Course Description:

The assigned texts were selected to introduce students to a range of subjects and historical methods in the larger field of post-1945 European history. No claim is made to comprehensiveness of coverage. The readings draw from a range of sub-specialties within history as well as from works by political scientists, sociologists, lawyers, journalists, and the makers of documentary films. History does not belong only to the historical profession, or to the academy, especially when the subject is such a recent period. The course is designed to stimulate reflection regarding students' own historical agendas and the approaches they propose to take in their own work.

Migration is the subject of the first section of the seminar, with an emphasis on the period from 1945 through the late 1960s.

In the postwar period migration to European states from former colonies grew both as a result of the breakdown of colonial empires, in many instances a result of armed conflict, and a range of other causes, including increased demand for labor in Europe and greater willingness and ability to emigrate on the part of the inhabitants of former colonies. In the first class we examine the British approach to this immigration. In the immediate postwar period Britain granted the inhabitants of its former colonies, whom it considered British subjects, the right to migrate to Britain and to work and live there. However, in the 1960s, as immigration from South Asia and the Caribbean increased, and as the strength of the desire to perpetuate relationships created during British imperial rule diminished, and for a range of other reasons, the open door was for the most part closed. We explore the dynamics of this process.

In the second and third classes we examine questions arising from the movement of peoples within Europe. The treatment of Polish Jews who emerged from hiding inside Poland, or who survived the war in the Soviet Union and returned to Poland following German defeat, has been the subject of a bitter debate. We read a range of interpretations. The final class in this part of the course takes as its principal text a study of the treatment of children victimized by the war. Tara Zahra’s *The Lost Children. Reconstructing Europe’s Families after World War II* attempts to explain the shifting approaches adopted by states, international agencies, and a range of other groups towards the special circumstances and needs of children who had lost parents and other family members. Since Zahra is influenced by Michel Foucault’s interpretation of the changing treatments of people considered mad, we also read a brief excerpt from Foucault’s work, to permit us to explore further the historiographical framework for Zahra’s study.
The next section of the seminar focuses on the continuing significance of class. Thomas Piketty's *Capitalism in the Twenty-First Century*, published in 2014, analyzes and seeks to explain how and why disparities in wealth and income have risen dramatically since the 1970s, in both the United States and Western Europe. Piketty’s work is based on an examination of data found in income and estate tax returns in leading countries. He also provides historical depth, considering the dimensions of these disparities from the early nineteenth century. After examining Piketty’s study, we turn to the work of the French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu. In Bourdieu’s most influential book, *Distinction*, he argues that income and wealth are only one determinant of class. Bourdieu focuses especially on the distinctive personalities, dispositions, associated with different class positions. He attempts to outline the economic logic of class-linked personality traits, and how these are expressed in tastes in food, sports, and clothing, distinctive gender relations, and attitudes towards study and work.

The third section of the class focuses on what one might describe as the revival of authoritarian forms of rule in Europe since the 1990s. We first examine the last years of the Soviet Union, Vladimir Putin’s rise to power, and the methods Putin has used to rule Russia. We read Svetlana Alexievich’s account of the impact response of late Soviet society to the meltdown at the nuclear reactor at Chernobyl in April 1986, and how this experience arguably changed the Soviet Union. For this book and a separate study about the decade that followed, Alexievich interviewed hundreds of individuals to create a portrait of Soviet society at the moment of its dissolution. Historians increasingly rely on evidence of this kind to permit them to move beyond the limits of officially created documents and other more traditional sources. In the second week of this section of the class we examine several critical accounts of Putin’s regime, by print and media journalists and a political scientist.

After examining Putin’s Russia we turn to Victor Orban and Hungary, and also Poland. While Orban has not, unlike Putin, employed murder and imprisonment as instruments of rule, in other respects one can observe certain parallels. Both Putin and Orban have permitted the existence of a semblance of democratic procedures, including elections and some elements of a free press, while ensuring that they control the most important media outlets and have sufficient control over the government to make it very difficult to challenge their power. In Poland one can also find authoritarian tendencies, but the process has not advanced as far as in Hungary.

In a fourth section the course examines the writings of interpreters of the relationship between Muslim communities in Europe, which have grown significantly in size since the 1960s, and the societies and governments of Europe.

