



**The University of Western Ontario**  
**HISTORY 9409B**  
**Politics and Power in Europe**  
**Winter 2026**

**Instructor: Professor Marta Dyczok**

Office Hours: TBA

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## **DRAFT SYLLABUS**

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### **What This Course is About**

What is Europe? Where are its boundaries? How has this changed over time? Is Russia part of Europe? Why is this a relevant question today as Russia wages war against Ukraine? This course looks at ideas which have shaped modern European history and historical enquiry. It explores the power of ideologies such as imperialism, nationalism, and communism and how they shaped the history of the European continent. The key focus will be on examining how historical narratives were constructed, de-constructed, re-constructed and instrumentalized. Students will be encouraged to explore both theoretical and empirical dimensions of the changing historiography, the new themes and approaches.

### **How This Course is Structured**

This is an in-person seminar course which meets once a week. The focus is on reading, critical analysis, discussion, research, and original presentations in various formats both written and oral. Every week students will be expected to complete the required readings, attend class, and actively participate in the seminar discussion. Each student will lead the seminar discussion once or twice during the term. This will involve preparing a short presentation based on the readings, formulating discussion questions and leading the class discussion. There are two creative assignments in the course: a book review, which is to be prepared in the format of a podcast, and a research essay.

### **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. Please contact Kara Brown, the graduate program coordinator ([kbrow@uwo.ca](mailto:kbrow@uwo.ca)) if you are in a department other than History and would like to enroll in the course.

## What Students Will Learn

This course is designed to increase student knowledge, skills, and link the past to the present in a contemporary way. At the end of this course students will have improved in all these areas:

- The ability to critically evaluate competing historical narratives and sources
- Increased knowledge of the key ideologies which shaped European history from a variety of perspectives,
- Familiarity with both classical works and latest publications, debates
- Understanding the inter-connectedness of national and international histories
- Presentation and discussion skills, including leading and moderating a discussion
- Preparing a book review
- Using technology to present ideas in the form of a podcast
- Expressing themselves clearly and analytically in written and verbal assignments
- Researching and writing an extended analytical research paper

## What Students Need to Do

- Complete the assigned weekly required readings and take individual notes
- Attend the weekly seminar and participate in weekly in-class discussions
- Prepare and deliver a seminar presentation and lead the class discussion
- Select a book for review and prepare it in the format of a podcast
- Write a 6,000 word research essay on a topic of their choice related to the themes of the course

## How Students Will Be Evaluated

Weekly participation	25%
Seminar Presentation	25%
Book Review Podcast	20% (due week 6)
Research Paper	30% (due week 10)

## Course Materials:

A list of required and recommended readings is provided below; there may be some revisions/additions in the final syllabus. All the readings will all be available online or in the library. No purchase of reading materials is required. Additional reading may be suggested during the term.

# Course Schedule and Readings

## Week 1. Introduction

(8 January 2026)

### **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

Putin, Vladimir. 2021. "On the Historical Unity of Russians and Ukrainians." July 12. President of Russia Website. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/66181>

## Week 2. What is Europe? The debates

(15 January 2026)

### **Required:**

Davies, Norman. 2006. *Europe East and West*. London: Jonathan Cape. Prologue, Chapters 1, 2, 3

Ostrowski MS. 2023. "Europeanism: A Historical View." *Contemporary European History*. 32(2):287-304. doi:10.1017/S0960777321000485

Pagden, Anthony. 2002. "Introduction," "Europe: Conceptualizing a Continent," in Anthony Pagden. *The Idea of Europe: from antiquity to the European Union*. Woodrow Wilson Center Press and Cambridge University Press

Pocock, J. G. A. 1997. What Do We Mean by Europe? *The Wilson Quarterly*, Vol. 21 (No. 1, Winter), pp. 12-29.

### **Recommended:**

Fornäs, Johan. 2017. *Europe Faces Europe. Narratives from Its Eastern Half*. intellect Bristol, UK / Chicago, USA. <https://www.intellectbooks.com/europe-faces-europe>

Moravcsic, Andrew. 2017. "Europe Is Still a Superpower. And it's going to remain one for decades to come." *Foreign Policy*, April 13. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2017/04/13/europe-is-still-a-superpower/>

Rupnick, Jaques. 1990. "Central Europe or Mitteleuropa?" in *Daedalus. Special Issue: Eastern Europe... Central Europe... Europe*, 119(1): 249-278 (on-line)

Wolff, Larry. 1994. *Inventing Eastern Europe. The Map of Civilization in the Mind of the Enlightenment* (Stanford, California: Stanford University Press) Introduction (on-line)

