

HIS 706-01: Modern European History, 1789-Present

Fall 2022

Seminar, 3 credit hours

Time: Tuesdays, 5:30-8:20pm

Location: BRYN 110

Instructor Information:

Dr. Teresa Walch

Email: tmwalch@uncg.edu

Office Hours: by appointment



Course Description

This course will cover major themes and debates in modern European history from the French Revolution to the present. Assigned readings will analyze modern Europe from the center as well as from the margins to explore important episodes and historiographical debates. The course is by no means an exhaustive presentation of the historiography on modern Europe but should serve as a launchpad for further explorations inside and outside of class. You will be asked to move from the micro to the macro and to synthesize course readings with broader historical arcs and debates throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, drawing connections between disparate geographies and temporalities. During this class, you should begin defining and articulating your own interpretations, narratives, and frameworks for understanding modern European history.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. explain how approaches to writing the history of modern Europe have evolved.
2. identify and explain major debates in the historiography of modern European history.
3. distinguish between different methodological and theoretical approaches to modern European history.
4. synthesize and critique arguments in secondary sources via oral presentations and written assignments.
5. define and articulate their own interpretations for understanding modern European history.

Required Books

Jeremy D. Popkin, *A New World Begins: The History of the French Revolution* (New York: Basic Books, 2019). ISBN: 1541620178

Geoff Eley, *Forging Democracy: The History of the Left in Europe, 1850-2000* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002). ISBN: 0195044797 (available as an [unlimited simultaneous user ebook](#))

Alice L. Conklin, *A Mission to Civilize: The Republican Idea of Empire in France and West Africa, 1895-1930* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1997). ISBN: 0804740127 (available as an [unlimited simultaneous user ebook](#))

Pieter M. Judson, *The Habsburg Empire: A New History* (Cambridge: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2016). ISBN: 0674986768 (available as an [unlimited simultaneous user ebook](#))

Robert O. Paxton, *The Anatomy of Fascism* (New York: Vintage Books, 2004). ISBN: 1400033918 (available as a [1 user license ebook](#))

Timothy Snyder, *Bloodlands: Europe between Hitler and Stalin*, 2nd ed. (New York: Basic Books, 2022). ISBN: 9781541600065 (available as an [unlimited simultaneous user ebook](#))

Monica Black, *A Demon-Haunted Land: Witches, Wonder Doctors, and the Ghosts of the Past in Post-WWII Germany* (New York: Metropolitan Books, 2020). ISBN: 1250813859

Norman M. Naimark, *Stalin and the Fate of Europe: The Postwar Struggle for Sovereignty* (Cambridge: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2019). ISBN: 067423877X (available as an [unlimited simultaneous user ebook](#))

Theodora Dragostinova, *The Cold War from the Margins: A Small Socialist State on the Global Cultural Scene* (Ithaca New York: Cornell University Press, 2021). ISBN: 1501755552 (available as an [unlimited simultaneous user ebook](#))

Marci Shore, *The Taste of Ashes: The Afterlife of Totalitarianism in Eastern Europe* (New York: Crown Publishers, 2013). ISBN: 0307888827 (available as a [1 user license ebook](#))

Minayo Nasiali, *Native to the Republic: Empire, Social Citizenship and Everyday Life in Marseille since 1945* (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 2016). ISBN: 150170477X (available as an [unlimited simultaneous user ebook](#))

Terence Renaud, *New Lefts: The Making of a Radical Tradition* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2021). ISBN: 0691220816 (available as a [multiple user ebook](#))

Olivette Otele, *African Europeans: An Untold History* (New York: Basic Books, 2021). ISBN: 1541619676 (available as a [1 user license ebook](#))

Emily Greble, *Muslims and the Making of Modern Europe* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021). ISBN: 0197538800 (available as an [unlimited simultaneous user ebook](#))

Rita C-K. Chin, *The Crisis of Multiculturalism in Europe: A History* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2017). ISBN: 0691192774 (available as an [unlimited simultaneous user ebook](#))

** Please secure the required readings ahead of time, either by purchasing them via the [UNCG bookstore](#) or elsewhere or by ordering them via Interlibrary Loan (ILL). Copies of all required books are available via Jackson Library, either as an e-book (indicated above) or on reserve as a hard copy. Any other required readings will be made available on Canvas.

Assignments & Grading:

Participation in Class Discussions (SLOs 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5) – This is a small, reading intensive seminar. Regular attendance and active participation are crucial. As your instructor, I have endeavored to amass an interesting, and coherent, set of readings. But in this course, I will chiefly be your guide through the historical debates and topics at-hand. It is your task to come to class prepared. Your careful reading of the assigned texts will allow us to dig deeper into the course themes. Your grade will be based on the *quality* (more than quantity) of your contributions to class discussion.

