



The University of Western Ontario

HISTORY 9409B

Europe and The Politics of Power

Winter 2025

Instructor: Prof. Marta Dyczok

Office Hours: Thursday 11:00 – 1:00

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DRAFT SYLLABUS

Course Description:

The lifting of the iron curtain in Europe in 1989-1991 began a new era in the historical enquiry into 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 how historical narratives are constructed, de-constructed, and re-constructed and how this is influenced by ideologies such as imperialism, nationalism, communism, and particularly how they shaped the history of the European continent. Students will be encouraged to explore both theoretical and empirical dimensions of the changing historiography, the new themes and approaches.

Graduate Course Level Learning Outcomes/Objectives

This course encourages students to critically engage in intellectual history from an interdisciplinary perspective and aims to help develop both knowledge and skills. At the end of the course students will:

- Have increased their understanding of the major ideologies which have shaped modern Europe
- Be familiar with the major debates in modern European historiography
- Expanded their views of the power of the historian
- Honed their critical analytical skills in reading, writing, and discussion, including organizing and moderating a seminar
- Challenged their previously held views on what is Europe and how its history has been written

Course Timeline and Format

This in-person seminar course will meet weekly, and the focus will be on participation, discussion and writing. Students are required to attend weekly seminars, participate actively in the seminar discussions based on the readings, and make one seminar presentation during the course, in a format of their choice. There are two writing assignments, a book review and a research paper.

Enrollment Restrictions

Enrollment in this course is restricted to graduate students in History, as well as any student that has obtained special permission to enroll in this course from the course instructor as well as the Graduate Chair (or equivalent) from the student's home program.

Course Materials:

A list of required and recommended readings will be provided for each week, a combination of academic articles, books and media sources. They will all be available online, in the library and/or on the OWL site.

Methods of Evaluation:

Grades will be assigned according to the following breakdown:

Weekly participation	20%
Seminar Presentation	20%
Book Review	15% (due week 4)
Research Paper	45% (due week 10)

Use of Generative AI Tools

All work submitted in this course must be your own.

The use of generative AI tools, such as ChatGPT, is permitted in this course for activities such as brainstorming and refining your ideas, drafting an outline to organize your thoughts, or checking grammar and style. Any use of such tools should be clearly acknowledged and explained. If in doubt, please ask me for clarification.

Course Schedule and Readings:

Week 1. Introduction

(8 January 2025)

Required:

Carr, E. H. 1986. *What Is History?* 2nd. ed. Basingstoke: Macmillan.

Recommended:

MacMillan, Margaret. 2008. *The Uses and Abuses of History* Toronto: Viking Canada

Week 2. What is Europe? Why is this an important question today?

(15 January 2025)

Week 3. Imagining Europe and Russia

(22 January 2025)

Week 4. Empire and Imperialism

(29 January 2025) BOOK REVIEW DUE

Week 5. Empires and Europe: Habsburg, Ottoman, Russian, Soviet

(5 February 2025)

Week 6. Nations and Nationalism

(12 February 2025)

15 – 23 February 2025 Reading Week NO CLASS

Week 7. Nationalism in Europe

(26 February 2025)

Week 8. Democracy, Liberalism, Constitutionalism

(5 March 2025)

Week 9. Socialism and Communism

(12 March 2025)

Week 10. The Politics of History and Memory

(19 March 2025) RESEARCH PAPER DUE

Week 11. The Power of the Historian and Decolonizing History

(26 March 2025)

Week 12. Why Ukraine and not ‘the’ Ukraine?

(2 April 2025)

Additional Statements

Health/Wellness Services:

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health Support at <https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

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

Accessibility Options:

Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program. Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with Accessible Education Western (AEW), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AEW and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction. 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. Francine McKenzie (historygradchair@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.

Academic Offences:

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual Course Outlines similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking 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>).

NOTE: See Policies and Statements on the Graduate section of the History Department Website, https://history.uwo.ca/graduate/program_information/graduate_policies_and_statements.html. This includes additional information on academic support services for health and wellness and gender based sexual violence. You can also find information on other academic policies, including copyright, plagiarism, and accessibility.

Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence:

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca