

History 371 (Europe Since 1920)

Instructor: Anne Barton
Office: 2102 MHRA Building
Office Phone: (336) 334-3961 (no voice mail)
Department Phone: (336) 334-5992 (to leave message)
Home Phone: (336) 274-8318 (between 8 am and 9 pm)
E-mail: acbarton@uncg.edu
Office Hours: MW 2:00-3:15 and by appointment

Introduction

Why, you might ask, does a syllabus for a course on Europe since 1920 include four books by George Orwell? To my mind, Orwell was a prescient commentator on all that was wrong (and sometimes right) about Europe in the first half of the twentieth century. Indeed, his two most famous works, *Animal Farm* and *1984*, describe political and social issues current even in today's post-modern world. Although he died in 1950, many of Orwell's salient observations about his times could just as well be applied to our own. For this reason, his works demand extended and detailed consideration and discussion. Hearing only the sound of one voice, however, would not result in a balanced picture of the period under discussion, so we will balance our inquiries by reading other primary sources – including other political and social commentaries – from the period. And, because words are not the only form of historical evidence, we will dabble in various artistic and musical movements which contributed to the formation of the "modern" ethos.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course you will be able to

- construct an analytical essay using related primary source material as evidence to support an argument in answer to a specific historical question.
- explain the significance of terms (people, events, places, dates) in relation to the history of Europe in the twentieth century.
- identify and evaluate the theses of social and political commentaries and explain their relationship to particular events in twentieth-century European history.

Grade Breakdown

Discussion (including in-class presentation)	20%
Midterm	25%
Project	25%
Final	30%

Discussion and Written Assignments

Discussion: During most class meetings we will discuss the primary source materials assigned for that day. Your discussion grade will be based not only on the quantity but also on the quality of your comments, but fortunately, "knowing the answer" is not the only way to participate. Asking a question about something you didn't understand in the readings is a good way of participating in the discussion. In addition to class discussions, I will also occasionally ask you to respond to a reading at the beginning of class. There will be no advance warning of these short reading responses. Finally, your brief (5-minute) oral presentation of your project will also be part of your discussion grade.

Midterm and Final: Both of these exams will be take-home assignments. They will consist of two parts: identifications of terms and essay questions. The midterm will consist of 2 essay questions and the final will consist of 3 essay questions based on the primary source readings.

Project: 4-6 page essay. For this project, you will identify a topic from the first half of our course on which Orwell wrote and select an essay of his as a basis for comparison. Then, you will identify two other contemporary commentators (I'll help you with resources for this part) who wrote on the same issue. Your assignment will be to summarize the arguments of each of the authors, explain how (and hopefully why) their points of view differed, and conclude by explaining which argument you found most compelling and why. Your essay will be due the day of your oral presentation.

Required Texts

Orwell, George. *Burmese Days*. Harvest Books. ISBN 0156148501

Orwell, George. *Homage to Catalonia*. Penguin. ISBN 0141187379

Orwell, George. *Animal Farm*. Signet Classics. ISBN 0451526341

Orwell, George. *1984*. Signet Classics. ISBN 0451524934

Ash, Timothy Garton. *The Magic Lantern. The Revolution of '89 as Witnessed in Warsaw, Budapest, Berlin, & Prague*. Vintage. ISBN 0679740481

Perry, Marvin et al. *Sources of Twentieth Century Europe*. 5th edition. Houghton Mifflin. ISBN 0395925681 or 6th edition

Supplemental Readings

I will frequently use on-line sources as supplemental materials. Many of the links will be to the Internet Modern History Sourcebook (<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook.html>) or to the George Orwell site (<http://www.george-orwell.org/>). The links to these texts will be available on the course's Blackboard site. Print out any on-line readings and bring them to class for discussion just as you would bring a book.

Blackboard

Be sure to check on Blackboard (<https://blackboard.uncg.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>) for course announcements, assignments, and links to important websites.

Adverse Weather Conditions

If you think that the university might be closed due to weather, either call the UNCG Adverse Weather Line at (336) 334-4400 or check the university's website (www.uncg.edu). If the university is open, I will hold class.

For Your Information

Attendance: After you have missed three class periods for any reason, your final average for the course will be reduced by one percentage point (i.e. from 84 to 83) for each additional absence.

Honor code: Any violation of the honor code (such as plagiarism or cheating) will be dealt with according to UNCG's academic integrity policy. I am particularly concerned about plagiarism from the web. I do not want you to use websites for any of the writing assignments unless a particular website is specifically included as part of the assignment. The primary sources and the lectures will provide you with sufficient information to complete the exams. For specific explanations about UNCG's academic integrity policy, see the Student Affairs website at <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/>.

