



HISTORY 489.02E
INDEPENDENT STUDY: READINGS IN MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2022

Instructor: Dr. Sharon Kowalsky
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COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the wide range of topics related to the history of Europe during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and up to the recent past.

Course Materials:

The following required books should be acquired (except for the textbook, these are widely available used; any edition is fine):

Hunt, et. al., *The Making of the West*, 7th Ed (Macmillan, 2022), ISBN 978-1319331573 (any format is fine—paper, ebook, etc) (the 7th edition is new and preferred, but you may use any edition you like)
Hanna, *Your Death Would Be Mine* (Harvard University Press, 2008) ISBN 978-0674030510
Chukovskaia, *Sofia Petrovna* (Northwestern University Press, 1994) ISBN 978-0810111509
Browning, *Ordinary Men* (Harper Perennial, 1998) ISBN 978-0060995065
Kovaly, *Under a Cruel Star* (Holmes & Meier, 1997) ISBN 978-0841913776
Meier, *Chechnya: To the Heart of a Conflict* (WW Norton, 2004) ISBN 978-0824918071

Additional readings noted on the Course Schedule will be provided via D2L.

Student Learning Outcomes:

This course will teach students to evaluate and analyze materials, and to understand different historians' interpretations of events. By the end of the semester, students should be able to

1. understand and explain the general developments in Modern European history during the 19th-21st centuries; and
2. compare different historical experiences.

Students' ability to meet the objectives and learning outcomes of this course will be evaluated through written assignments.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments*Attendance and Participation (13%)*

Students are expected to attend all class meetings. For all meetings, students are expected to come prepared to engage with the assigned material. This means reading the assignment before class and bringing the reading material to class. I expect all students to participate actively in our class discussions and to contribute their thoughts, ideas, and questions to our collective exploration. I especially encourage you to bring your questions to class. I will create, and expect you to uphold, an intellectual environment in the classroom where we can listen to and consider others' arguments and opinions with an open mind and where we respect viewpoints other than our own.

Your participation grade will be based on your engagement in our class discussions and be guided by the following rubric:

- A = Always prepared, frequently participates, rarely absent
- B = Always prepared, participates only when called on, rarely absent
- C = Usually prepared, rarely speaks, rarely absent
- D = Often unprepared, several absences
- F = Usually unprepared, frequent absences

Assignments:

Group Discussion Assignment (12%; 2% each): For each class, students should work together to develop three substantive discussion questions related to the readings for that meeting. The questions should address the major points and arguments in the readings, as well as the significance of the topic and what it illuminates about the course of Modern European history. These questions will serve as the basis of our meeting discussions and will also be turned in to the professor at the end of each meeting for evaluation. Students will need to meet in advance of class together to develop their questions, and should designate one student for each meeting (on a rotating basis) to be responsible for recording, typing, and submitting the questions (6 meetings total).

Individual Essay (20%): Each student will produce one comparative paper of 5-8 pages over the course of the semester, due before Thanksgiving break. For this paper, students will choose two of the readings (excluding the textbook) assigned for the semester and produce a comparative book assessment. Students may choose any two of the readings. The paper should summarize each reading and provide its historical context, suggest what each reading allows us to learn about that historical context (i.e. what is its significance), and compare the two readings/contexts.

Final Exam (10%): Students will complete a take-home final exam, due at the end of finals week. The exam questions will be provided at least one week prior to the due date and will focus on general trends and developments in Modern European History covered during the semester. The Final Exam is open note and open book.

Research Project (45%; 15% each): This semester, students will engage in short research projects that we will present using the Adobe Creative Cloud. Students can determine at the start of the semester if the research projects will be group or individual assignments. Students will choose three topics/events over the semester and prepare an Adobe Express presentation about each topic/event. Each presentation should include a map indicating the location of the event/topic; a summary of the event/topic; at least two images (with citations) and explanations of the relationship of the images to the event/topic; two quotations from two primary sources (with citations) and explanations of what these sources tell us about the events; two quotations from two secondary sources (with citations) and

explanations of how these sources understand the event/topic; your assessment of the event/topic. Presentations must include a list of all sources cited and all citations must be in Turabian/Chicago citation style.

Grading

Grades for the semester will be determined according to the following breakdown:

Attendance/Participation:	13%
Group Discussion Assignment:	12%
Individual Comparative Essay:	20%
Research Projects:	45%
Final Exam:	10%

Your grades for written work will be determined based on the following rubric:

- A = Mastery of reading and class material; factual accuracy; thoughtful, historical argumentation demonstrating ability to synthesize and/or some originality of thought; technically clean; proper citation format
- B = Good to excellent command of most reading and class material; accuracy; good level of historical argumentation; reasonable thesis statement; proper citation format
- C = Good command of class material; accuracy; ability to articulate a historical point of view, even if it is not compelling or is poorly reasoned; some errors in citation format
- D = Poor command of required assignments; errors; ahistorical or narrow reasoning; poor citation format

The grading scale used for this course is as follows:

90-100 =	A
80-89 =	B
70-79 =	C
60-69 =	D
59 or less =	F

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS, ACCESS, AND NAVIGATION
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The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course:

Word Processing:

You will need access to a word processor and printer to prepare written work. If at all possible, please do not use Google Docs or Pages or any other cloud-based program that is not MS Word. **If you are submitting a document, please ensure that it is in MS Word format.**

LMS:

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements:

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

Access and Navigation:

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of D2L, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor:

Students are encouraged to contact the professor for any and all reasons whatsoever. The more you let me know what is going on with you, the better I can help you out when necessary. Beyond the classroom, the best way to get in touch with the professor is through email. I am also available during my office hours. Please come to talk to me about any concerns you might have and about any problems or issues that arise during the semester. I can be very understanding but only if I know what is going on with you.