Students who have not studied this period in history are urged to read at least parts of Tony Judt's *Postwar. A History of Europe since 1945* (New York: Penguin Books, 2005). Please note that the first class will start with a discussion of the three assigned texts. Please read these texts before the class.

**Course Materials:**

The following texts should be purchased at the Western bookstore or acquired on-line:


Other texts are available on the course OWL website.

**Methods of Evaluation:**

Two to three page responses to questions in the syllabus regarding the assigned readings, due in the instructor’s mailbox or sent to the instructor as an attachment (in Word) to an email by 1:00 pm on the day before each class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in class discussions</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation to the class:</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two eight to ten page essays on the assigned materials (each 25% of the course grade). The essays are due in class on the day the material is to be discussed. Essays will not be accepted after the end of the class period. If you are unable to meet this deadline, please select a different subject for your essay. Please write at least one of these essays by the end of week seven of the course. Neither of the two essays should focus on the subject on which the student is making a class presentation.</td>
<td>50%</td>
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The response papers will be graded on the extent to which they contain responses to questions found in the syllabus or sent to students on-line for each class, and/or other questions regarding the assigned texts that students themselves pose. You need not answer all the questions posed in the syllabus - in two or three pages there is not enough space. The response papers should demonstrate that students have read the assigned documents and thought about the issues that they raise. There is no need for footnotes.

Students are expected to participate in class discussions. Participation grades will be based on responses to questions posed in class and other contributions that reflect a careful reading of, and reflection regarding, the assigned texts. The quality of the contribution is more important than the number of contributions made in each class. Attendance without participation, or if participation does not reflect a reading of the assigned texts, will be assigned a grade of 40.

In calculating the grades for the responses to the assigned readings and for participation in class discussion, the instructor will exclude the lowest of the grades in each category. This means that if a
student needs to miss one class, this will not be penalized; the grade for this class will be dropped. Further absences will require justification as provided by Western regulations.

Students will be asked to make one class presentation based on the assigned readings, on the day the readings are to be discussed. Students will read drafts of their presentations to the instructor during the week before the presentation is to be made. The instructor will offer suggestions for improvement. Students will be graded entirely on the content of the final presentations, which should last for twenty to twenty-five minutes. Presentations should not be made on the same subject that a student has chosen for the two assigned essays.

Students are expected to attend all classes except when prevented from doing so by illness or other emergency. Please see the Western Policy on Accommodation for Illness (http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf). All accommodations for illness require a request from an Academic Counselor. No accommodations will be granted for late essays, for the reasons provided above.

**Course Schedule and Readings:**
Please note that I have listed the readings for each week in the order in which I suggest that you read them.

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**January 4:** The Legacies of Empire: British Citizenship Policies, Racism, and Immigration to Great Britain, 1945-1970


What attitudes towards Black migrants does Winston James find were most widely prevalent in Britain in the period he examines? What factors led to fluctuations in popular and elite attitudes? How did migrating to Britain, and the experience of living there, change Black Britons?

What factors determined the form taken by British citizenship and immigration policies in the period between 1945 and 1970? Why did the British government, under the leadership of both the Labour and Conservative parties, initially continue to support granting the citizens of all Commonwealth nations the status of British subject, including the right to migrate to Great Britain? Why did official policy change dramatically after 1960?

Is Schofield’s argument, between pages 3 and 8, that Powell’s politics can be distinguished from fascism because they were “grounded in a distinctively English, postwar and *postcolonial* version of
nationalism” convincing? (p. 3) Did Powell’s “belief in the necessity of allegiance to the Crown” mean that his version of nationalism was not fascist? What supposedly “made Powell’s understanding of race . . . Tory in character”? (p. 6) How can one account for Powell’s supposed fear of the “break-up of institutional and social structure of authority of a post-imperial Britain”? (p. 12) What connections does Schofield draw between the experience of the Second World War and postwar antagonism to Black migration to Britain? (pp. 16-23) On what grounds did Powell oppose the British Nationality Act of 1948? (pp. 90-92) How did Powell respond to the decline of the British Empire between 1948 and 1960? (pp. 92-139)

January 11  Polish Jews and other Poles, 1944-1947


Michael Steinlauf, Bondage to the Dead. Poland and the Memory of the Holocaust (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1997), preface, 1-61.


