

Europe since 1945: Cold War, Fractious Unity

Dr. William Glenn Gray
History 337 / Spring 2019

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

Baumann, Bommi. *How It All Began: The Personal Account of a West German Urban Guerrilla*, trans. Helen Ellenbogen. Arsenal, 2002. ISBN-13: 978-0889780453.

Buruma, Ian. *Murder in Amsterdam: Liberal Europe, Islam, and the Limits of Tolerance*. New York: Penguin, 2007. ISBN-13: 978-0143112365

Hitchcock, William. *The Struggle for Europe: The Turbulent History of a Divided Continent 1945-2002*. New York: Anchor, 2004. ISBN-13: 978-0385497992.

Kundera, Milan. *The Joke*. New York: Harper Perennial. ISBN-13: 978-0060995058.

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 Friday, Jan. 19).

Kundera paper (20% of course grade). Early in the semester, you will be writing a short paper (ca. 5 pages) on the Kundera novel. The paper will be due on Tuesday, Feb. 12 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 Friday, February 22.

Baumann paper (20% of course grade). Later this semester, you will write another short paper – this time on the Baumann book. This paper will be due on Sunday, March 24 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 on the Friday of exam week.

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 1:30 – 3:00 pm or by appointment
Office phone: (765) 494-2772

Lecture and Reading Schedule

Jan. 7	Introduction: Does Europe still matter?	
Jan. 9	In the rubble	Hitchcock 1-39
Jan. 11	An “Iron Curtain”?	Hitchcock 40-68
Jan. 14	The breaking of Britain	
Jan. 17	Prague and Berlin: Cold War descends	Hitchcock 69-97
Jan. 19	NATO and the divided continent	Hitchcock 98-125 [map quiz!]
Jan. 21	NO CLASS	
Jan. 23	The Schuman Plan and the EDC	
Jan. 25	Discussion: <i>The Joke</i> , Part I	Kundera 3-117
Jan. 28	Khrushchev’s secret speech	Hitchcock 193-220
Jan. 30	Consumer culture in the East	Ciesla/Poutrus chapter
Feb. 1	Discussion: <i>The Joke</i> , Part II	Kundera 121-246
Feb. 4	Consumer culture in the West	Hitchcock 127-161
Feb. 6	The Treaty of Rome	Kundera 249-317
Feb. 8	Discussion: <i>The Joke</i> , Part III	Kundera 249-317
Feb. 11	De Gaulle returns	Hitchcock 162-192
[Feb. 12	[FIRST PAPER Due @ 11:59 pm]	
Feb. 13	Berlin: Europe’s flashpoint, 1958-1963	Hitchcock 213-220
Feb. 15	Who is the West? – the “Atlanticist” version	Hitchcock 221-241
Feb. 18	Who is the West? – the “Gaullist” version	Kuisel chapter
Feb. 20	Social modernization: the 1960s as a turning point	Marwick chapter
Feb. 22	MIDTERM EXAM	
Feb. 25	“1968”: Western Europe’s youth explosion	Hitchcock 243-268 Hilwig chapter

Feb. 27	Crushing the Prague Spring	Hitchcock 288-310
Mar. 1	Discussion: <i>How It All Began</i> , Part I	Baumann 3-74
Mar. 4	The ambivalence of détente	
Mar. 6	European terrorism in the 1970s	
Mar. 8	Discussion: <i>How It All Began</i> , Part II	Baumann 74-131
Mar. 18	“Guest Workers” and post-colonial tension	Hitchcock 410-434
Mar. 20	Europe’s new social movements	
Mar. 22	Democracy comes to Southern Europe	Hitchcock 269-287
[Mar. 24	SECOND PAPER DUE, 11:59 pm]	
Mar. 25	Thatcherism	Hitchcock 311-341
Mar. 27	Memory politics across the Atlantic	Gray chapter
Mar. 29	Doldrums in the East	Zatlin article
Apr. 1	Perestroika – Gorbachev’s gamble	Hitchcock 343-358
Apr. 3	The revolutions of 1989	Hitchcock 359-379
Apr. 5	German unification: capitalism and collapse	
Apr. 8	Russia’s downward spiral	
Apr. 10	Yugoslavia unravels	Hitchcock 380-409
Apr. 12	The transformation of East Central Europe	
Apr. 15	European integration since 1985	
Apr. 17	“Old” and “New” Europe	Hitchcock 435-74
Apr. 19	The challenges of pluralism	Buruma Part I
Apr. 22	Murder in Amsterdam	Buruma Part II
Apr. 24	The Euro crisis: a failure of integration?	
Apr. 26	The populist wave	