Book Reviews (SLOs 2, 3 & 4) – From the assigned readings, you will select and write book reviews for 6 of them. The selection of the books from the list (beginning with the books assigned from Week 3 onward) is entirely up to you. You will upload your book reviews on Canvas as Word documents for the corresponding week by Monday @ 8:00 pm (before class on Tuesday).

Oral Presentation (SLOs 2, 3 & 4) – On your assigned presentation day, you will begin our discussion of the assigned book with an approx. 15-minute presentation in which you:

- provide brief biographical information on the author,
- summarize the author's main questions & arguments,
- identify their main historiographical and/or methodological interventions,
- summarize the main points of praise and critique that other scholars have given for the book,
- provide your own critical comments on the book,
- pose 2-3 questions to the class for discussion.

** You will summarize all these points in a [printout](#) (max. 1 page) to share with your classmates (16 copies) on the day you present so that they can follow along during your presentation. (If you do not have access to a printer, please send me your handout by 3:00pm on Tuesday so that I can print it out for the class). I encourage you all to keep these one-page handouts for future reference. They will be a great help during your graduate studies and in preparation for your qualifying exams.

Final Assignment (SLOs 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5) – You have two choices for the final assignment:

(1) *historiographical debate review*: for this assignment you will peruse volumes of modern European history academic journals to identify an important historiographical debate that reshaped the field. You will choose 3-4 influential books in that debate and write a review essay on them and on the debate at-hand.

(2) *historical op-ed*: for this assignment, you will peruse contemporary newspaper articles covering modern Europe and select a topic for which to write a long-piece op-ed article that contextualizes it within a broader historical framework (drawing upon at least 3-4 related books).

Both assignments should be 10-12 pages long. You will present your (work-in-progress) final assignment to the class in Week 13, 14, or 15.

Your final grade will be assessed as such:

- 30% – Participation in Class Discussions
- 30% – Book Reviews (6 x 5% each)
- 10% – Oral Presentation
- 30% – Final Assignment (5% preliminary bibliography; 5% class presentation; 20% final assignment)

Final Grade Scale:

A: ≥ 93.0; **A-:** 90.0-92.9; **B+:** 87.0-89.9; **B:** 83.0-86.9; **B-:** 80.0-82.9; **C+:** 77.0-79.9; **C:** 73.0-76.9; **C-:** 70.0-72.9; **D:** 60.0-69.9; **F:** <60.0

Communication

I will be in contact with you regularly throughout the semester. I will primarily update you via emails sent to your UNCG email address, so please regularly check your email accounts. At any time throughout the semester, you may send me an email with questions or request to schedule an appointment. I will respond to emails sent to me Monday-Thursday within 24-48 hours. I will respond to emails received Friday-Sunday the following Monday. In general, if you have urgent questions, I encourage you to post your questions to the “General Discussion Board” on Canvas to see if one of your classmates can answer your question.

Technical Support

I am unable to help you resolve any questions regarding technology. Students with technical issues with the course and email should contact 6-TECH for support either by email or phone or chat ([6TECH Help](#)).

UNCG Covid-19 Statement

As we return for Fall 2022, all students, faculty, and staff and all visitors to campus are required to uphold UNCG’s culture of care by actively engaging in behaviors that limit the spread of COVID-19. While face-coverings are optional in most areas on campus, individuals are encouraged to wear masks. All individuals and visitors to campus are asked to follow the following actions:

- Engaging in proper hand-washing hygiene.
- Self-monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19.
- Staying home when ill.
- Complying with directions from health care providers or public health officials to quarantine or isolate if ill or exposed to someone who is ill.
- Completing a [self-report](#) when experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, testing positive for COVID-19, or being identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive.
- Staying informed about the University's policies and announcements via the [COVID-19](#) website.

Students who are ill, quarantining, or isolating should not attend in-person class meetings, but should instead contact their instructor(s) so alternative arrangements for learning and the submission of assignments can be made where possible.

As we continue to manage COVID-19 on our campus, we are following the lead of the local health department and we will adjust our plans to balance student success, instructional requirements, and the hallmarks of the collegiate experience with the safety and wellbeing of our campus community.

Health and Wellness Statement

Health and well-being impact learning and academic success. Throughout your time in the university, you may experience a range of concerns that can cause barriers to your academic success. These might include illnesses, strained relationships, anxiety, high levels of stress, alcohol or drug problems, feeling down, or loss of motivation. Student Health Services and The Counseling Center can help with these or other issues you may experience. You can learn about the free, confidential mental health services available on campus by calling 336-334-5874, visiting the website at <https://shs.uncg.edu/> or visiting the Anna M. Gove Student Health Center at 107 Gray Drive. For undergraduate or graduate students in recovery from alcohol and other drug addiction, The Spartan Recovery Program (SRP) offers recovery support services. You can learn more about recovery and recovery support services by visiting <https://shs.uncg.edu/srp> or reaching out to recovery@uncg.edu.

