> , Part III	Böll 157-289
Feb. 12	De Gaulle returns	Hitchcock 162-192
Feb. 14	Berlin: Europe’s flashpoint, 1958-1963	
Feb. 16	Who is the West? – the “Atlanticist” version	Gilbert 61-87
[Feb. 18	BÖLL ESSAY DUE – 11:59 pm]	
Feb. 19	Who is the West? – the “Gaullist” version	Hitchcock 221-241
Feb. 21	Social modernization: the 1960s as a turning point	Marwick chapter
Feb. 23	“1968”: Western Europe’s youth explosion	Hitchcock 243-268
Feb. 26	MIDTERM EXAM	
Feb. 28	Crushing the Prague Spring	Hitchcock 288-310

Mar. 2	Discussion: <i>Unbearable</i> , Part I	Kundera 3-78
Mar. 5	The ambivalence of détente	
Mar. 7	Doldrums and dissidents	Zatlin article
Mar. 9	Discussion: <i>Unbearable</i> , Part II	Kundera 81-171
Mar. 19	Crisis in the West	Gilbert 98-116
Mar. 21	Terror from the left	
Mar. 23	Discussion: <i>Unbearable</i> , Part III	Kundera 175-314
Mar. 26	Europe's New Social Movements	Hitchcock 269-287
Mar. 28	"Guest Workers" and post-colonial tension	
Mar. 30	Thatcherism	Hitchcock 311-341
Apr. 2	Memory politics across the Atlantic	Gilbert 117-142
Apr. 4	Perestroika – Gorbachev's gamble	Hitchcock 343-358
Apr. 6	The revolutions of 1989	Hitchcock 359-379
[Apr. 8	KUNDERA ESSAY DUE – 11:59 pm]	
Apr. 9	German unification: capitalism and collapse	Gilbert 143-171
Apr. 11	Russia's downward spiral	
Apr. 13	Yugoslavia unravels	Hitchcock 380-409
Apr. 16	The transformation of East Central Europe	
Apr. 18	European integration since 1985	Gilbert 173-204
Apr. 20	"Old" and "New" Europe	Hitchcock 435-74
Apr. 23	New migrant challenges	Hitchcock 410-34
Apr. 25	The Euro crisis: a failure of integration?	Gilbert 205-222
Apr. 27	The populist wave	