All four authors examine the violence against Polish Jews in Poland in 1945 and 1946, violence that led most of the Jews who had returned to Poland after the defeat of Germany to leave. Are there any facts or interpretations on which the authors agree? What are the most significant differences in the interpretations of these events? Consider the following factors: the role of long-held anti-Semitic sentiments in Polish society; the influence of the German example in making these sentiments even more extreme and depraved, and more generally the brutal experience of German rule; the active part played by some Jews and individuals whose families were Jewish in the Communist administration in those parts of Poland occupied by the Soviet Union between 1939 and 1941, and after 1944 in all of Poland; the civil war that took place between supporters and opponents of the new Communist regime in 1945 and 1946, and the general lawlessness of the period; the murder of much of the Polish elite by Nazi Germany, which deprived the country of a significant part of its spiritual leadership; conflicts over property rights created by the return of Polish Jews whose property had been appropriated by non-Jewish Poles; and the positions taken regarding violence against Jews by leaders of the Catholic Church in Poland.

January 18  Displaced children at the end of the Second World War

Tara Zahra, The Lost Children. Reconstructing Europe’s Families after World War II (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2011), preface (pp. ix-xi), chapter 1 (pp. 24-58), part of chapter 2 (pp. 59-66), chapter 3 (pp. 88-117), chapter 5 (pp. 146-72), chapter 6 (pp. 173-97).
What factors determined the policies of states, international organizations, and medical and social work professionals, to the problems created by the separation of children from families during and after the Second World War? What is Zahra’s thesis? Why does her preface focus on “intensive parenting” in the United States at the start of the twenty-first century when the subject of her book is Europe in the late 1940s (and to some extent the First World War and the interwar period)? What common patterns does Zahra find in the approaches different actors to the wide range of circumstances that led to the separation of children from parents?

What does she believe that psychologists learned about responding to crises that broke families apart in the era of the First World War and the Spanish Civil War that they then attempted to apply to the crisis of lost children following the Second World War? On what grounds does she criticize the theories of this group, represented in this book above all by Anna Freud? What consequences did the psychologists’ views have for decisions made regarding the fates of children separated from parents? What other factors determined the placement of children separated from parents, or for whom parents could not support, according to Zahra? In what respects did children become pawns of larger ideologies and interests?

Michel Foucault, Madness and Civilization. A History of Insanity in the Age of Reason ( ), ix-xii, 241-78.

Zahra’s work is arguably influenced by Michel Foucault. How does Foucault characterize and explain the transformation in how madness was defined, and in how those defined as mad were treated, in the course of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries? Why did the specialists who implemented the changes Foucault describes believe they were making the treatment of the mad far more humane than it had previously been? Why does Foucault consider such claims self-serving and myopic? In what respects might Zahra’s argument owe a debt to Foucault? What are the principal differences between Zahra’s approach and that of Foucault?

What is gained by focusing on the experience of “lost children,” a distinct subgroup of emigrants and immigrants? In what ways does this focus enable Zahra to pose questions different from those of historical studies that examine the experience of less differentiated demographic groups?

Inequality

January 25: The dynamics of economic inequality in postwar Europe


Piketty argues that as long as return on capital (r) exceeds the growth rate of the entire economy (g) inequality of wealth will grow, as long as: 1) more of the return from capital is reinvested than the annual growth rate of the economy, 2) governments do not intervene in economies (for example, through income and estate taxes) to reduce inequality. What is the rationale behind this claim? Why was there a deviation from this pattern in the period between the First World War and the 1950s, according to Piketty? What role was played in the growing inequality in the societies on which Piketty focuses by income inequalities? How does Piketty seek to explain this rise in income inequality? (see
pages 506-7) How does Piketty respond to claims that rising income inequality is a product of the increasingly specialized skills that managers must possess? What role was played by minimum wage laws in explaining the phenomena that Piketty describes?

February 1: The consequences of, and forms taken by, class differences, with an emphasis on postwar France


What are the distinctive characteristics of the disposition, or habitus, as Bourdieu uses the term? What qualities of the habitus interest Bourdieu; what are some of the most significant class-linked characteristics? To what extent does the habitus express an economic logic? Why is the habitus relevant to economic success, that is, perpetuate class distinctions? What are the problems with traditional measures of class, according to Bourdieu? What are the different forms taken by capital, in Bourdieu's account? How does one form of capital become transformed into another?