## Week 3. Europe and Russia

(22 January 2026)

### Required:

Casier, Tom. 2013. "The European Union and Russia: Partners by Default?" Chapter 6 in Cierco, Teresa (ed.) *The European Union Neighbourhood: Challenges and Opportunities*, Taylor & Francis Group, 2013. ProQuest Ebook Central, <http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/west/detail.action?docID=1139935>. DOI <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315558516>

Giles, Keir. 2024. *Who Will Defend Europe? An Awakened Russia and a Sleeping Continent*, C. Hurst and Company (Publishers) Limited, ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/west/detail.action?docID=31743860>

Kimmage, Michael. 2025. "Putin Has Lost Something Worse Than a War." *The New York Times*. 24 June. [https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/24/opinion/putin-trump-nato-russia.html?unlocked\\_article\\_code=1.Rk8.-EMV.PIHFXRDVItI\\_&smid](https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/24/opinion/putin-trump-nato-russia.html?unlocked_article_code=1.Rk8.-EMV.PIHFXRDVItI_&smid)

Neumann, Iver B. 2017. *Russia and the idea of Europe: a study in identity and international relations*. 2nd. ed. New York and Oxford: Routledge., Chapters 1, 3, 8, on-line

Tolz, Vera. 2008. "European, National, and (Anti-) Imperial. The Formation of Academic Oriental Studies in Late Tsarist and Early Soviet Russia," in *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History* 9(1): 53-81

### Recommended:

Harding, Luke. 2020. *Shadow State: Murder, Mayhem, and Russia's Remaking of the West*. (New York: Harper Collins)

Blum, Alain. 2008. "Circulation, Transfers, Isolation," in *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History* 9(1): 231-242

## Week 4. Ukraine: The Gates of Europe

(29 January 2026)

### Required:

Plokhyy, Serhii. 2015. *The gates of Europe: a history of Ukraine*. New York, NY: Basic Books.

### Recommended:

Dyczok, Marta. 2024. *Ukraine not 'the' Ukraine*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. <https://www.cambridge.org/core/elements/abs/ukraine-not-the-ukraine/1A0CC1D8913162C5A65763614CCC39E1#element>

## **Week 5. Reframing the Chronology and Geography of Europe**

(5 February 2026)

### **Required:**

Snyder, Timothy. 2010. *Bloodlands: Europe between Hitler and Stalin*. (New York, New York: Basic Books)

### **Recommended:**

TBA

## **Week 6. Empire, Imperialism and Europe**

(12 February 2026) **BOOK REVIEW DUE**

### **Required:**

Barkey, Karen and Mark von Hagen. 1997. "Conclusion," in Barkey, Karen and Mark von Hagen eds. *After empire: multiethnic societies and nation-building: the Soviet Union and Russian, Ottoman, and Habsburg Empires* Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press. 181-189

Davies, Norman. 2006. *Europe East and West* London: Jonathan Cape. Chapter 7, Overseas and Overland

Hobson, J. A. 1975. *Imperialism. A Study*. New York: Gordon Press.

Hopkins, A. G. 2000. "Overseas Expansion, Imperialism and Empire, 1815-1914," in *The Oxford Short History of Europe. The Nineteenth Century*, T. C. W. Blanning ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press: 210-240 on-line

Motyl, Alexander J. 2001. *Imperial ends: the decay, collapse, and revival of empires* Columbia University Press, Introduction and Conclusion

Tilly, Charles. 1997. "How Empires End," in Barkey, Karen and Mark von Hagen eds. *After empire: multiethnic societies and nation-building: the Soviet Union and Russian, Ottoman, and Habsburg Empires* Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press: 1-11

### **Recommended:**

Barkey, Karen and Mark von Hagen eds. 1997. *After empire: multiethnic societies and nation-building: the Soviet Union and Russian, Ottoman, and Habsburg Empires* Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press: Chapters 4-7, 9-11

Doyle, Michael W. 1986. *Empires* Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press

**J. A. Hobson and Imperialism – A New Talking Empire Podcast.**

<https://imperialglobalexeter.com/2016/04/20/j-a-hobson-and-imperialism-a-new-talking-empire-podcast/#:~:text=Although%20Hobson%20himself%20was%20not,Lenin.>

Hobsbawm, E. J. 1997. "The End of Empires," in Barkey, Karen and Mark von Hagen eds. *After empire: multiethnic societies and nation-building: the Soviet Union and Russian, Ottoman, and Habsburg Empires* Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press: 12 -16