Academic Integrity

All the work you submit in this course must be your own. You are expected to properly cite and acknowledge any material that you quote, paraphrase, or summarize. By submitting an assignment, each student is acknowledging their understanding and commitment to UNCG's [Academic Integrity Policy](#) on all major work for the course. If you have any questions, I encourage you to visit UNCG's webpage on [plagiarism](#). Please also carefully read the UNCG Writing Center's handout on "[Avoiding Plagiarism](#)."

Accommodations

UNCG seeks to comply fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must be registered with the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS) in 215 Elliott University Center, 334-5440, oars.uncg.edu.

Religious Holidays

It is expected that instructors will make reasonable accommodations for students who have conflicts due to religious obligations. Please make arrangements with me in advance of any such scenario. For more information on UNCG's Religious Obligations policy, visit: [UNCG's Religious Obligations Policy](#).

Note on Syllabus Materials & Updates

If the need arises, there may be adjustments to the syllabus and calendar. In such cases, I will notify you in class or via email with an updated syllabus and calendar within a reasonable timeframe to allow you to adjust as needed.

Course Schedule

Week 1 – The French Revolution (August 16)

Jeremy D. Popkin, *A New World Begins: The History of the French Revolution* (New York: Basic Books, 2019).

Week 2 – Modern Politics (August 23)

Geoff Eley, *Forging Democracy: The History of the Left in Europe, 1850-2000* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002). (available as an [unlimited simultaneous user ebook](#))

Week 3 – Empire Abroad (August 30)

Alice L. Conklin, *A Mission to Civilize: The Republican Idea of Empire in France and West Africa, 1895-1930* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1997). (available as an [unlimited simultaneous user ebook](#))

Week 4 – Empire at Home (September 6)

Pieter M. Judson, *The Habsburg Empire: A New History* (Cambridge: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2016). (available as an [unlimited simultaneous user ebook](#))

Week 5 – Fascism (September 13)

Robert O. Paxton, *The Anatomy of Fascism* (New York: Vintage Books, 2004). (available as a [1 user license ebook](#))

Week 6 – War & Genocide (September 20)

Timothy Snyder, *Bloodlands: Europe between Hitler and Stalin*, 2nd ed. (New York: Basic Books, 2022). (available as an [unlimited simultaneous user ebook](#))

Week 7 – Postwar (September 27)

Monica Black, *A Demon-Haunted Land: Witches, Wonder Doctors, and the Ghosts of the Past in Post-WWII Germany* (New York: Metropolitan Books, 2020).

Week 8 – No Class Meeting (October 4) (due to religious holiday)

PRELIMINARY BIBLIOGRAPHY for final assignment due on Canvas by Monday, Oct. 3 @ 8:00pm

**** Please Note: No Class on Tuesday, October 11 (due to UNCG's Fall Break)**

Week 9 – Cold War (October 18)

Norman M. Naimark, *Stalin and the Fate of Europe: The Postwar Struggle for Sovereignty* (Cambridge: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2019). (available as an [unlimited simultaneous user ebook](#))

Theodora Dragostinova, *The Cold War from the Margins: A Small Socialist State on the Global Cultural Scene* (Ithaca New York: Cornell University Press, 2021). (available as an [unlimited simultaneous user ebook](#))

Week 10 – End of Communism (October 25)

Marci Shore, *The Taste of Ashes: The Afterlife of Totalitarianism in Eastern Europe* (New York: Crown Publishers, 2013). (available as a [1 user license ebook](#))

Week 11 – Decolonization (November 1)

Minayo Nasiali, *Native to the Republic: Empire, Social Citizenship and Everyday Life in Marseille since 1945* (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 2016). (available as an [unlimited simultaneous user ebook](#))

Week 12 – New Lefts (November 8)

Terence Renaud, *New Lefts: The Making of a Radical Tradition* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2021). (available as a [multiple user ebook](#))

Week 13 – African Europeans (November 15)

Olivette Otele, *African Europeans: An Untold History* (New York: Basic Books, 2021). (available as a [1 user license ebook](#))

Week 14 – Muslim Europeans (November 22)

Emily Greble, *Muslims and the Making of Modern Europe* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021). (available as an [unlimited simultaneous user ebook](#))

Week 15 – Multicultural Europe? (November 29)

Rita C-K. Chin, *The Crisis of Multiculturalism in Europe: A History* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2017). (available as an [unlimited simultaneous user ebook](#))

***** FINAL ASSIGNMENT due on Canvas by Tuesday, December 6 @ 8:00pm**