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Office Hours: Tues 1-2 pm, Wed 11-12 pm, or by appointment  
Office: Wood Hall 323

History 3413W  
Spring 2016  
Wed 2 - 4:30 pm  
STRS 001  
Tel: 64553

## **Intellectual and Social History of Twentieth-Century Europe**

This course examines the major intellectual, social, and cultural developments in twentieth-century European history. Topics to be discussed include the writings of Friedrich Nietzsche, fin-de-siècle art and culture, the ideas of Sigmund Freud, the experience and legacies of World War One, fascism, interwar feminism, existentialism, postwar confrontations with the Holocaust, decolonization, the ‘New Left’ of the 1960s and 1970s, and late twentieth-century triumphalism and nihilism.

The aims of the course are 1) to introduce students to the fundamental issues in twentieth-century European intellectual and social history; 2) to introduce students to the tools and approaches used by historians in researching, writing, and discussing historical topics; and 3) to give students the opportunity to hone their analytical and writing skills.

Course readings constitute the heart of the class; consisting of an array of different texts, they introduce and/or embellish themes or issues that will be explored in discussions and lecture. It is therefore essential that students keep up with the reading. Since an important component of the class is developing students’ abilities to read critically and to evaluate historical sources, primary sources such as documents, memoirs, and novels will make up an integral part of the course reading. We will also spend time analyzing and discussing ‘visual’ primary sources such as paintings, sculptures, photographs, films, illustrations, and advertisements as well as ‘auditory’ primary sources like operas, political ‘fighting-songs’, and rock-n-roll hits. The format of the class is weekly meetings (every Wednesday); each meeting will consist of a mixture of lecture and discussion. Since we meet only once a week, it is especially important that you not wait until the night before to complete the week’s reading assignment; given the difficulty and/or amount of the reading, you will not be able to complete the assignment with the requisite degree of care if you do. I suggest you instead divide up the reading over the course of the week; this should enable you to devote sufficient time to reading carefully the texts.

Please note that the discussions are a fundamental aspect of this course. They provide you with an opportunity to delve more deeply into the subjects and to exercise your analytical and interpretative skills. More importantly, the discussions allow you to debate and question ideas raised in the lecture and to develop and share your own ideas and opinions. Students are expected to come every meeting prepared to discuss the readings. To help facilitate this, each student will once in the semester introduce the work to be discussed; the student will very briefly review the assigned reading, introduce important themes and relevant points, and start the discussion with some questions. It is my hope that we can create an intellectual community this semester, one in which everyone respects the opinion of the other as we explore together the subject of twentieth-century European intellectual and social history; every contribution adds to our collective understanding of the material, so don’t hesitate to ask or answer questions! You will receive a grade for your participation in the discussions; in order to do well on this course assignment, you need to contribute regularly and actively to the discussions! Participation is a

willingness to ask and/or answer questions, to make or respond to a comment – in short, to be engaged in an active way in the lectures and discussion.

### **Course Requirements:**

The course's written assignments consist of regular take-home worksheets on the assigned readings and two revised papers (5-7 pages and 10-12 pages, respectively).

Class Participation:	15%
Worksheets:	15%
Paper One (first draft (15%) and revised submission (15%)):	30%
Paper Two (first draft (20%) and revised submission (20%)):	40%

In order to do well in this course, you will need to fulfill all the requirements. More specifically, you will need to attain a passing grade in at least 60% of the course requirements. This will require that you regularly do the reading assignments and that you actively participate in the class discussions. Since this is a 'W' course, it is also a course requirement that students turn in both first submissions and also revised versions of the two papers; failure to do so will prevent you from passing the class. Students are expected to hand in a hard copy of each paper (first and final submissions) in class! Similarly, passing the course will also require that you demonstrate satisfactory writing skills. Paper grades will be determined from both the first and final versions of the papers. Requests for extensions or excused absences will be considered on an individual basis, in accordance with College and department guidelines, and only with the appropriate written documentation; such requests should be discussed with me before the assignment is due or the exam is given.

**Student Conduct:** In both discussion sections and lectures, students are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful and considerate manner. To this end, students are asked to turn off their cell phones (and thus students should not send or receive text messages) and to refrain from eating while in class, though I realize some may wish to bring coffee with them. It is expected that students using laptops will not surf the Internet or visit social media sites during class. Violating these simple conduct guidelines will adversely affect a student's participation grade. Finally, I ask that students arrive promptly by 2:00 am; there will be breaks over the course of the seminar session.

