

Dictatorship and Democracy: Europe 1919-1939

History 408 / Fall 2012

Prof. William G. Gray

[**Preliminary syllabus**]

We now routinely call the years 1919-1939 the “interwar period,” but of course contemporaries didn’t know for certain that World War I would have an encore. What they did recognize was an almost permanent state of crisis – social, political, economic, and even cultural. The immediate postwar years witnessed an unprecedented spread of democracy in Europe; but within two decades parliamentary structures had given way to dictatorships across virtually the whole continent. These new regimes amassed a kind of legitimacy by mobilizing the population against perceived enemies, both internal and external. But this kind of frenetic mobilization could only end in war. Without minimizing the crimes of particular regimes, the broader picture is still that of a massively self-destructive European breakdown triggered by a failure to master the challenges of modern industrial society.

Course Requirements

This is a senior-level course, so expectations are high in terms of reading, writing, and participation. You will read six books and write two comparative essays. To encourage continuing participation in class discussions, there will also be occasional reading quizzes and an in-class final exam at semester’s end.

The course components are weighted as follows:

Participation	10%
Reading quizzes	10%
First and second papers	25% each
Final exam	30%

Course Policies

Attendance is essential. You are allowed four unexcused absences; after that, each absence will be counted against your participation grade. It is not my job to “approve” absences one way or another, but if you expect to be representing the university in an official capacity (sports, band, etc.), please let me know in advance.

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. A lecture is not the same thing as a television viewing! Your coming and going may represent a significant distraction.

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, including notification of the Dean of Students Office. The “University Regulations” handbook contains further information on dishonesty.

Disclaimer: In the event of a major campus emergency, the above requirements, deadlines and grading policies are subject to changes that may be necessitated 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.

Course Readings

The following books are required for this course and available at Follett's and the University Bookstore. In case you wish to search for these items from an on-line retailer, be sure to make use of the ISBN numbers below to ensure that you wind up with the right edition.

Allen, William Sheridan. *The Nazi Seizure of Power: The Experience of a Single German Town, 1922-1945*, revised ed. New York: Franklin Watts, 1984. ISBN (paperback): 978-0-531-05633-2. (currently as low as \$9.26 used on amazon). Please do not purchase the first edition of this book, which is significantly out of date!

Bosworth, R. J. B. *Mussolini*. London: Hodder Arnold, 2003. ISBN (paperback): 978-0-34098-173-3. (currently \$15.40 on amazon)

The Orwell Reader: Fiction, Essays, and Reportage. New York: Harvest Books, 1961. ISBN (paper): 978-0-156-70176-1. (as low as \$12.95 used on amazon)

Schivelbusch, Wolfgang. *Three New Deals: Reflections on Roosevelt's America, Mussolini's Italy, and Hitler's Germany, 1933-1939*. New York: Picador, 2007. ISBN (paper): 978-0-312-42743-6. (currently \$9.29 on amazon)

Scott, John. *Behind the Urals: An American Worker in Russia's City of Steel*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1989. ISBN (paper): 978-0-253-20536-0. (currently \$15.15 on amazon)

Winter, Jay, ed. *The Legacy of the Great War: Ninety Years On*. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2009. ISBN (paper): 978-0-826-21872-8. (currently \$19.95 on amazon) [This book is available as an eBook via Purdue Libraries.]

Please note that there will occasionally be supplementary reading. The materials in question will be available on 2-hour reserve in HSSE; you will receive more information as the course progresses.

Contact Information

Prof. Gray (wggray@purdue.edu)
Office hours in University Hall 328:
TTh 3:00 – 4:20 or by appointment
Office phone 494-4132

Check the course web site for handouts & announcements:
<<http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~wggray/Teaching/His408/Index.htm>>

Discussion and Reading Schedule

Read for class

PART ONE: LEGACIES OF WAR

Aug. 21	Introduction	
Aug. 23	Total war in Europe	Winter, vii-90
Aug. 28	Ending the war	Winter, 91-158
Aug. 30	Mourning the dead	Winter, 159-198

PART TWO: ITALIAN FASCISM

Sept. 4	Mussolini's unconventional socialism	Bosworth, xi-84
Sept. 6	The crisis of liberal Italy	Bosworth, 85-120
Sept. 11	Fascism takes hold, 1919-1922	Bosworth, 121-139
Sept. 13	Consolidating the dictatorship, 1922-1925	Bosworth, 140-176
Sept. 18	Film: <i>The Great Dictator</i> , Part I	
Sept. 20	Film: <i>The Great Dictator</i> , Part II	
Sept. 25	The culture of dictatorship	Bosworth, 177-231
Sept. 27	Italy's war in Africa	Bosworth, 233-251

PART THREE: DISSOLVING GERMAN DEMOCRACY

Oct. 2	The Weimar Republic	
Oct. 4	Introducing Norheim	Allen, xii-68
Oct. 9	OCTOBER BREAK	
Oct. 11	Norheim in the Great Depression	Allen, 69-147
Oct. 16	"Coordinating" German society	Allen, 151-216
Oct. 18	An "atomized" Germany?	Allen, 218-303

PART FOUR: ECONOMIC MONUMENTALISM

Oct. 23	The Soviet Experiment, 1917-1927	[Kenez, Chaps. 2-3]
Oct. 25	The Five Year Plan, 1928-1932 [FIRST PAPER DUE]	[Kenez, Chap. 4]
Oct. 30	International Communism in the 1930s	
Nov. 1	An American in Magnitogorsk, Part I	Scott, xi-114
Nov. 6	The Great Purges	[Large, 267-316]
Nov. 8	An American in Magnitogorsk, Part II	Scott, 115-263
Nov. 13	Three New Deals: Style	Schivelbusch, 1-103
Nov. 15	Three New Deals: Substance?	Schivelbusch, 104-191

PART FIVE: EUROPE TEETERS TOWARD WAR

Nov. 20	Down and Out with Orwell	Orwell, 49-85
Nov. 22	THANKSGIVING	
Nov. 27	Orwell's England	Orwell, 118-164
Nov. 29	Orwell in Catalonia	Orwell, 165-212 Bosworth, 252-270
Dec. 4	Appeasement at Munich	Bosworth, 271-289
Dec. 6	How war came [SECOND PAPER DUE]	
TBA	FINAL EXAM	