PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:
The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Postgraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your MyAberdeen Organisation page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any School regulation or procedure.
You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR/COURSE TEAM
Course coordinator: Professor Thomas Weber
Office hours: see departmental webpage
Office location: History Dept., Crombie Annexe, Meston Walk, office G03
Telephone: 01224-273539
Email: t.weber@abdn.ac.uk
Lecturing team: Colin Barr (CB), Andrew Dilley (AD), Heidi Mehrkens (HM), & Thomas Weber (TW)
tutorial leaders: see the course webpages

Discipline Administration:
Mrs Barbara McGillivray/Mrs Gillian Brown
50-52 College Bounds
Room CBLG01
01224 272199/272454
history-ug@abdn.ac.uk

TIMETABLE
Lectures: two one-hour lectures per week throughout the half session, total 22 hours plus revision session in the revision week
Tutorials: eight one-hour sessions during teaching weeks 3-11, total 8 hours, with one reading week (normally week 7, but check with your tutorial leader).

For time and place of classes, please see MyAberdeen
Students can also view their university timetable at http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/timetables-550.php
COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course provides an introduction to the academic study of history with an emphasis on the contested nature of history as an academic endeavour. In this course, we focus on the history of Europe in the twentieth century. We highlight a selection of six major debates about key political, social, economic and other developments.

The lecture series begins with a survey of how historians have tried to make sense of Europe in the 20th Century. It also invites students to try and imagine what a history of Europe in the 20th Century that they would write would look like. The introductory lecture also provides a brief survey of the major themes and events that will be covered in this course.

In subsequent weeks, lectures focus on the selected debates. In each case the lectures aim to provide a brief introduction to the topic and the related debate among historians about which argument or arguments best explain the given issue.

The tutorials show how professional historians conduct and present research, and provide opportunities to develop and practise the research skills required successfully to complete this course. Further, students will write their own histories of the 20th century together with their peers from their tutorial groups, which will be presented to everyone in the final weeks of this half-session.

The debates selected for this session are:
1. The Rise and Fall of European Supremacy (Thomas Weber, TW)
2. The Origins of the First World War (Heidi Mehrkens, HM)
3. Violence (Thomas Weber, TW)
4. European Integration (Andrew Dilley, AD)
5. The Troubles (Colin Barr, CB)
6. Europe in the 1990s (Thomas Weber, TW)

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES
The course aims to introduce students to the academic study of the complexities of twentieth-century European history. It seeks to show how professional historians advance our collective knowledge and understanding of the past through debate about why particular changes occur.

By the end of the course students should be able to:
- demonstrate a critical appreciation of the main arguments to explain changes that are advanced by historians in at least three of the selected debates
- relate specific primary (contemporary historical) sources and secondary sources (mainly works by historians) to specific explanations that are evident in the historians’ debates
- reach informed judgements and coherent conclusions in both seminar discussion and written coursework
- use basic IT skills, and writing, presentation and numeracy skills to present coursework in a professional manner
- make an informed choice about honours-level History courses in particular in the area of modern and contemporary European History

LECTURE/TUTORIAL PROGRAMME

The lectures focus on our selection of six themes. The lecture programme is:

**Week 1**
Monday Session: Course Overview and Key Themes (TW)
Thursday Session: Writing the History of Europe in the 20th Century, assessment advice (TW)
Thursday: (In addition, on 15 September a session devoted to library resources for first year historians will be offered through the compulsory course HI1027, by Janet Mackay)

**Week 2**
Monday Session: Theme 1: The Rise & Fall of European Supremacy (TW)
Thursday Session: Theme 1: The Rise & Fall of European Supremacy; & Research resources (TW)

**Week 3**
Monday Session: Theme 2: The Origins of the First World War (HM)
Thursday Session: Theme 2: The Origins of the First World War (HM)

**Week 4**
Monday Session: Theme 3: Violence (TW)
Thursday Session: Theme 3: Violence (TW)

**Week 5**
Monday Session: Essay 1: Q&A (TW)
Thursday Session: Essay 1: Q&A (HM)

**Week 6**
Monday Session: Theme 4: European Integration (AD)
Thursday Session: Theme 4: European Integration (AD)

**Week 7**
Monday Session: Theme 5: The Troubles (CB)
Thursday Session: Theme 5: The Troubles (CB)
**Week 8**  
Monday Session: Theme 6 – 1989 & Beyond (TW)  
Thursday Session: Theme 6 – 1989 & Beyond (TW)  

**Week 9**  
Monday Session: Essay 2: Q&A (AD, CB, TW)  
Thursday Session: Group Project (TW)  

**Week 10**  
Monday Session: Group Project (TW)  
Thursday Session: Group Project (TW)  

**Week 11**  
Monday Session: Group Project (TW)  
Thursday Session: Group Project & Overall Conclusions (TW)  

The tutorials are designed to help develop (a) your research skills and (b) your familiarity with historical debate, with some of the lecture topics used as specific examples.

