

Course Title	: HISTORY OF TWENTIETH CENTURY EUROPE
Course Code	: HST2357
Recommended Study Year*	:
No. of Credits/Term	: 3
Mode of Tuition	: Sectional
Class Contact Hours	: 3 hours per week
Category in Major Prog.	: Elective
Discipline*	(if applicable)
Prerequisite(s)	: None
Co-requisite(s)	: None
Exclusion(s)	: None
Exemption Requirement(s)	: (if any)

Brief Course Description

This course will focus on the political, economic, social, and cultural changes of Europe during the twentieth century. The main topics are two world wars, the decline of European political and economic supremacy, the Cold War, the rise and collapse of Communism, and the notion of "A Common European House."

Aims

This course seeks to shed light on 20th century Europe and its changing role in world affairs. By the end of the course, the students would be able to:

- a) Understand the causation of the great European wars during this period;
- b) Understand the development and impact of the key political ideologies that emerged during the period;
- c) Understand the development of political tension between the east and west after World War II and the significance of the Cold War;
- d) Understand the economic and social impact of the re-building of post-war Europe.

Learning Outcomes

- a) To demonstrate analytical and strategic thinking by exploring historical causation in the context of 20th century European history.
- b) To display political and cultural sensibility and demonstrate interest in world affairs.
- c) To understand the values and differences between different ideologies and political systems
- d) To demonstrate written and oral communications skills
- e) To show the ability to analyze secondary and primary sources, particularly film/literary representations of the past.

Indicative Content

- I. Introduction
 - A. Summary of themes
 - B. Paul Kennedy's *Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*
- II. European society, 1900-1914
 - A. International rivalry
 - B. Demographic change and the growth of cities

- C. Technological and industrial development
 - D. The challenge of the working class
 - E. Fear of “degeneracy”
 - F. Imperialism
 - G. Racism, nationalism, anti-Semitism
 - H. The Woman Question;
 - I. “The Strange Death of Liberal England”
- III. Origins of the Great War, 1900-1914
 - A. Entangling Alliances
 - B. The Europe of Two Armed Camps
 - C. The Balkan Crisis
- IV. World War I, 1914-1918
 - A. The Outbreak of the Great War
 - B. The Changing Nature of War
 - C. The Paris Peace Conference
 - D. The Impact of the War
- V. The 1917 Russian Revolution and the Soviet Union
 - A. The Backdrop
 - B. War and Revolution
 - C. The October Revolution
 - D. Civil War
 - E. From Lenin to Stalin
 - F. "Socialism in One Country"
 - G. Conclusion
- VI. An Age of Uncertainty, 1920s
 - A. The Treaty of Versailles
 - B. Settlements in Eastern Europe
 - C. Economic and Social Instability
 - D. The German Weimar Republic
 - E. Britain and France in the Twenties
 - F. The Rise of Fascism in Italy
 - G. The Rise of the Nazis in Germany
- VII. The Great Depression and Dictatorship
 - A. Economic Crisis
 - B. Fascist Movements
 - C. Hitler's Germany
 - D. The Spanish Civil War
 - E. The Coming of World War II
- VIII. World War II, 1931-1945
 - A. German Invasions
 - B. A Global War
 - C. Europe under the Nazis
 - D. Germany on the Defensive
 - E. The End of the War in Europe
 - F. Consequences
- IX. Rebuilding Europe
 - A. Economic and Social Turmoil
 - B. From Wartime Cooperation to Conflict
 - C. The United States and Soviet Union
 - D. Political Realignments

- E. Decolonization
- F. Economic Recovery and Social Changes
- X. The Cold War Era (I)
 - A. Soviet-U.S. Rivalry
 - B. Tensions within the Eastern and Western Blocs
 - C. Khrushchev's Soviet Union
 - D. Poland, Hungary, Romania, East Germany, and Czechoslovakia
 - E. Postwar Britain and France
- XI. The Cold War Era (II)
 - A. Politics in Western Europe
 - B. Economic Growth and Limits
 - C. Nuclear Weapons and Arms Control
 - D. The Soviet Union in the Brezhnev Era
 - E. The New Left and the events of 1968
- XII. The Fall of Communism
 - A. The Collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe
 - B. The Gorbachev Era
 - C. The Fall of the Berlin Wall
- XIII. Post-Communist Europe
 - A. Challenges in the Post-Communist Era
 - B. Ethnic Turmoil in the Balkans
 - C. "A Common European House?" European Union and the "Euro"
 - D. Europe's Role in World Affairs
 - E. Conclusion

Teaching Method

Lectures will provide students with a good knowledge of the twentieth century European experience, and assist students to think about the problems facing contemporary Europe. Selected readings are discussed in the tutorials.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

- a) Students should be able to demonstrate an analytical grasp of historical causation in the context of 20th century European history in their midterm and final examination.
- b) Students should demonstrate a nuanced political and cultural sensibility and an interest in world affairs through enthusiastic participation in class discussions and in their individual assignment, midterm, and final examination.
- c) Students, through class discussions, their individual assignment and in the final examination, need to be able to demonstrate an understanding of the various ideologies and political systems -- particularly liberalism, nationalism, Communism, Fascism and Nazism -- that dominated twentieth-century Europe.
- d) Students should be able to write clearly, cogently and coherently to an acceptable standard in both their individual assignments and examinations, and be able to express their ideas clearly in class discussions.
- e) Students should demonstrate their capacity to analyse secondary and primary sources both in the individual assignment, which entails a detailed review of academic studies or historical fictional works and film representations of the past, and in class discussions of set texts.

Assessment

- Essay: 30%
- In-class midterm test: 25%
- Take-home final test: 25%
- Group presentation and discussion-leading: 10%
- Discussion participation: 10%

Required Reading

Gilbert, Felix, et al, *The End of the European Era: 1890 to the Present*, New York: Norton, 1991.

Supplementary Readings

Mazower, Mark, *Dark Continent: Europe's Twentieth Century*, New York: Vintage, 2000.

Merriman, John, *Modern Europe: From the Renaissance to the Present*, New York: W.W. Norton, 1996.

Paxton, Robert O., *Europe in the Twentieth Century*, 3rd ed., Fort Worth: Harcourt Brace College Publishers, 1997.

Phillips, Roderick, *Society, State, and Nation in Twentieth-century Europe*, Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1996.

Stromberg, Roland N., *Europe in the Twentieth Century*, 4th ed., Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1997.

* Optional items

Important Notes:

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.