

HISTORY 371W

EUROPE IN THE 20TH CENTURY

FALL 2001

Instructor: Paul Mazgaj

Office: 213 McIver

Office Hrs.: Tues. & Thurs. 10:45-11:15; 3:15-4:00

And by appointment

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READING LIST:

TO BE PURCHASED:

Paxton, Robert. *Europe in the 20th Century*, Fourth Edition

Camus, *The Plague*

RESERVE ROOM (RR), JACKSON LIBRARY

Eksteins, Modris. *Rites of Spring*

Bernstein, "Evolutionary Socialism," photocopied

Lenin, "What is to Be Done" and "War and Revolution,"

photocopied

Payne, Stanley. *A History of Fascism, 1914-1945*

Crossman, P.H.S. *The God that Failed*

Merridale, Catherine. *Night of Stone*

Marrus, Michael. *The Holocaust in History*

Sartre, Jean-Paul, "Existentialism," photocopied

de Beauvoir, Simone, "The Second Sex," photocopied

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. 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; it will be written at the start of each class. Be forewarned: you will be asked to write something almost everyday about what you have read. As a result, you need to have completed the day's reading assignment *before every class*. These short, informal writing exercises may be requested on either the Reserve Room readings or the Paxton textbook and will not be "graded" in the ordinary sense. Instead, they 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 7-8 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 (if in question, check with me). All "due dates" (see course outline above) are—barring certified medical emergencies—carved in stone (i.e., non-negotiable).

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. *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

[RR: Reserve Room, Jackson Library]

Aug. 21: Introduction

23: Paxton, ch. 1

28: Paxton, ch. 2

30: Paxton, ch. 3

Sept. 4: Eksteins, *Rites of Spring*, RR, pp. 139-191

6: Paxton, ch. 4

11: Readings from Bernstein & Lenin, RR, photocopied

13: Paxton, ch. 5

18: Paxton, ch. 6 and 8

21: Payne, *History of Fascism*, RR, pp. 80-128

25: Paxton, ch. 10

27: Payne, *History of Fascism*, RR, pp. 147-175

Oct. 2: Payne, *History of Fascism*, RR, pp. 176-226

4: Paxton, ch. 9; Film

9: FALL BREAK

11: Paxton, ch. 12; Merridale, *Night of Stone*, RR, 154-210

16: Crossman, *The God that Failed*, RR, chapter by Arthur Koestler

18: MID-TERM EXAM

23: Paxton, ch. 13

25: PROSPECTUS DUE; Paxton, ch. 14

30: Marrus, *The Holocaust in History*, RR, pp. 1-54

Nov 1: Readings from Sartre/De Beauvoir, RR, photocopied

6: Paxton, ch. 15

8: Camus, *The Plague*, parts 1-2

13: Camus, *The Plague*, parts 3-5

15: FIRST VERSION OF PAPER DUE; Paxton, chaps. 16-17

20: Paxton, ch. 18

22: THANKSGIVING

27: Paxton, ch. 19

29: Paxton, ch. 20

Dec 4: Paxton, chaps. 21-22

6: FINAL VERSION OF PAPER DUE; Paxton, ch. 23 and Epilogue

FINAL EXAM: Thurs., Dec 13, 8-11 am