SCHOOL OF DIVINITY, HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

ACADEMIC SESSION 2017-2018

HI1022: EUROPE IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

15 Credits - 11 Weeks

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:
The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Undergraduate 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: Prof 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), Alessandra Cecolin (AC), Andrew Dilley (AD), Anthony Heywood (AH), Heidi Mehrkens (HM), and Thomas Weber (TW)
tutorial leaders: see the MyAberdeen site of this course

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

TIMETABLE
For time and place of classes, please see MyAberdeen

Students can 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 seven 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. The introductory lecture also invites students to try and imagine what a history of Europe in the 20th Century that they would write would look like. It 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. They will also provide a forum to discuss what the nature of history as a mode of critical inquiry is.

The debates selected for this session are:
1. The Origins of the First World War (Heidi Mehrkens, HM)
3. The Russian Revolution (Anthony Heywood, AH)
4. Ireland’s Century of Violence (Colin Barr, CB)
5. European Integration (AD)
6. Jews & Zionism (Alessandra Cecolin, AC)
7. 1989 & Beyond (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 seven themes. The lecture programme is:

**Week 1**
Monday Session: Course Overview, Key Themes, & Writing the History of Europe in the 20th Century (TW)
Thursday Session: Theme 1: The Origins of the First World War (HM)
Reading: Wasserstein, *Barbarism and Civilization*, preface & ch. 1

**Week 2**
Monday Session: Theme 1: The Origins of the First World War (HM)
Reading: Wasserstein, *Barbarism and Civilization*, ch. 2
Thursday Session: Theme 1: The Origins of the First World War (HM)
Reading: Wasserstein, *Barbarism and Civilization*, ch. 3

**Week 3**
Monday Session: Theme 2: Essay Writing Techniques; Hard Power & Violence (TW)
Reading: Wasserstein, *Barbarism and Civilization*, ch. 4
Thursday Session: Theme 2: Hard Power & Violence (TW)
Reading: Wasserstein, *Barbarism and Civilization*, ch. 5

**Week 4**
Monday Session: Theme 2: Hard Power & Violence (TW)
Reading: Wasserstein, *Barbarism and Civilization*, ch. 6
Thursday Session: Theme 3: The Russian Revolution (AH)
Reading: Wasserstein, *Barbarism and Civilization*, ch. 7

**Week 5**
Monday Session: Theme 4: Ireland’s Century of Violence (CB)
Reading: Wasserstein, *Barbarism and Civilization*, ch. 8
Thursday Session: Theme 3: The Russian Revolution (AH)
Reading: Wasserstein, *Barbarism and Civilization*, ch. 9
Thursday: 3pm – online submission deadline for Essay Outline
Week 6
Monday Session: Theme 4: Ireland’s Century of Violence (CB)
Reading: Wasserstein, *Barbarism and Civilization*, ch. 10
Thursday Session: Theme 3: The Russian Revolution (AH)
Reading: Wasserstein, *Barbarism and Civilization*, ch. 11

Week 7
Monday Session: Theme 4: Ireland’s Century of Violence (CB)
Reading: Wasserstein, *Barbarism and Civilization*, ch. 12
Thursday Session: Theme 5: European Integration (AD)
Reading: Wasserstein, *Barbarism and Civilization*, ch. 13

Week 8
Monday Session: Theme 5: European Integration (AD)
Reading: Wasserstein, *Barbarism and Civilization*, ch. 14
Thursday Session: Theme 5: European Integration (AD)
Reading: Wasserstein, *Barbarism and Civilization*, ch. 15

Week 9
Monday Session: Theme 6: Jews & Zionism (AC)
Reading: Wasserstein, *Barbarism and Civilization*, ch. 16
Thursday Session: Theme 6: Jews & Zionism (AC)
Reading: Wasserstein, *Barbarism and Civilization*, ch. 17

Week 10
Monday Session: Theme 7: 1989 & the Rest of the Century (TW)
Reading: Wasserstein, *Barbarism and Civilization*, ch. 18
Thursday Session: Theme 6: Jews & Zionism (AC)
Reading: Wasserstein, *Barbarism and Civilization*, ch. 19

Week 11
Monday Session: Theme 7: 1989 & the Rest of the Century (TW)
Reading: Wasserstein, *Barbarism and Civilization*, ch. 20
Thursday Session: Theme 7: 1989 & the Rest of the Century; & Overall Conclusions (TW); Prof. Wasserstein will join us for this session to discuss via skype his book with us
Thursday: 3pm – essay submission deadline

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 source, 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) – Please note that lectures will still take place during reading week.


Week 9  Source analysis I: Visual documents – Revolutionary Munich, 1919

Week 10  Source analysis II: Hitler’s 1939 ‘Armenian speech’

Week 11  Source analysis III: Ronald Reagan’s 1987 ‘Tear Down This Wall’ speech

READING LIST
Details about the reading and preparatory work for the tutorials will be posted on MyAberdeen as we go along.

The textbook for this course will be *Bernard Wasserstein’s Barbarism and Civilization: A History of Europe in Our Time* (Oxford, 2009 (2007)). It is available as a paperback, as a hardback, and as an e-book. Copies of the book will be available from Blackwells on campus as well as most other book shops and online retailers.

Even though Wasserstein’s book is very good indeed, we would invite you to read his 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.

For one of the tutorials, we will read a chapter from Stefan Zweig’s *Decisive Moments in History* (Riverside, CA, 1999 (1927)). The chapter in question will
be made available on MyAberdeen. You could, however, do much worse than obtain your own copy of the book and read the book from cover to cover, as the book is not only a good read but invites us to think about what drives history (as well as to whether history helps us understand and master the world in which we live).

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 8-12 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**

- Summative assessment:
  - One 2,000 word essay (100%).

- Formative assessment:
  - Draft introduction and essay plan (up to 1,000 words)

**Resit:**

- One 2,000 word essay (100%)

To view the CGS Descriptors please go to MyAberdeen- Organisations-Divinity, History, & Philosophy Student Information for Undergraduates. The link to the CGS Descriptors is on the left hand menu.

**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.

If you submit your work on time, you can expect that feedback will normally be provided within three working weeks (excluding vacation periods) of the submission deadline.

ESSAYS
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 marks may be deducted for failure to include references (footnotes or endnotes) and a separate bibliography at the end. Please refer to the History Department Referencing guide for advice.

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 week 2.
ASSESSMENT DEADLINES
Essay plan: week 5, Thursday, 3pm – online submission deadline for the Essay
Outline

Essay: week 11, Thursday, 3pm – online submission deadline for the Essay

SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS
Submit a .doc or .docx and include the word count.

Submit by the due date; no hard copy will be required unless directly requested by the course coordinator through MyAberdeen.

In advance of uploading, please save the assignment with your student id number listed in the filename, i.e. 59999999 HI1022 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 HI1022 Essay 1.

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: Safeassign text matching software will be used, however the School of Divinity, History and Philosophy reserves the right to also submit material to TurnitinUK when deemed necessary.