



**HISTORY 544.01E/1SE  
READINGS IN MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY  
COURSE SYLLABUS: SUMMER I 2023**

**Instructor:** Dr. Sharon Kowalsky

**Office Location:** Dallas (before or after class) or on Zoom

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Office Phone:** 903-886-5928 (but I won't be there so use email)

**University Email Address:** Sharon.Kowalsky@tamuc.edu

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Course Description:**

This course provides an introduction to the wide range of research questions and historiographical debates which occupy historians of Europe from approximately 1789 to the present. Readings will concentrate on the French Revolution; ideas and movements such as liberalism, socialism, nationalism, imperialism, feminism, and modernism; industrialization; war and society; mass media and popular culture; and the rise and fall of Communism.

**Course Materials:**

The following required books should be acquired:

- Israel, *A Revolution of the Mind: Radical Enlightenment and the Intellectual Origins of Modern Democracy* (Princeton University Press, 2011) ISBN 978-0691152608, \$14.23
- Bell, *The First Total War: Napoleon's Europe and the Birth of Warfare as We Know It* (Mariner Books, 2008) ISBN 978-0618919819, \$15.95
- Hull, *Absolute Destruction: Military Culture and the Practices of War in Imperial Germany* (Cornell University Press, 2006) ISBN 978-0801472930, \$25.95
- Veidlinger, *In the Midst of Civilized Europe* (Metropolitan, reprint, 2022) ISBN 978-1250812124, \$19.99
- Roberts, *Civilization Without Sexes: Reconstructing Gender in Postwar France, 1917-1927* (University of Chicago Press, 1994) ISBN 978-0226721224, \$30.00
- Fritzsche, *Germans into Nazis* (Harvard, 1999) ISBN 978-0674350922, \$27.50
- Dragostinova, *Cold War from the Margins* (Cornell University Press, 2021) ISBN 978-1501755552, \$19.95
- Judt, *A Grand Illusion? An Essay on Europe* (NYU Press, 2011) ISBN 978-0814743584, \$23.00

Any additional readings 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 analyze and evaluate historical interpretations of topics in modern European history. 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*

For all class meetings, students are expected to come prepared to engage with the assigned material. This means preparing 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. We will be breaking into small groups on a regular basis. Students are expected to engage in small group activities and make positive contributions to discussions.

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

#### *Assessments:*

**Book Reviews:** Students will write four book reviews over the course of the term, with one book review due at the end of each week (on Sunday by 11:59pm; see Course Schedule). Students may choose either of the books assigned during that week for their book review. Book reviews should be 800-1000 words. They should clearly summarize the main points and arguments of the author(s), discuss the sources used and the effectiveness of the arguments, and incorporate the reception of the book by its scholarly audience. An example of a book review and more detailed instructions can be found on D2L. The first book review is worth 5%, the second two 10%, and the final one 15%, to allow for and reward improvement over time.

**Engagement:** Students are expected to participate in class discussions and this participation will make up part of the final grade. Part of each class will be spent divided into small groups. Part of the Engagement grade will be based on participation in the small groups. In addition, part of the Engagement grade will be based on student participation in the peer review process at the end of the term.

**Final Paper:** For their final paper, students will identify a theme of their choosing that can be traced through the readings for the course and will discuss how different authors addressed that theme, using at least five of the books assigned for class. Sources or works that have not been assigned should not be used for this assignment. Final papers will be workshopped in class on the last class day, and revisions will be due as indicated in the Course Schedule. Students can draw on their book review work in crafting the final paper, but the final paper should not be five book reviews compiled together. Rather, it should work thematically and trace ideas across authors.

As always, all written assignments should use Turabian/Chicago citation style. Book reviews may cite page numbers for any quotations in parentheses, but the final paper should use footnotes in proper format and should include a full bibliography in proper format.

## Grading

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

Engagement:	30%
Book Reviews:	40%
Final Paper:	30%

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:

4	=	A
3	=	B
2	=	C
1	=	D
0	=	F

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS, ACCESS, AND NAVIGATION

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 exams and research projects. You should be able to insert footnotes in your papers. If at all possible, please do not use Google Docs or Pages or any other cloud-based program that is not MS Word. **All written work should be submitted in MS Word format (NOT .PDF).**

### *MyLeo Online:*

This course is web-enhanced through D2L Brightspace (MyLeo Online), the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. 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](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>

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](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu). To get started with the course, log on to MyLeo Online and click on this course. MyLeo Online will be used to send you announcements and reminders, to post grades, and to provide access to course materials (except required readings) such as handouts and assignments. In addition,

MyLeo Online will be the primary means for me to communicate with you outside the classroom. Be sure that you can access the email account the university has on record for you. You should get into the habit of checking the MyLeo Online site for this course on a daily basis.