Librarian:

Our librarian for Humanities and Social Sciences is Sarah Northam. She is available to assist you in your research, whether it is using the library or identifying and locating sources. Please take advantage of this assistance as you need it. Her contact information is as follows:

Sarah Northam, Head of Research and Instruction Services

Gee Library

903-886-5714

Sarah.Northam@tamuc.edu

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES
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Classroom Behavior

All students are expected to observe basic tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct). During class time, I expect your undivided attention. This means turning off cell phones, pagers, iPods, and other devices, and putting away newspapers and other forms of distraction, for the duration of the class period (exceptions will be allowed for emergencies with advance permission of the professor). Please come to class on time and plan to stay for the entire period. Coming late and/or disrupting the learning environment shows disrespect for me, your colleagues, and the educational endeavor in which you are engaged. If you must leave early, please let me know at the beginning of class. I can be very understanding of problems that might arise over the course of the semester, but only if I know what is going on with you. I encourage you to come to my office hours, to get to know me, and to keep me informed of any issues you might have that would affect your performance in this class.

Attendance

Students should keep in mind that attendance is part of your course engagement – you cannot engage in the class if you are not here. It is your responsibility to come to class prepared. *This course relies heavily on in-class discussions of the assigned readings. You need to stay on top of the work.* If you miss a class it is your responsibility to gather class notes from a classmate.

Electronics Policy

Our class is a time for learning and discussion. Cell phones and other devices should be silent and put away during class – unless otherwise specified for an in-class activity. Airplane mode is preferred. If you are using a laptop/tablet, it should be used solely for note taking. If I feel you are using your devices for something other than taking notes you will be asked to power the device down.

Student Behavior

Behavior which may result in your being asked to leave my class includes, but is not limited to: sleeping, talking during lectures, movies or clips, text messaging, gaming, playing with your phone, using electronic devices other than for specified activities, and working on another course's work/homework during my class.

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study

Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend *at least* an additional 9 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

Late Papers

All written assignments are due as indicated in this Syllabus. Late assignments may be accepted only with the advance approval of the professor and may be assessed a penalty of one letter grade per day. If you have a problem with a due date because of a specific emergency, please notify the professor in advance or plan to turn the assignment in early. *I can be very understanding and flexible with you, but only if you come to talk to me in advance.* To pass this class, all assignments must be completed. Any missing assignments at the end of the course will result in an overall course grade of F.

Academic Honesty

In all courses, we expect that all work that you do and turn in is your own. It is the policy of the University, the History Department, and myself that no form of plagiarism, cheating, collusion, or any other form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. Plagiarism is defined as deliberately taking the words or ideas of someone else and passing them off as your own. Cheating is obtaining unauthorized assistance on any assignment. Collusion is the selling of academic products with the intention that they be submitted to satisfy an academic requirement. Students are expected to uphold and support the highest academic standards at all times. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will automatically fail the assignment in question, will likely fail the entire course, and will be subject to disciplinary action by the University (See Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1,2,3]). Further information on the History Department plagiarism policy can be found on the History Department web page. If you are even unclear about what constitutes plagiarism or academic dishonesty, please ask.

Writing Center

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the resources of the Writing Center for assistance with drafting their papers. The Writing Center is a resource for you. They will not write your paper; they will help you improve your writing skills. If you use the Writing Center, please plan ahead. They can only

help you if you see them in advance and have time to incorporate their suggestions into the final paper. More information can be found at <http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/litlang/CSC/>.

Nondiscrimination Notice

A&M–Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry

Texas Senate Bill-11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

This schedule envisions meetings every two-three weeks, with group and individual work in between. This schedule will guide you through the semester and indicates when your assignments are due. It should be referred to often. I will do my best to adhere to this schedule, but I reserve the right to make adjustments to it during the course of the semester as such circumstances arise.

Meeting 1: Introductions

We will set meeting schedules, deadlines, and requirements

Meeting 2: Crimean War

Read: TBA on D2L; *Making of the West*, Chapter 22 and Chapter 23

Meeting 3: World War I

Read: *Your Death Would Be Mine*; *Making of the West*, Chapter 24

Meeting 4: Communist/Stalinist Revolution

Read: *Sofia Petrovna*; *Making of the West*, Chapter 25

Meeting 5: World War II

Read: *Ordinary Men*; *Making of the West*, Chapter 26

Meeting 6: The Cold War

Read: *Under a Cruel Star*; *Making of the West*, Chapter 27 and Chapter 28

Meeting 7: The Recent Past: The Soviet Collapse and its Consequences

Read: *Chechnya*; *Making of the West*, Chapter 29

Final Exam due Thursday, December 8