Europe from World War II to the Present

790EUC2t

5 ECTS

7/9/2016-19/10/2016

MoWe 2.15-3.45 PM PR sl 6 (Main building, Fabianinkatu 33, 3rd floor, lecture room 6)

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Dagen H (H day, September 3, 1967), when Sweden switched from left to right-hand traffic (Hoegertrafik) at 5.00 am.

www.ohoswedish.net
Course Description

This course covers the period from the end of the Second World War to the 2000s. Emphasis is upon the political and economic recovery of Western Europe, the way in which Europe became divided during the Cold War, the nature of the regimes in Eastern Europe, efforts at European cooperation and integration, European modernization, changes in society and culture as well as the problems that arose from the division of Europe as a result of great power rivalries. Consideration will be given to the reasons for the division of Europe and the causes for the end of this division at the turn of the 1990s, and its aftermath. On the 1990s and 2000s special attention will be given to the deepening and the enlargement of the European Union, conflicts in the ex-Yugoslavia, development of relations with Russia and new forms of nationalism, politics of identity, and disputes over memory and historical interpretations.

Coursework

The coursework consists of:

- classes: lectures, weekly reading on average 75 pages (articles, book chapters), small class assignments and active participation in discussion. Smaller assignments (3 response papers, 3 observations papers) will be compiled into a course portfolio of no more than 2,500 words (40% of the grade)

- one 2,500 word essay selected from a list of topics provided by the instructor, utilizing course reading and other materials, at minimum 5 references (40% of the grade)

- one 1,500 word essay utilizing a work of art, novel, film or other artistic expressions, discussing a selected feature of European post-WWII history (20% of the grade)

Guidelines for the course portfolio will be provided in the beginning of the course.

You can choose the topic for the 2,500 word essay from a list of general topics provided in the beginning of the course. You are welcome to refine the topics and establish the focus of your essay independently. The readings for the classes can be used as main sources. However, in addition to that you should identify and use further references, such as articles, books chapters etc. depending on the final focus of the essay. Scheduling information and other guidelines will be provided in the beginning of the course.

For the 1,500 word essay you can use as starting points and references examples provided by the instructor. However, there is no limit to what kinds of materials can be used to illustrate particular features of Europe’s postwar history: they can be artistic expressions, visual images, music, film, poems and other works of fiction or popular culture, or commemorative acts and physical objects.
Course programme

Weekly themes, readings and assignments. Check the course pages on Moodle for further information.

All coursework are to be submitted by the assigned deadline on Moodle. Readings and other materials can be found on Moodle as well.

First part: Recovery and division

1. **7.9. Introduction: Overview of Europe in the 20th century.** What does Europe mean in the context of 20th century history: geographically, culturally, politically or economically? How has the history of Europe’s twentieth century been written? Historians’ debates about the ‘age of extremes’, ‘short twentieth century’, ‘Europe’s civil war’, ‘barbarism and civilization’, ‘age of catastrophe’, ‘European project’ and the ‘golden decades’. What events and processes have been used to divide the century into historical periods? Are there blind spots in the historical understanding of 20th century Europe? What is meant by a teleological understanding of Europe’s history? Legacy of WWII and the beginning of post-war. How did the world war and the preceding crises shape Europe and impact on the life of Europeans in the aftermath of the war?
   - Readings: no readings in the first week.
   - Assignment: short observation paper (I): The presence of postwar history in present day European media: search and identify an example and discuss it briefly, due **Wednesday 14th September**

2. **12.9. & 14.9. Recovery from total war and the failure of the postwar great power settlement.** Europe’s recovery and coping with the legacy of the Age of Catastrophe. Postwar retributions and justice. Silence and forgetting. How did recovery take place in different sectors of society? War and genocide as an enduring trauma. Collectivization and the establishment of the people’s democracies in the Soviet sphere of influence. The continuing of the war as civil wars or political violence in various parts of Europe: Yugoslavia, Greece, Baltic States, Spain. The failure of the postwar great power settlement and the beginning of the Cold War. 1940s crises and bloc building. Birth of NATO and the Warsaw Pact. Consolidation and institutionalization of Europe’s divisions. Europe as a site of geopolitical competition. Postwar social, political and economic reforms. From wartime consensus to postwar consensus in the West. State intervention, social democratic visions of protection and social conservatism. The realization of plans to build welfare states in various forms.
   - Readings: Mazower 215-251; Buchanan 51–74.
   - Assignment: short response paper (I) addressing an instructor’s question due on **Monday 19th September**
   - Assignment: 1.500 word essay: possible topics, references and writing guidelines, the essay will be due on **Monday 3rd October**

- Readings: Eichengreen 86-130; Buchanan 186-204.
- Assignment: Short observation paper (II): TBC, due Monday 26th September

**Second Part: Remaking Europe in the 1960s-1970s**


- Readings: Stone 124-158; Ross 1-70.
- Assignment: short response paper (II) on instructor’s questions due on Wednesday 5th October.
- Assignment: second 2.500 word essay, due on Friday 21st October


- Deadline for 1.500 word essays 3rd October.
- Assignments: short response paper (III) due on Monday 10th October
Third part. Diversity and unity in contemporary Europe


- **Assignments:** short observation paper (III), TBC, due Monday 17th October.

7. **17.10. & 19.10. Integration, diversity and nationalism in the new Europe.** Disintegration of Yugoslavia and the wars of Yugoslavia's succession in the 1990s. Transition from socialism towards market economy and democracy in the 1990s. EU and NATO enlargement. EU and post-Soviet Russia. Migration, multiculturalism and its discontents. Neo-nationalism in Europe. Radical right populism and the making of Europe's illiberal democracies. The struggle over the political shape of Europe. Europe of nations and states vs. postnational Europe and supranational governance. Violent political extremism, geopolitical threats and Europe’s place in the world in the 2010s. Post-Cold War contours of the transatlantic alliance. Europeans and their recent past. The role of memory, commemoration and coping with the past. Memory wars and European collective identities. The discussion about a European identity. A community of Europeans?

- **Reading:** Berend 222–285; Stone 714–731;
- **Deadline for second essays 21st October.**

Reading list (for classes)