**Academic Misconduct:** According to *The Student Code*, academic misconduct consists of the following:

Providing or receiving assistance in a manner not authorized by the instructor in the creation of work to be submitted for academic evaluation (e.g. papers, projects, and examinations); any attempt to influence improperly (e.g. bribery, threats) any member of the faculty, staff, or administration of the University in any matter pertaining to academics or research; presenting, as one's own, the ideas or words of another for academic evaluation; doing unauthorized academic work for which another person will

receive credit or be evaluated; and presenting the same or substantially the same papers or projects in two or more courses without the explicit permission of the instructors involved.<sup>1</sup>

Plagiarism – “presenting, as one's own, the ideas or words of another for academic evaluation” – is a serious act of academic misconduct. Students caught plagiarizing will receive an automatic F in this course; I also reserve the right to refer cases of misconduct to the appropriate University body for further action. I therefore strongly encourage you to familiarize yourselves with University rules and regulations regarding plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct. Should you have specific questions about academic integrity, please read the University's policies at <http://www.dosa.uconn.edu> or make an appointment to see me.

**Students with Disabilities:** As a student with a disability, before you may receive accommodations in this class, you will need to make an appointment with the Center for Student Disabilities to arrange for approved accommodations. However, if you would like to speak with me about other matters, please make an appointment to see me as soon as possible.

**Assigned Texts:**

Sigmund Freud *On Dreams*  
Herbert Marcuse *One-Dimensional Man*  
Friedrich Nietzsche *Thus Spake Zarathustra* (Dover)  
George Orwell *Burmese Days*  
Virginia Woolf *A Room of One's Own*  
Jean Paul Sartre *Nausea*  
Frantz Fanon *A Dying Colonialism*

Copies of the assigned texts can be purchased at the UConn Co-op. A copy of each of the above assigned texts has also been placed on non-electronic reserve in the Homer Babbidge Library. Please note that some course readings can be accessed only by means of the university's electronic course reserve at the course HuskyCT page (such readings are indicated below by the acronym **ECR**). These works are NOT optional, but are in fact required. You should therefore print out the readings and bring them with you to the appropriate class meeting.

**Week One: Introductions**

**January 20**                      Course and Student Introductions

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<sup>1</sup> From “Part VI: Academic Integrity in Undergraduate Education and Research” at <http://www.dosa.uconn.edu>

**Week Two: Nietzsche's Cultural Pessimism and Europe's Decadent Fin-de-Siècle**

**January 27** Nietzsche *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* p. 1-14, 16-23, 29-31, 36-38, 55-57, 59-61, 76-78, 80-82

**Week Three: Sigmund Freud and the Unconscious**

**February 3** Freud *On Dreams*

**Week Four: Max Weber: Rationalism Run Amok**

**February 10** Excerpts on 'bureaucracy,' 'charisma,' and 'discipline' (ECR)  
Start reading for Paper One

**Week Five: World War One – Experiences of War**

**PAPER ONE DUE**

**February 17** Barbusse *Under Fire*, Chapters "Fire" and "Dawn" [ECR]

Excerpts Jünger, *Storm of Steel* [ECR]

Excerpt Christopher Clark, *Iron Kingdom* (p. 611-640) [ECR]

**Week Six: Women in Postwar Europe: Liberated, New or Something Else?**

**February 24** Woolf *A Room of One's Own*, p. 3-114

Watch *Pandora's Box*

**Week Seven: Postwar Uncertainties**

**REVISED PAPER ONE DUE**

**March 2** Orwell *Burmese Days* p. 5-100

**Week Eight: The Siren Calls of the Soviet and Fascist systems**

**March 9** Finish Orwell *Burmese Days*

**SPRING BREAK**

**Week Nine: World War Two: Experiences of War**

**PAPER TWO TOPIC DUE**

**March 23** excerpts from Jarausch (ed.) *Reluctant Accomplice* (ECR)

**Week Ten: Legacies of War: Existentialism and the Absurd**

**March 30** Sartre *Nausea*

**Week Eleven: Decolonization and Postwar Insecurities**

**April 6** Fanon *A Dying Colonialism* (excerpts)

**Week Twelve: Students, Radicals, and the 'New Left'**

**April 13** Herbert Marcuse *One-Dimensional Man*, p. 1-83, 123-202

**Week Thirteen: End of the Eastern Empire and of History**

**April 20** TBD

**PAPER TWO DUE**

**Week Fourteen: No Survivors – A New Nihilism of 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

**April 27** TBD

**Revised Paper Two Assignment due at noon, May 4th, 2016, in Wood Hall 323**