

**HISTORY 9409B**  
**Politics and Power in Europe**  
**Fall 2026**

**DRAFT SYLLABUS**

**Instructor: Professor Marta Dyczok**

Office Hours: TBA

Department of History, Office: Lawson Hall 2246 Email: [mdyczok@uwo.ca](mailto:mdyczok@uwo.ca)

Wednesdays 12:30 – 2:30 LWH 2270C

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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, colonized, de-colonized 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 may 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 should 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

(9 September 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

(16 September 2026)

### **Required:**

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

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

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

Triandafyllidou, Anna and Ruby Gropas. 2023. 2nd ed. *What is Europe?* (London: Routledge). Chapter 1. DOI: 10.4324/9781003278375

### **Recommended:**

Bauman, Zygmunt. 2004. *Europe: an unfinished adventure*. (Cambridge; Malden, MA: Polity)

Duroselle, Jean-Baptiste. 2023. *Europe: the history of a continent*. (London: Michael Joseph)

Glendinning, Simon. 2021. *Europe: A Philosophical History, Part 2. Beyond Modernity*. (London: Routledge) DOI <https://doi-org.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/10.4324/9780429507427>

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/>

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

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

(23 September 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

**30 September 2026 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation  
NO CLASS**

## **Week 4. Ukraine: The Gates of Europe**

(7 October 2026)

### **Required:**

Plokhy, 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**

(21 October 2026)

### **Required:**

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

### **Recommended:**

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

(28 October 2026) **BOOK REVIEW DUE**

### **Required:**

von Hagen, M. (2014). From Imperial Russia to Colonial Ukraine. In: Healy, R., Lago, E.D. (eds) *The Shadow of Colonialism on Europe's Modern Past*. Cambridge Imperial and Post-Colonial Studies Series. Palgrave Macmillan, London. [https://doi.org/10.1057/9781137450753\\_11](https://doi.org/10.1057/9781137450753_11)

Editors: Róisín Healy (Lecturer in History), Enrico Dal Lago (Lecturer in History) *The Shadow of Colonialism on Europe's Modern Past*. 2014. <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1057/9781137450753>

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

## **10 – 18 October 2026 Fall Reading Week NO CLASS**

### **Week 7. To Run the World**

(4 November 2026)

**Required:**

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

**Recommended:**

Oksamytna, K. (2023). Imperialism, supremacy, and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. *Contemporary Security Policy*, 44(4), 497–512.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13523260.2023.2259661>

Zaporozhchenko, R. (2024). The End of “Putin’s Empire?” Ontological Problems of Russian Imperialism in the Context of the War against Ukraine, 2022. *Problems of Post-Communism*, 71(2), 119–130.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10758216.2022.2158873>

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

## **Week 8: Reaction: Decolonization. Postcolonialism. Ambicoloniality.** (11 November 2026)

### **Required:**

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

### **Recommended:**

Chernetsky, Vitaly. “Postcolonialism, Russia and Ukraine.” *Ulbandus Review*, vol. 7, 2003, pp. 32–62. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25748122>. Accessed 2 Jan. 2026.

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

Hendl, T., Burlyuk, O., O’Sullivan, M., & Arystanbek, A. (2024). (En)Countering epistemic imperialism: A critique of “Westsplaining” and coloniality in dominant debates on Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. *Contemporary Security Policy*, 45(2), 171–209. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13523260.2023.2288468>

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.

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

(18 November 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**

(25 November 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**

(2 December 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 Past: 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**

(9 December 2026)

### **Required:**

Kuzio, Taras. 2020. Crisis in Russian studies? Nationalism (imperialism), racism and war. E-internationalrelations. e-ir.info

Plokhyy, Serhii. 2005. *Unmaking Imperial Russia. Mykhailo Hrushevsky and the Writing of Ukrainian History*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. Part I, Nation and Empire (on-line – 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:**

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