

**History 1403G 650
Europe Since 1918
Summer 2026**

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Office Hours: **Wednesdays 10:30-11:30 am or by appointment.**

This is a **draft** outline. Please see the course site on OWL Brightspace for a final version.

Course Description:

History 1403G introduces students to the history of modern Europe in the Twentieth Century. The twentieth century in this course analyzes the cataclysms of the First World War looking at the Russian Revolution, ideological extremism, scientific advances, and the “road to war” and its aftermath. The 1930s discuss the rise of the Nazi period as well as Stalinism and Fascism more generally. Finally, there is the rise and fall of Soviet communism, as well as the post-1945 era more generally resulting in the formation of the European Union, the Common Market, and continuing tensions with Russia (especially over Ukraine). The course concludes with the rise of new nationalism and extreme politics in Western, Central and Eastern Europe as exemplified in current events.

Antirequisite: Old History 1401E.

Course Syllabus

For the long version of the Syllabus see under ‘Syllabus’ on the course OWL site. Consult also ‘What to do when in History 1403G, 2026’, posted in Announcements (also) and the ‘Long Outline’. What to do when lets you know how to co-ordinate the site materials. You will see for each week the readings, discussions and discussion questions for forum postings. You will see that the Assignments are discussed (and you can read the instructions for each Assignment by clicking on the tab next to each Assignment--see left column under Assignments.

The ‘Long Outline’ will help with navigating the OWL site. ‘What to do when’ is a guide to the speed and expectations of an online course. You will see these three documents together here: consult them frequently.

Methods of Evaluation

Forums and weekly postings, 40%

Discussion Paper on a novel, 1850-1950, 20%

Final examination, take-home, 40%

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Timing of assignments:

Students will be provided at least 15% of their final mark by the **July 4, 2026** deadline, as per Wester University's 15% policy. That will be an evaluation of Forum postings to that date at the “halfway point”.

Forums and Postings are weekly: 40% (a brief how-to): first, everything is under Resources: Course Units for lecture materials; goals and objectives for what we're doing; “Unit 1, 2, etc” for the questions and related materials; Course readings (see below) for what to read; and, then, to the Forum tab to add your answers.

Once you have read the materials under “Course Units” you will want to look at the “Forums” which accompany each of the “Course Units”. By doing the reading of the lecture material and textbook readings (each found in every “Course Unit”, you may then answer the questions in the weekly postings. For the first two weeks, I will be a bit relaxed on postings. As long as you read things through you will get the drift.

So: In order, 1) Read the “Course Unit”, this contains a word file (lecture material) and a .ppt file, containing images and topical information; then consult the readings under course readings—see below for these; 2) read the text materials; 3) answer the question for weekly posting in that week’s “Forum”. The Forum questions are posted by Unit under Resources—these are the questions you will answer. Participation grades are worth 40% of the course. Your grade is based on your forum postings. At the beginning of the 4th posting I will release an entirely provisional grade, at the same time as the Discussion Paper is graded, so that you can see how you’re doing. It sounds complicated, but it’s not. It does take a few hours of poking around in it to see exactly what has to be read in what order.

Aim for 150 words at least per week, minimally. Read other people’s postings (I can see if you have done this) and respond. A conversation is an excellent way for us to increase our learning in the course. Responses should, of course, be civil.

Discussion Paper, 20%: Due July 12, 2026, is on a novel 1890-1950. Full details on OWL under Resources under the Assignment tab. Please consult with the instructor if you propose to do a non-British, non-English work—that permission is essential. You will be provided with an alternative set of novels. For preference you should be able to read the novel in its original language (the point of the exercise) that would be great. But there is a limit to the Instructor’s ability to read in a foreign language (French, German, Swedish, even Italian and Spanish are fine; Russian, too difficult, similarly Polish, Ukrainian, etc.)

Final Examination, TBA (date), worth 40%: 2 essay questions worth 20% each. You will have 48 hrs. to complete the examination and it **MUST** be handed in through the Assignment tab (that will open when the examination begins), with materials checked by Turnitin. I will provide 3 questions of which 1 will appear on the examination. You should prepare to answer all 3 of the questions. You may also work with other students in the course in preparing your materials, but you may **NOT** write together. Content will be compared from each examination using Turnitin. More or this very soon.

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There will be another special topic question which will be discussed towards week 5 and 6 of the course, worth 20% of the 40%:

1. Discuss the relationship of Russia and the rest of Europe since 1990 with specific reference to new “values” by Putin which he claims to be non-European (e.g. liberal democracy).
2. Discuss the religious and cultural accommodation given immigrants to the European Union since 2002 with specific reference to contemporary news sources.

In both questions additional documents will be provided under Resources.

Make-up tests, midterms, and exams can only be approved by Academic Advising. Please see https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for department procedures and requirements involving make-up tests and exams.

Absences and Late Assignments:

Unless there is accommodation gained from the Academic Advising in your home faculty papers and essays will not be graded if submitted more than 7 days late. A late penalty of 2% per day will be given.

Social Science Academic Advising on [Absence & Academic Consideration](#), the university’s policies on [Academic Consideration for Medical Illness](#), and the Department of History’s own [Undergraduate Policies and Statements](#)).

Course-specific conditions:

Students must complete all course assignments in order to pass the course. You must achieve 50% on the final examination to pass. A minimum of 6 (six) postings is required in the Forums.

Course Materials:

All aspects of the OWL site are explained in detail in the long ‘Syllabus’ posted online. These include Resources, Discussions, Readings, and Assignments.

The textbooks are available in the Bookstore at Western, these are already ordered and it's the fastest way to get them:

1. Palmer, Kramer, Colton: *History of Europe in the Modern World*, 2012 McGraw-Hill, 11th edition (Preferred) (180 lease, or purchase, \$81.50)
2. Perry, *Sources of the Western Tradition*, 9th Edition (Preferred), Wadsworth Cengage (\$76.95)

Discussion forums: questions are under Goals and Objectives; Lecture Notes (ppt) are under Lecture Notes; readings are found in the long outline and under readings. Both are posted under Syllabus.

Course Schedule and Readings:

See Readings for 1403G in Syllabus on our Brightspace site.

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Additional Statements

Communication policies:

I will hold virtual office hours as scheduled during the course in conjunction with special lectures. All lectures should be considered asynchronous and will be recorded on zoom and posted in Announcements. You may email me at any time during the course. I will respond twice a day to emails with the exception July 1-3. I will always respond within 24 hours.

Classroom behavior: respectful rules of etiquette apply, with courtesy in all exchanges.

Use of generative artificial intelligence (AI):

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.

Please review the Department of History's shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at: https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.