

Course Title:           **EUROPEAN CONTEMPORARY HISTORY**

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**Mandatory literature:**

BELL P.H.M., "Twentieth Century Europe"  
FISCHER Conan, "Europe between Democracy and Dictatorship,  
1900-1945"  
HITCHCOCK William, "The Struggle for Europe, 1945-2000"

*Further literature will be made available on the course website*

**Assessment:**

The final grade is composed of the following two elements:

1. (60%) Oral exam
2. (40%) Choice between:
  - a) presentation in class (20min.) + group paper (5000 words)
  - b) written exam (*date to be fixed*)

**Lectures:**

September 23<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, 11-13.15h

Introduction  
Explanations on course organization  
Periodization of Contemporary History

September 29<sup>th</sup>, Monday, 11-13.15h

**Legacies of the XIX<sup>th</sup> Century:** Liberalism - Nationalism - Socialism  
Imperialism: the European Alliance System - the Arms Race - Pre-War  
conflicts  
FISCHER, pp. 7-40

September 30<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, 11-13.15h

**World War I:** the Antagonists - Reasons for the outbreak of War - A  
new kind of War - War Aims - War Propaganda - The Course of War -  
the Spirit of the Trenches - Home Fronts - Peace Initiatives  
FISCHER, pp. 40-69

October 6<sup>th</sup>, Monday, 11-13.15h

**Peacemaking:** the Russian Revolutions – Lenin vs. Wilson – Brest-Litovsk – the Armistice – the German Problem – the Wars of the Afterwar  
FISCHER, pp. 69-90

October 7<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, 11-13.15h

**Versailles:** the Negotiations – the Treaties – Interpretations – Ethnic Minorities – the League of Nations – Revisionism  
BINKLEY – Ten years of Peace Conference History  
FLEURY – The League of Nations

October 13<sup>th</sup>, Monday, 11-13.15h

**Weimar 1919-1929:** an ambiguous Constitution – Attempts for a Coup d’Etat – Ruhr Crisis – Democracy without Democrats – Treacherous Consolidation – International Rehabilitation – Economic Crisis  
KOLB, pp. 3-86

October 14<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, 11-13.15h

**The Nazi’s Rise to Power:** Bankruptcy of Democracy – Von Papen ad Schleicher – Enabling Act – Hitler’s Consolidation – The Nazi System

October 20<sup>th</sup>, Monday, 11-13.15h

**Soviet Union 1917-1936:** the Civil War – the NEP – Revolutionary Russia in International Relations – Stalin – Industrialization – Repression and Politics  
LOVELL, pp. 1-77

October 21<sup>st</sup>, Tuesday, 11-13.15h

**Totalitarianisms:** Fascist Italy – European Fascist Movements: France and GB – The Spanish Civil War – Franchism and Fascism  
PASSMORE, pp. 50-87  
FISCHER, pp. 199-234

October 27<sup>th</sup>, Monday, 11-13.15h

**Totalitarianisms:** Stalin’s Personal Cult – the Great Purges – the Comintern – Popular Fronts  
ARCH GETTY, pp. 38-57  
KEEP/LITVIN, pp. 101-121  
HASLAM – The Comintern and the Origins of the Popular Front

October 28<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, 11-13.15h

**Appeasement:** Rappallo – Locarno – Disarmament – British Reasons – French Reasons – Rhineland and Ethiopia – Anschluss – the Munich Illusion  
FISCHER, pp. 143-208; 234-286  
HENIG, pp. 11-43

FINALDI – Mussolini's War in Ethiopia

November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Monday, 11-13.15h

**Towards World War II:** German Expansionism – the Nazi-Soviet Surprise Alliance - War on Poland - War in the North and the West - Battle of England  
FISCHER, pp. 278-309

November 4<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, 11-13.15h

**World War II:** War Aims and Strategies – Attack on Russia: War of Annihilation - the Allies - Unconditional Surrender  
FISCHER, pp. 278-327  
KIMBALL – The Grand Alliance 1941-1945

November 10<sup>th</sup>, Monday, 11-13.15h

**Holocaust:** Anti-Semitism in Europe – the Nazi Ideology – Nuremberg Laws - Jewish Emigration – from Deportation to Shoah  
FISCHER, pp. 322-327  
ENGEL – The Holocaust

November 11<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, 11-13.15h

**Post-War:** War Criminals – the Iron Curtain – Capitalism vs. Communism – the German Problem – Truman and Marshall – Berlin Blockade  
HITCHCOCK, pp. 13-98

November 17<sup>th</sup>, Monday, 11-13.15h

**Post-War:** European Democracies: France, Italy, Britain, West-Germany – Decolonization  
HITCHCOCK, pp. 98-162

November 18<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, 11-13.15h

**Cold War 1947-1962:** Corea – Indochina – Stalin's Death - NATO and Warsaw Pact – Détente - De-Stalinization – the East European Revolt – Hungary – the Berlin Wall Crisis – Missiles in Cuba  
HITCHCOCK, 193-221

November 24<sup>th</sup>, Monday, 11-13.15h

**Cold War 1963-1989:** USA and the Vietnam trauma – the 68 Movement – European Integration – from De Gaulle to Thatcher – the Wall comes down  
HITCHCOCK, pp. 247-347

November 25<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, 11-13.15h

*Student's Presentations*

December 1<sup>st</sup>, Monday, 11-13.15h  
*Student's Presentations*

December 2<sup>nd</sup>, Tuesday, 11-13.15h  
*Student's Presentations*

**Topics for Student's Presentations + Group Papers:**

- 1) Reasons for the Outbreak of World War I (1914)
- 2) The Russian Revolution(s) (1917)
- 3) The Treaty of Versailles (1919)
- 4) Eastern Europe: Nation and Revolution in Conflict (1919-1921)
- 5) The USSR from Lenin to Stalin (1924)
- 6) Italy from Liberal to Fascist Government (1922-25)
- 7) Germany: The Crisis of the Weimar Republic (1929-33)
- 8) Appeasement: Pros and Cons (1935-1938)
- 9) Spanish Civil War: The Politics of Non-Intervention (1936-39)
- 10) WWII: from European to Global War (1939-41)
- 11) The "Big-3" Conferences (1943-45)
- 12) Who pushed for the Cold War? (1947/48)
- 13) The Founding of Two Germanys (1949)
- 14) ECSC and EDC: Reasons for Success and Failure (1950-54)
- 15) France in Decolonization Crisis (1954)
- 16) Budapest and Suez: Re-shaping the Cold War Order (1956)
- 17) Nuclear High Noon: The Cuban Missile Crisis (1962)
- 18) Emergence of Post-Materialism: The Student Movements (1968)

(Groups have to be composed of min. 3, max. 4 students; additional topics will be assigned by the instructor in case the number of students opting for presentation + paper exceeds a total of 64)

**Exams:**

The following exam dates for the oral exam have been communicated by the LUISS Political Science Department:

Written Exam (optional):

Oral Exam:

Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup> 2014, from 14h on

Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> 2015, from 14h on

Friday, February 11<sup>th</sup> 2015, from 14h on