

Instructor: Paul Mazgaj

Office: 213 McIver

Office Hrs.: Tues. & Thurs. 9:30-10:15; 3:15-4:00

And by appointment

E-Mail: pmmazgaj@uncg.edu

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

Courtois, Stéphane. *Black Book of Communism*

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*

Marrus, Michael. *The Holocaust in History*

Wohl, *Generation of 1914*

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; late papers will be penalized.

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. 20: Introduction

22: "Europe at the Zenith, 1914," Paxton, ch. 1

27: "The Coming of War," Paxton, ch. 2

29: "The Marne and After, 1914-17," Paxton, ch. 3

Sept. 3: Eksteins, *Rites of Spring*, RR, pp. 139-191

5: Wohl, *Generation of 1914*, RR, pp. 85-121

10: Readings from Bernstein & Lenin, RR, photocopied

12: "Revolution, 1917-20," Paxton, ch. 5

- Sept. 17:** "The Paris Peace Settlement," Paxton, ch. 6
19: Payne, *History of Fascism*, RR, pp. 80-128
- 24:** "The Depression and Its Effects," Paxton, ch. 10; Paxton, ch. 11, pp. 335-50
26: Payne, *History of Fascism*, RR, pp. 147-175
- Oct. 1:** Payne, *History of Fascism*, RR, pp. 176-226
3: "Mass Culture and High Culture," Paxton, ch. 9; Film: Cabaret I
- 8:** Film: Cabaret II
10: "The Popular Front Era," Paxton, ch. 12;
- 15: FALL BREAK**
17: MID-TERM EXAM
- 22:** Courtois, *Black Book of Communism*, RR, 184-202; Crossman, *The God that Failed*, RR, chapter by Arthur Koestler
24: "The Paris Peace Settlement Dismantled," Paxton, ch. 13
- 29:** "Hitler's Europe," Paxton, ch. 14; **PAPER PROSPECTUS DUE**
31: Marrus, *The Holocaust in History*, RR, pp. 1-54
- Nov 5:** "From Hot to Cold War," Paxton, ch. 15
7: Camus, *The Plague*, parts 1-2
- 12:** Camus, *The Plague*, parts 3-5
14: "Ruin and Reconstruction" Ch. 16; **FIRST VERSION OF PAPER DUE**
- 19:** "The Soviet Bloc from Stalin to Khrushchev" and "Europe in the Cold War," Paxton, chs. 17-18
21: "The 'New Europe'," Paxton, ch. 19
- 26:** "Cold War Détente" and "The Soviet Bloc in the Brezhnev Era," Paxton, chs. 20-21
28: THANKSGIVING
- Dec 3:** "Western Europe, 1973-1989," Paxton, ch. 22
5: "The Revolution of 1989 and After," Paxton, ch. 23; **FINAL VERSION OF PAPER DUE**

FINAL EXAM: Friday, Dec. 13, 3:30-6:30 pm.