

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

# **Europe and The Politics of History** **His 9409B**

Winter 2018  
BRIEF SYLLABUS

Time:  
Classroom:  
Office Hours:  
Or by appointment

Instructor: Prof. Marta Dyczok  
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## **Course Description**

The lifting of the iron curtain in Europe in 1989-1991 began a new era in the historical enquiry into Russian and European modern history. New interpretations and approaches appeared to old questions such as, What is Europe? Where are its boundaries? What is the historical relationship between its Western, Central and Eastern areas? How do we study Russian and Soviet history? This course looks at both the traditional and recent historiography on the changing views on imperialism, nationalism, socialism, and globalization, and explores how they shaped the history of the European continent. Particular attention will be focused on the Eastern regions. Students will be encouraged to explore both theoretical and empirical dimensions of the changing historiography, the new themes and approaches.

## **Course Requirements**

Students are expected to attend all classes and participate in the discussion based on the weekly readings. Once or more during the semester each student will be asked to make a seminar presentation and lead discussion of the week's readings. The presentations should bring out the diverse perspectives of the various authors but not in the form of book reports or summaries of the week's readings. Rather they ought to bring out the main points, issues and problems of each subject and wherever possible, should be linked to other weeks' themes and readings. Oral presentations should be no more than 30 minutes in length. Students will be asked to write one book review (due in week 5), and one analytical essay, 5-6,000 words in length, due on the last day of term. A brief topic proposal for the research paper (including some indication of sources) should be submitted by week 6.

## **Grades**

Grades will be assigned according to the following breakdown:

Weekly participation	20%
Seminar Presentation	20%
Book Reviews/essay	10% (due week 5)
Research Paper	50% (due week 11)

## **Seminar Discussion Topics:**

**Week 1. Introduction**

**Week 2. What is Europe? The debates**

**Week 3. Europe and Russia**

**Week 4. Empire and Imperialism**

**Week 5. Empires in Eastern Europe: Habsburg, Ottoman, Russian, Soviet**  
BOOK REVIEW DUE IN CLASS

**16 – 20 February Reading Week – No Class**

**Week 6. Empire Reconsidered After Collapse of Communism**

**Week 7. Nations and Nationalism**

**Week 8. Nationalism in Eastern Europe**

**Week 9. Communism**

**Week 10. The Communist Experience in Eastern Europe**

**Week 11. Globalization**  
RESEARCH PAPER DUE IN CLASS