Reading Advice

Because most of these documents will be totally unfamiliar to you, I recommend taking notes on them as you read. It is also useful to write a brief summary (2-3 sentences) of each document so that you can remember the contents of each text for class discussion. Taking notes on the book-length primary sources is especially important. Finally, I recommend reading each of the shorter documents more than once. Sometimes it will take two (or even three) readings for something to make sense to you. Because the amount of reading for our course is fairly small, you'll have plenty of time for re-reading.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Monday, August 20 – Introductions – *Dulce et Decorum est*

Wednesday, August 22 – The Twenties – Excess and Depression
Supplemental Readings

Monday, August 27 – the Social Commentary of George Orwell
Primary Source Readings: Orwell, *Burmese Days*, 5-100.
Supplemental Readings

Wednesday, August 29 – England and the World
Primary Source Readings: Orwell, *Burmese Days*, 100-199.
Supplemental Readings

Monday, September 3 – Labor Day – no class

Wednesday, September 5 – Discussion – *Burmese Days*
Primary Source Readings: Orwell, *Burmese Days*, 199-287.

Monday, September 10 – The Emergence of the Soviet Union: Stalin
Primary Source Readings: Perry, chapter 3, “The Russian Revolution and the Soviet Union.”

Wednesday, September 12 – Fascism: Mussolini & Franco
Primary Source Readings: Orwell, *Homage to Catalonia* ; Perry, 144-148 & 188-213.
Supplemental Readings

Monday, September 17 – Discussion – *Homage to Catalonia*
Primary Source Readings: Orwell, *Homage to Catalonia*

Wednesday, September 19 – Fascism: Hitler

Primary Source Readings: 149-172.

Monday, September 24 – World War II: Kristallnacht
Primary Source Readings: Perry, 215-232.

Wednesday, September 26 – World War II: The Battle of Britain
Midterm due in class
Primary Source Readings: Perry, 232-250.
Supplemental Readings

Monday, October 1 – World War II: The “Final Solution”
Primary Source Readings: Perry, 250-264.
Supplemental Readings

Wednesday, October 3 – World War II: D-Day to VE Day
Primary Source Readings: Perry, 264-276.

Monday, October 8- Post-War Europe in Ruins
Primary Source Readings: Perry, 277-313.

Wednesday, October 10 – Decolonization: England and India
Primary Source Readings: Perry, 322-331.
Supplemental Readings

Monday, October 15 – Fall Break – no class

Wednesday, October 17 – The Palestinian Mandate and the Suez Canal Crisis
Supplemental Readings

Monday, October 22 – Europe in the Midst of the Cold War
Primary Source Readings: Orwell, *Animal Farm*, 25-72; Perry, 313-322.
Supplemental Readings

Wednesday, October 24 – Discussion – *Animal Farm*
Primary Source Readings: Orwell, *Animal Farm*, 73-139.

Monday, October 29 – Dissent Behind the Iron Curtain: the Hungarian Uprising and the Prague Spring
Primary Source Readings: Perry, chapter 7, “The Eastern Bloc, 1945-1981”

Wednesday, October 31 –The European Economic Community
Supplemental Readings

Monday, November 5 – Decolonization: France & Algeria
First set of student reports
Supplemental Readings

Wednesday, November 7 – 1968: Student Unrest in Paris
Second set of student reports
Primary Source Readings: Perry, 372-389.
Supplemental Readings

Monday, November 12 – Terrorism in 1960s and 1970s

Third set of student reports

Supplemental Readings

Wednesday, November 14 – Spain in 1975: The Death of Franco

Fourth set of student reports

Primary Source Readings: Orwell, *1984*, 1-104

Monday, November 19 –England: Thatcher & Blair and France: Mitterand and LePen

Fifth set of student reports

Primary Source Readings: Orwell, *1984*, 105-224; Perry, 389-408.

Wednesday, November 21 – Thanksgiving Holiday – no class

Monday, November 26 – Totalitarian Systems: Is *1984* set in 1984? Discussion of *1984*.

Primary Source Readings: Orwell, *1984*, 225-326.

Wednesday, November 28 – Muslims in England, France, and Germany

Primary Source Readings: Perry, 414-425.

Supplemental Readings

Monday, December 3 – The Collapse of the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc

Primary Source Readings: Ash, *The Magic Lantern*, 11-77; Perry, 437-466.

Wednesday, December 5 – Discussion of *The Magic Lantern*

Primary Source Readings: Ash, *The Magic Lantern*, 78-167.

Monday, December 10 – Living in a Post-Modern World

Primary Source Readings: Perry, 466-485.

Friday, December 14 – *Final Exams Due in my office by 3 pm*