**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.

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words "click here" to submit an issue via email. Other support options can be found at: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

*Turnitin:*

Students must submit all written work to Turnitin. Work is submitted through the dropbox in MyLeo Online. All student work must be turned in through MyLeo Online and will automatically be submitted to Turnitin. Please let me know if you have any problems.

## 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.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

***COVID-19 and Illness in General***

Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.

***Syllabus Change Policy***

This syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the term. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

***Student Conduct and Attendance Policy***

All students enrolled in the University are expected to follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. Students can refer to the [Student Guidebook](#) for more details on specific expectations. University expectations for attendance can be found [here](#). It is expected that students be present for all class meetings and comply with the attendance policies as indicated on this syllabus.

### ***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.

### ***Deadlines***

Students are encouraged to submit their written work by the deadlines in the Course Schedule, as this allows for more opportunity for feedback and improvement. However, as this is a short course, all work will be accepted as long as it is submitted by the final class day (with the caveat that it will not benefit from any feedback). Any missing written assignments at the end of the course will result in an overall course grade of D or F.

### ***Academic Integrity***

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. As set out by Dr. Baker, these are defined as:

- Plagiarism: The adoption or reproduction of ideas, words, statements, images, or works of another person as one's own without proper attribution (quotation and citation). This includes using AI tools to develop or provide the foundation for written work, as well as self-plagiarism, which occurs when an author submits material or research from a previous academic exercise to satisfy the requirements of another exercise and uses it without proper citation of its reuse. Plagiarism can be intentional or unintentional.
- Cheating: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. This includes unapproved collaboration, which occurs when a student works with others on an academic exercise without the express permission of the professor. The term academic exercise includes all forms of work submitted for credit or hours.
- Fabrication: Unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.
- Collusion: The selling of academic products with the intention that they be submitted to satisfy an academic requirement.

Going online and taking information without proper citations, using AI tools to develop responses, copying parts of other student's work, creating information for the purposes of making your paper seem more official, or anything involving taking someone else's thoughts or ideas without proper attribution is academic misconduct. If you have a question about an assignment, please come see me to clarify. Students are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all their academic work. 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.

### ***Statement on Student Grievances***

Students who have questions or concerns about the Instructor's course policies or the conduct either of the Instructor or a classmate should first consult with the Instructor. In the event of a lack of resolution or satisfaction on the matter, the student may bring their concerns to the head of the History Department, Sharon Kowalsky ([Sharon.Kowalsky@tamuc.edu](mailto:Sharon.Kowalsky@tamuc.edu)). If this does not result in a satisfactory conclusion to the matter, students may bring the issue to the attention of the Associate Dean of Students per procedures outlined on pp. 15-19 of the Student Guide Book.

### ***Counseling Center***

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

### ***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](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)  
[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

<b>COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR</b>
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This schedule will guide you through the semester and indicates when your assignments are due. It should be referenced 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.

Week 1: Big Ideas in the Transformation and Modernization of Europe

**Book review of EITHER Israel OR Bell due June 11**

June 6: Introduction and the Enlightenment

Israel

June 8: The French Revolution

Bell

Week 2: How European Powers Treat Others

**Book review of EITHER Hull OR Veidlinger due June 18**

June 13: Imperialism

Hull

June 15: Revolution Again

Veidlinger

Week 3: Europe Between the Wars

**Book review of EITHER Roberts OR Fritzsche due June 25**

June 20: Gender

Roberts

June 22: Nazis

Fritzsche

Week 4: Europe After the Wars

**Book review of EITHER Dragostinova OR Judt due July 2**

June 27: Cold War

Dragostinova

June 29: Europe

Judt

Week 5: Assessing Modern Europe

**Submit Term Paper to Group by July 3**

July 4: Independence Day: NO CLASS

July 6: Peer Review of Term Papers

**Final Papers Due Friday, July 7 by midnight**