How does Bourdieu explain what he sees as class-based differences in tastes for food and sports? How does he relate these different tastes, in turn, to different ideals of the body and to class-based conceptions of gender-roles? What roles do distinctions in taste play in the social world Bourdieu describes?

Film: Selections from the *Seven Up* series.

**The Soviet Union, Russia, and Hungary: the Political Culture of Late Soviet Communism, and Authoritarian post-Soviet States**

February 8: The end of the Soviet Union


Alexievich records that a Soviet citizen who was affected by the Chernobyl disaster commented that "everybody became who he really was." (p. 109) What did the experience of Chernobyl reveal about Soviet society? What were this society's principal qualities, as reflected in its response to this disaster? Consider the role of memories of the war, attitudes regarding scientific innovation, the forms taken by solidarity and hierarchy, how the government related to the public, and the roles of widespread inebriation, theft, and lying. And also: how did the experience of Chernobyl change those touched by it?
What are the principal characteristics of post-Soviet society, as the individuals Alexievich interviewed describe it in "Secondhand Time"?

February 15 Vladimir Putin


What have been Vladimir Putin's principal objectives at the different stages in his career? By what methods has he sought to achieve these objectives? What sources have been available to journalists, historians, and other analysts to determine the answers to these questions? What are the principal obstacles to gaining an accurate understanding of Putin and the regime he dominates?

Documentary: Putin's Way

February 22 SPRING READING WEEK - NO CLASS

March 1 Authoritarian Regimes in Central and Eastern Europe: Hungary


Lendvai writes that Orban would not have been able to create his version of authoritarian rule “without the moral bankruptcy of a system mired in corruption and increasingly discredited by political and economic incompetence, crowned by the all too evident failure of the centre-left elite.” (Lendvai, p.52) To what failures and incompetence does Lendvai refer? What methods did Orban use to consolidate power in his own hands? In what respects were these methods similar to those of Vladimir Putin, and in what respects has his approach differed? What forms does corruption take in Orban’s
How can one explain Orban’s sustained attacks on George Soros and the various institutions that he funds? Why have supporters of democracy proven unable more effectively to defend democratic institutions? Why has the European Union also proven powerless significantly to restrain Orban?

March 8: Authoritarian Regimes in Central and Eastern Europe: Poland


Anne Applebaum, “A Warning from Europe: The Worst is Yet to Come,” The Atlantic (October 2018)

How has the Law and Justice Party appealed to Polish voters? What are the principal motives of its leaders? How has it attempted to change laws to protect its hold on power? What methods has it used to weaken the opposition? To what extent are the methods of Law and Justice similar to those of Orban, or of Putin?

Muslim Immigrants in Europe

March 15


Book to be supplied by the instructor.
Cherribi writes on page 196 that “Britain and the Netherlands have served as examples to other European countries in how to accommodate the Muslim communities.” To what government policies and social practices does he refer? How does Cherribi account for these differences in the approaches of different states and societies? What issues does Cherribi describe as the focus of tensions between Muslim communities and the larger host societies?

Samia Labidi describes the influence of the mass media, and especially television, from North African countries on emigrants from Morocco and Algeria and their families. Why does he believe this influence is cause for concern?

How does Mostafa Hilali characterize the responses of Dutch society to him and to his family, as immigrants from Morocco? What is his attitude, and his parents’ attitude, to the Netherlands?

Pargeter seeks to explain the repeated acts of violence against Europeans by members of radical Muslim organizations, or sometimes by individuals acting on their own, largely as continuations of conflicts taking place in the Middle East, North Africa, and elsewhere in the Muslim world, or as a consequence of points of view prevalent in these regions. On which conflicts and attitudes does she focus, and how does she explain their role in creating violence in Europe? What conclusions does she draw for the making of policy?

