

Instructor: Paul Mazgaj

Office: 213 McIver

Office Hrs.: Tuesday & Thursday: 9:15-10:00
1:45-2:15

And by appointment

E-Mail: pmmazgaj@uncg.edu

READING LIST:

TO BE PURCHASED:

Paxton, Robert. *Europe in the Twentieth Century*, Fourth Edition

Herman Hesse, *Steppenwolf*

Camus, *The Plague*

AVAILABLE IN LIBRARY RESERVE AND ELECTRONIC FORM:

–For electronic copy go to Blackboard, find HIS371, and download reading by title (E-Res on syllabus)

–For hard copy go to Library Reserve Room

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED, NOT OPTIONAL. The class depends on your regular attendance and participation. Only officially certified absences will be accepted. All unexcused absences will affect your grade. *Beyond two, they will seriously affect your grade.*

2. THIS IS A WRITING-INTENSIVE COURSE AND A RESEARCH-INTENSIVE COURSE. There will be two kinds of writing assignments, informal and formal:

INFORMAL WRITING. The informal writing assignments will consist of a short commentary on the day's assigned reading *on randomly selected days*. Be forewarned: you need to be prepared for an informal writing exercise *everyday*. Thus, you need to have completed the day's reading assignment *before every class*. The subject matter for these short, informal writing exercises will be the daily reading (either the E-Reserve readings or chapters from the Paxton textbook); they will not be "graded" in the ordinary sense. Instead, you will receive one of the following marks: a check (indicating satisfactory performance); a check plus (indicating a performance which is especially thoughtful or well-conceived); a check minus (indicating unsatisfactory performance). A check minus cannot be redone. It will signal to me that either you have not done the reading or you have not done it carefully enough. Better than average performance on these informal writing exercises will be counted positively in your "discussion grade." *Check minuses will, like absences, affect your grade.* The purpose of these informal writing exercises is threefold: first, to give you regular practice in written expression; second, to get you mentally pump-primed for the class discussion

that will follow; finally, to keep you from falling behind in your reading assignments. If you are not in class that day, you will receive a check minus.

FORMAL WRITING. There will also be one formal writing assignment. It will consist of a 7-9 page paper (typed, double-space) that will be turned in twice. The first version *will not be* graded but instead will receive my commentary and suggestions for revision; the second and final version *will be* graded. The topic should be an *interpretive* problem, selected from material covered in the course, and approved by me. The vehicle for this approval will be a short but thoughtfully-conceived and well-written prospectus describing your interpretive problem. You should also include a short bibliography indicating the sources that you intend to use. These sources must include at least one full-length book and at least two articles (or parts of books) *beyond the assigned course reading*. All sources must be serious pieces of historical scholarship (no website downloads will be accepted as a source unless from legitimate academic journals; if in question, check with me;). All "due dates" (see below) are—barring certified medical emergencies—carved in stone.

3. YOUR FINAL GRADE WILL BE COMPOSED OF THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:

- mid-term exam—25%
- final exam—25%
- formal paper--25%
- discussion grade—25%

Your discussion grade will be determined by the *frequency* and *quality* of your contribution to class discussion and your informal writing exercises. *Therefore, please take note: your participation--and the frequency and quality of that participation--can affect your grade—big-time.*

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

[E-Res=Can be downloaded through Blackboard]

Aug. 16: Introduction

18: Prewar Society: Paxton, ch. 1, "Europe at the Zenith, 1914," chap. 1

23: Nationalism in France and Austria-Hungary, Weber, "Civilizing in Earnest: Schools and Schooling" and Lafore, "The Austrian Anomaly," E-Res

25: Twilight of Old Europe: Paxton, chap. 2, "The Coming of War"

30: The Great War I: Paxton, ch. 3, "The Marne and After, 1914-17"

Sept. 1: The Great War II: Brittain, "Testament of Youth" and Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front* (parts A and B), E-Res

6: Social Democracy and Communism: Bernstein, "Evolutionary Socialism," Lenin, "What is to Be Done?/State and Revolution" and Kolakowski, "The Rise of Leninism," E-Res

8: The Morning After: Paxton, ch. 5, "Revolution, 1917-20" and Blum,

- “Speech at the Socialist Congress at Tours,” E-Res
- 13:** Putting Things Back Together: Paxton, ch. 6, “The Paris Peace Settlement”
- 15:** Interwar Culture I: Hesse, *Steppenwolf*, pp. 1-85
- 20:** Interwar Culture II: Hesse, *Steppenwolf*, pp. 85-end
- 22:** Revolution Against Revolution: Payne, “The Rise of Italian Fascism,” E-Res; **PROSPECTUS DUE** (see above, “Formal Writing”)
- 27:** Fascism, German-Style: Payne, “German National Socialism,” E-Res
- 29:** Economic Collapse: Paxton, ch. 10 “The Depression and Its Effects, 1929-1936,” pp. 293-311 and Paxton, ch. 11, “The Authoritarian 1930s and the Spread of Fascism,” pp. 335-350.
- Oct.**
- 4:** Antifascist Alliance: Paxton, ch. 12, “The Popular Front Era, 1934-1939”
- 6: MID-TERM EXAM**
- 11: FALL BREAK**
- 13:** Communism and Western Intellectuals: Crossman, “André Gide”
- 18:** The Road to War: Paxton, ch. 13, “The Paris Peace Settlement Dismantled”
- 20:** A New Dark Age: Paxton, ch. 14, “Hitler’s Europe: Conquest, Collaboration and Resistance, 1939-1942”
- 25:** The Tide Turns: Paxton, ch. 15, “From Hot War to Cold War, 1942-49”
- 27:** Crisis of the European Mind: Sartre, “Existentialism” and de Beauvoir, “Second Sex,” E-Res
- Nov.**
- 1:** Existentialist Fiction I: Camus, *The Plague*, parts 1-2
- 3:** Existentialist Fiction II: Camus, *the Plague*, parts 3-5
- 8:** Postwar Western Europe: Paxton, ch. 16, “Ruin and Reconstruction”
Formal Paper Due, First Version
- 10:** Under the Mushroom Cloud: Paxton, ch. 17, “The Soviet Bloc from Stalin to Khrushchev” and Paxton, ch. 18, “Europe in the Cold War”
- 15:** Halcyon Days: Paxton, ch. 19, “The ‘New Europe’: Consumer Societies and Mass Culture in the West, 1953-1973
- 17:** Hard Times: Paxton, ch. 22, “Western Europe, 1973-89: Postindustrial Society and ‘Stagflation’”
- 22:** The Collapse of the Soviet Empire: Paxton, ch. 23, “The Revolutions of 1989 and After”
- 24: THANKSGIVING**

Dec. 29: Summing Up: **Formal Paper Due, Final Version**
1: FINAL EXAM