King, Richard H. and Dan Stone eds. 2007. *Hannah Arendt and the uses of history: imperialism, nation, race, and genocide*. New York: Berghahn Books

Mazower, Mark. 2008. *Hitler's empire: how the Nazis ruled Europe* New York: Penguin Press

## 14-22 February 2026 READING WEEK – NO CLASS

### Week 7. To Run the World

(26 February 2026)

#### **Required:**

Sergey Radchenko. 2024. *To Run the World: The Kremlin's Cold War Bid for Global Power*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Robert Jervis International Security Studies Forum. Roundtable Review 16-44. 23 June 2025 | PDF: <https://issforum.org/to/jrt16-44> | Website: [rjissf.org](http://rjissf.org) | Twitter: @HDiplo

#### **Recommended:**

TBA

### Week 8: Reaction: Decolonization. Postcolonialism. Ambicoloniality.

(5 March 2026)

#### **Required:**

Biedarieva, Svitlana. 2024. *Ambicoloniality and War. The Ukrainian-Russian Case*. Palgrave, Macmillan. Switzerland: Springer.

Fanon, Frantz (1963 [1961]). *The Wretched of the Earth*. Translated by Constance Farrington. Grove Press: New York.

Mignolo, Walter D. 2023. "It Is a Change of Era, No Longer the Era of Changes." *Postcolonial Politics*. 29 January. Available online at: <https://postcolonialpolitics.org/it-is-a-change-of-era-no-longer-the-era-of-changes/>

Tlostanova, Madina. 2019. "The Postcolonial Condition, the Decolonial Option and the Post-Socialist Intervention." In *Postcolonialism Cross-Examined: Multidirectional Perspectives on Imperial and Colonial Pasts and the New Colonial Present*. Edited by Monika Albrecht, 165–178. Routledge: London and New York.

#### **Recommended:**

TBA

## **Week 9. Nations, Nationalism, and Eastern Europe**

(12 March 2026)

### **Required:**

Renan, Ernest. 1996. 'What is a Nation?' in Geoff Eley and Ronald G. Suny, eds., *Becoming National. A Reader* New York, Oxford: Oxford University Press: 41-55

Smith, Anthony D. 'Nations and their Pasts'; Gellner, Ernst, 'Do nations have navels?' <http://gellnerpage.tripod.com/Warwick.html>, [The Warwick Debates]

And ONE of:

Anderson, Benedict. 1983. *Imagined communities: Reflections on the origin and spread of nationalism*. (London: Verso) [you can also read: Desai, Radhika 2008. "The inadvertence of Benedict Anderson A review essay of Imagined Communities on the occasion of a new edition," *Global Media and Communication* 4(2): 183–200 (Beyna, John,)]

Gellner, Ernest. 1983. *Nations and Nationalism* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press) (Marsha, Nate ,TJ

Hobsbawm, Eric. 1992. *Nations and nationalism since 1780: Programme, myth, reality* 2nd ed. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press

Smith, Anthony D. 1983. *Theories of nationalism* 2nd ed. London: Duckworth

Tamir, Yael. 2019. *Why Nationalism*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press

### **Recommended:**

Auer, Stefan. 2004. *Liberal Nationalism in Central Europe*. London; New York: Routledge. Chapter 1: 1-30

Martin, Terry. 2000. 'Modernization or Neo-Traditionalism? Ascribed nationality and Soviet primordialism', in Fitzpatrick, Sheila (ed.), *Stalinism: New Directions*. New York 2000. pp. 348-369

Plokhyy, Serhii. 2008. "Empire or Nation?" in *Ukraine and Russia: Representations of the Past*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2008

Saunders, David B. 1982. 'Historians and Concepts of Nationality in Early Nineteenth-Century Russia', *The Slavonic and East European Review*, 60(1):. 44-62.

Wandycz, Piotr S. 1992. "Historiography of the Countries of Eastern Europe: Poland," *American Historical Review*, 97(4): 1011-1025.