March 22

The controversial figure of Ayaan Hirsi Ali


**Book to be supplied by the instructor.**


In her memoirs Hirsi Ali seeks to explain her alienation from Islam. The first part, not assigned, focuses on her experiences in Somalia and then as a political refugee in Saudi Arabia and Kenya. These sections of the memoirs describe the violent hatreds between clans in Somalia that provided the fuel for civil war, what Hirsi Ali describes as the repressive treatment of women in Saudi Arabia, and her own feeling of being restricted and controlled by her own family. Hirsi Ali also describes a period in which she herself was attracted to fundamentalist forms of Islam, from which she had begun to distance herself in the period with which the assignment begins. The assigned reading starts with Hirsi Ali’s trip to Germany, on the way to marry the husband chosen for her by her father.

What experiences led Hirsi Ali to become critical of Islam, according to the assigned sections of the memoirs? How does she respond to critics who argue that she ascribes to the entire religion the practices of a minority of its adherents, practices that were the product of local cultures and not of the religion itself? In what respects does the essay by Mineka Bosch call Hirsi Ali’s account into question?
Why, according to Foner and Alba, has the integration of Muslims into the society of the United States taken place with less “contention and conflict” than in West European countries? (p. 22)

March 29

Bassam Tibi, *Distinguishing Islam and Islamism*


On what grounds does Tibi distinguish between Islam and Islamism?

**Additional Statements**

**Accessibility Options:**

You may also wish to contact Accessible Education (formerly known as Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD)) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. See: Accessible Education - Academic Support & Engagement - Western University (uwo.ca)

**Request for Accommodations/Medical Issues**

Students are entitled to their privacy and consequently they do not need to disclose personal information to their course professors. In the event that students feel the need to discuss personal information, they should see the graduate chair. Unlike undergraduate students, graduate students cannot be referred to Social Science Academic Counselling to have their medical or non-medical circumstances evaluated and to receive a recommendation for accommodation. Those facilities are for undergraduates only, and there is no process beyond the department to secure recommendations for accommodation. Our process is that faculty should deal with routine requests for extensions. However, a student’s request for accommodation (on medical, non-medical, compassionate grounds) should go to the graduate chair, Prof. Laurel Shire (lshire@uwo.ca) who will consult and communicate with faculty. Additionally, faculty and students should communicate with the grad chair about any case in which work is not submitted before grades are due. In the event that the graduate chair is also the course professor, then a request for accommodation can be taken to the department chair.

**Copyright**

Lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. You may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, wiki material, and other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without my written consent.
**Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense.

For more information on plagiarism and other scholastic offenses at the graduate level see: [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf)

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com).

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

   You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication and page number. Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

   You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'At above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

   Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently.

   Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject. In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks are necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you,
if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University. If a History graduate course professor suspects course work of possible plagiarism, or if a graduate supervisor suspects a cognate or thesis of possible plagiarism, the faculty member will meet with the student. If the issue is not resolved, the student then meets with the graduate chair to discuss this situation, and so that the student can present or respond to evidence. Afterwards the graduate chair will make a decision about whether misconduct has occurred and any penalties; this will be communicated in writing to the student within 3 weeks. The student may appeal this decision to the ViceProvost (Graduate) within 3 weeks of the issuance of the chair's decision. If the student does not appeal, the ViceProvost will review the case. The ViceProvost may confirm affirm, vary, or overturn the graduate chair's decision or penalty.

Information on the appeals procedures for graduate students can be found here: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsgrad.pdf

Support Services
Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western, http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

As part of a successful graduate student experience at Western, we encourage students to make their health and wellness a priority.

• Western provides several on campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your graduate degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students, as part of their registration, receive membership in Western's Campus Recreation Centre. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. Please check out the Faculty of Music web page http://www.music.uwo.ca/ and our own McIntosh Gallery http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca/

• Information regarding health- and wellness-related services available to students may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/

• Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone they feel comfortable confiding in, such as their faculty supervisor, their program director (graduate chair), or other relevant administrators in their unit. Campus mental health resources may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/resources.html

UWO has many services and programs that support the personal, physical, social, and academic needs of students, in a confidential environment. The Student Development Centre (SDC) has trained staff and an array of services to help students achieve their personal, academic and professional goals. See: Academic Support & Engagement - Western University (uwo.ca)
If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Heidi Van Galen, Administrative Officer, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84963 or e-mail vangalen@uwo.ca.