**Tutorial programme:**  

- **Week 3** Introductions; the research process – questions and interpretations in historical research and writing; writing an essay outline  
- **Week 4** Sources for historical research – types of sources, and where to find them; using and abusing the web  
- **Week 5** Writing up your historical research I: how to build and present a bibliography; why and how to reference  
- **Week 6** Writing up your historical research II: preparing the Introduction; your argument, and how to build it  
- **Week 7** Reading week - subject to confirmation by your tutorial leader (in other words, tutorial leaders may shift their reading week to a different week)  
- **Week 8** Preparing the group project  
- **Week 9** Source analysis I  
- **Week 10** Source analysis II  
- **Week 11** Source analysis III  

**READING LIST**  
Details about the reading and preparatory work for the lectures and tutorials will be posted on the course on MyAberdeen as we go along.
We strongly encourage you to purchase one general history of Europe in the 20th century and read the book from cover to cover, as well as a handbook to use throughout the course. We would, however, invite you to read the book critically, i.e. not to treat the book as the equivalent of the ten commandments but to engage critically with the arguments advanced by the book and be aware that other historians may disagree with the arguments put forward in the book. You could do much worse than to read the second half of John Merriman’s *A History of Modern Europe, vol. 2: From the French Revolution to the Present* (various editions). Other general history of Europe in the 20th century will be mentioned in the lectures in Week 1.

A note about Wikipedia (and similar general non-academic websites): Wikipedia is not a ‘quotable’ source for historians because for the most part its material has not been properly checked. Hence, academic work largely based on this type of web resource cannot hope to achieve the levels of sophistication and professionalism that are required in University work.

By contrast, academic books and journal articles are published only after careful scrutiny by fellow academics, usually on an anonymous basis, to ensure that they comply with the profession’s high research standards. These sources are the ones to use.

As a rule of thumb, the bibliography of your essay should include about 10-12 items, with a mixture of academic articles and books, and both your essay and your exam script should discuss the views of specific historians.

Specific instructions about the preparatory work required specifically for the tutorial classes will be published on the course website during the term.

**ASSESSMENT**

-1 two-hour written examination (50 %)
-Continuous assessment (50 %)

   The continuous assessment is made up of a 2,500 word essay (40 %) and participation in tutorials (10 %)

Formative assessment:
-1 essay plan on 1 page of A4 size paper
-1 group presentation

Resit: 1 two-hour written examination (100%)

Feedback on all assessment will *normally* be provided within a maximum of three working weeks (excluding vacation periods) following the deadline for submission of the assessment.

*Click to view the University Level Descriptors (ANNEX A).*
*Click to view the University Assessment Scale Band Descriptors (ANNEX B).*
PLEASE NOTE: In order to pass a course on the first attempt, a student must attain a Common Grading Scale (CGS) mark of at least E3 on each element of course assessment. Failure to do so will result in a grade of no greater than CGS E1 for the course as a whole.

ESSAYS

PLEASE ALSO SEE THE HISTORY ESSAY SURVIVAL GUIDE AND THE HISTORY REFERENCING GUIDE ON MYABERDEEN

The word count for the essay includes footnotes/endnotes but excludes the required bibliography. Help with essay writing will be given through the tutorials. The main criteria for assessing the quality of your work are:

- a critical, questioning approach. Did this really happen as the source states? Are interpretations given by historians acceptable?
- degree of own contribution (composition and thinking) as opposed to reproduction;
- clarity of argument, use of historical evidence, and appropriate organisation;
- degree and clarity of how question is addressed and answered, and put into general context;
- choice of literature;
- appropriate use of specialist historical vocabulary, concepts etc.;
- language and style

Note that up to 3 marks will be deducted for failure to include references (footnotes or endnotes) and a separate bibliography at the end.

ESSAY PLAN EXERCISE

The essay plan must take the form of notes. Use the top half of the page for planning the Introduction, and the bottom half to list the main analytical points that form the spine of your argument. Use bullet points, and add some notes about supporting evidence. Do not use more than about 250-300 words for the whole exercise.

LIST OF ESSAY TOPICS

A list of essay titles will be posted on the course website in weeks 2 and 6.

ASSESSMENT DEADLINES

Essay plan: week 4, by 3.00pm on the Thursday
Essay: week 9, by 3.00pm on the Thursday.
SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

When uploading assignments, please do the following:

Submit by the due date, no hard copy will be required unless directly requested by the Course Coordinator through My Aberdeen.

In advance of uploading, please save the assignment with your student ID number listed in the filename, i.e. 59999999 HIxxxx Essay 1.

When asked to enter a title for the assignment, please enter a title identical to the name of your saved assignment, i.e. 59999999 HIxxxx Essay 1.

If you have been granted an extension, please upload the completed Extension Form (signed by yourself and course coordinator) along with your submission.

When you submit your work please also tick the ‘Mark Reviewed’ Box.

Please note: Failure to submit by the due date (unless a prior arrangement has been made) will result in a deduction of marks. Where no submission is received, this will result in a mark of zero.

Please note: During 2016/2017 the School of Divinity, History and Philosophy has agreed to take part in a pilot. This means for level 1 submissions SafeAssign text matching software will be used, other levels we will continue to use TurnitinUK. Other schools will also continue to use TurnitinUK.

EXAMINATION

The examination will take place in the December diet and will last for two hours. It will cover all areas of the course. It will have six questions, each of which will offer a choice of two questions. In other words, each of the six core themes discussed in the lectures will be addressed by two exam questions, but you must not attempt more than one question per theme. You will have the opportunity not only to demonstrate knowledge about a range of historical topics, but also the fundamental skills of a historian, viz. critical analytical assessment. Examinations will be marked accordingly: although we cannot as historians argue without knowledge, it is the argument, backed up by evidence, that counts.
Past exam papers, which until 2012/13 had a different format but covered similar ground, can be viewed at [http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/).