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

(19 March 2026) RESEARCH PAPER DUE

### **Required:**

White, Stephen. 2001. *Communism and its collapse*. London; New York: Routledge

### **Recommended:**

- Applebaum, Anne. 2012. *Iron Curtain: The Crushing of Eastern Europe, 1944-1956*. New York, Doubleday. Introduction
- Djilas, Milovan. 1963. *The new class: an analysis of the communist system* New York: Praeger
- Hoffmann, David L. 2000. "European Modernity and Soviet Socialism," in David L. Hoffmann and Yanni Kotsonis, eds. *Russian modernity: politics, knowledge, practices* Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire: Macmillan; New York: St. Martin's Press. Chapter 10
- Pipes, Richard. 2003. *Communism: a history* New York: Modern Library
- Sandle, Mark. 2006. *Communism*. Harlow, England; New York: Pearson Longman
- Service, Robert. 2007. *Comrades! a history of world communism* Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press
- Suny, Ronald Grigor, ed. 2006. *The Cambridge history of Russia*. v. 3. The twentieth century New York: Cambridge University Press
- Wolchik, Sharon L. and Jane Leftwich Curry, eds. 2015. *Central and East European Politics from Communism to Democracy* 3rd ed. Lanham, Boulder, New York & London: Rowman & Littlefield, Introduction
- Yurchak, Alexei. 2006. *Everything was forever, until it was no more: the last Soviet generation* Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, Chapter 1

## **Week 11. The Politics of History and Memory**

(26 March 2026)

### **Required:**

- Bernhard, Michael H. and Jan Kubik eds. 2014. *Twenty Years After Communism: The Politics of Memory and Commemoration*. Oxford University Press, 2014. Introduction
- Dyczok, Marta. 2015-2016. "History, Memory, and Media," *Harvard Ukrainian Studies* 34 (1-4): 431-446.
- Mark, James. 2010. *The Unfinished Revolution: Making Sense of The Communist Past In Central-Eastern Europe*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Introduction
- "Russia Slams Former Soviet Republics for 'Distorted' School History Textbooks." 2025. *Moscow Times*. 25 June. <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2025/06/25/russia-slams-former-soviet-republics-for-distorted-school-history-textbooks-a89570>
- Soroka George. 2017. "Combative Pasts: The Politics of History in Postcommunist Europe," *New Eastern Europe* 1.XXV: 108-115.  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/312054739\\_Combative\\_Pasts\\_The\\_Politics\\_of\\_History\\_in\\_Postcommunist\\_Europe](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/312054739_Combative_Pasts_The_Politics_of_History_in_Postcommunist_Europe)
- Törnquist-Plewa, Barbara and Yuliya Yurchuk. 2017. "Memory politics in contemporary Ukraine: Reflections from the postcolonial perspective," *Memory Studies* 12(6) <https://doi.org/10.1177/1750698017727806>

### **Recommended:**

JOINT INTERIM OPINION ON THE LAW OF UKRAINE ON THE CONDEMNATION OF THE COMMUNIST AND NATIONAL SOCIALIST (NAZI) REGIMES AND PROHIBITION OF



PROPAGANDA OF THEIR SYMBOLS, Adopted by the Venice Commission at its 105th Plenary Session Venice (18-19 December 2015),  
[https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-AD\(2015\)041-e](https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-AD(2015)041-e)

The Economist. 2018. "Poland's new law on death camps is divisive. That's the point," 10 February. <https://www.economist.com/news/europe/21736546-ruling-law-and-justice-party-wants-rewrite-history-so-poles-were-only-victims-never>

Pop-Eleches, Grigore. 2007. "Historical Legacies and Post-Communist Regime Change," *The Journal of Politics* 69(4): 908–926

Pridham, Geoffrey. 2014. "Post-Communist Democratizations and Historical Legacy Problems," *Central Europe* 12(1): 82-98

Wilford, Greg. 2017. "Ukraine has removed all 1,320 statues of Lenin," *The Independent*, 20 August <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/lenin-statues-removed-soviet-union-russia-crimea-ukraine-bolshevik-communist-petro-poroshenko-a7903611.html>

## **Week 12. The Power of the Historian**

(2 April 2026)

### **Required:**

Plokyh, Serhii. 2005. *Unmaking Imperial Russia. Mykhailo Hrushevsky and the Writing of Ukrainian History*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. Part I, Nation and Empire (online – e-book)

Serbyn, Roman. 2009. "Lemkin on Genocide of Nations," *Journal of International Criminal Justice*, 7(1) (March): 123–130, <https://doi-org.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/10.1093/jicj/mqp002>

Snyder, Timothy. 2015. "Integration and Disintegration: Europe, Ukraine, and the World," *Slavic Review* 74 (4): 695-707

Zayarnyuk, Andriy. 2022. Historians As Enablers? Historiography, Imperialism, and the Legitimization of Russian Aggression. *East/West: Journal of Ukrainian Studies*. 9(2): 191–212. <https://browzine.com/libraries/654/journals/107082/issues/484370263>

### **Recommended:**

TBA

## **Additional Statements**

### **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.

### **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](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](mailto: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](http://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 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> ).

## **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](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](mailto:support@uwo.ca)

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](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 on other academic policies, including copyright, plagiarism, and accessibility.