

FALL SEMESTER 2021

SSC 303 Political History of Modern Europe

COURSE INFORMATION

- Instructor: Alice Martini
- Email: amartini@calstate.edu
- Office Hours: **online by appointment only**
- Class Schedule: **Monday: 9:00 - 11:45 am**
- Class Location: Florence Study Center, via G. Leopardi 12, Aula 2
- Credits: 3 CSU Units

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course aims at providing the instruments for understanding and interpreting the cultural, political, economic, and social history of Europe from early 19th century until World War II. Lessons will start analyzing the spread of liberalism and democratic ideals, the birth of socialism, the evolution of reactionary, conservative and authoritarian ideologies and movements. They will go on focusing on the social and economic crisis between the end of 19th and the begin of 20th centuries that led to World War I. The following dissolution of the Austrian, Russian and Ottoman Empires, and their aftermaths on the international relations will be dealt with, as well. The Communist revolution in Russia together with the crisis of liberal regimes in Europe and the seizure of power in Italy and in Germany by Fascism and Nazism will be dealt with particular attention. The last part of the course will focus on World War II, the Resistance movements, the rebirth of democracy in Western Europe, the Communist seizure of power in Central and Eastern Europe.

CSU GE CATEGORY

D5 C1, C2 or C elective

REQUIRED BOOKS AND READINGS

- Asa Briggs & Patricia Clavin, *Modern Europe 1789-Present* (Pearson 2003).
- Movies or documentaries, readings and files shared in class or uploaded in Canvas for each week are course's components.

Additional readings and web resources may be given during the semester.

COURSE METHODS

Presentation (introduction of new topics and issues in context), description of the main political events in connection with their causes and consequences, contextualization of political ideas and discover of tools to interpret events autonomously. Teaching method may

incorporate presentations to make the study of the most important themes visually clearer for students.

GENERAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS

You are responsible for the weekly readings, the information given to you in class or on Canvas. Part of your grade will be determined by regular attendance, participation in class discussions and active engagement in all activities of this course.

Make sure to check your Canvas account on a regular basis for updates and additional information.

CLASS SITE VISITS

Florence American Cemetery and Memorial in Falciani (Florence) TO BE CONFIRMED

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course students will be able:

1. To list and describe the main features of political history of modern Europe between 1799 and 1945
2. Classify political events according to their ideological family
3. Construct a timeline with political and diplomatic events between 1799 and 1945.
4. Write a summary about the most relevant eras of European history between 1799 and 1945.
5. Present personal research about one selected topic.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- At the end of the semester students will be able to identify the main political changes in the history of Europe between 1800 and 1945
- They will be able to give presentations about topics of European history
- When given a time span, they will be able to identify the major events of the European context.

GRADES / EXAMS

Your grade will be determined by the following assignments:

- 60% for two (2) questionnaires (30% each) to be done in class at fixed dates
- 25% for 1 presentation
- 15% for active class participation

* More than one unexcused absence may lower your grade.

** Dates of exams cannot be changed to adjust to students' needs.

FINAL EXAM

The final exam will take place between **December 13-16**. The exact day and time to be announced.

Written exam format: the exam will include all issues dealt with in class during the course.

IMPORTANT: you must attend the final exam as scheduled. Please check your academic calendar before making any personal plans that could interfere with your exam.

GRADING SCALE

A	100-94	Student performance has been outstanding and indicates an exceptional degree of academic achievement in meeting learning outcomes and course requirements
A-	93-90	
B+	89-87	
B	86-84	Student performance has been at a high level and indicates solid academic achievement in meeting learning outcomes and course requirements
B-	83-80	
C+	79-77	
C	76-74	Student performance has been adequate and indicates satisfactory academic achievement in meeting learning outcomes and course requirements
C-	73-70	
D+	69-67	
D	66-64	Student performance has been less than adequate and indicates deficiencies in meeting the learning outcomes and/or course requirements
D-	63-60	
F	59-0	Student performance has been unacceptable and indicates a failure to meet the learning outcomes and/or course requirements

IMPORTANT:

- Failure to complete all work assigned in the course could result in failure of the class.
- Specific information about each required assignment (presentation, in-class exams) will be given to you during the semester.

CLASS CODE OF CONDUCT

Activities unrelated to the course (including private conversations, emailing, text messaging, reading, web surfing, etc.) are not permitted during class time. Please turn off or put all electronic devices on silent mode prior to the beginning of the class.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED

Any form of plagiarism or cheating may result in a failing final grade in the course and might be reported to IP and your campus. You are better off spending your time studying for the class. If you have questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty, please refer to the student handbook and catalog of your campus or ask the CSU Office of International Programs for more information.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Upon identifying yourself to the instructor and the university, students with disabilities will receive reasonable accommodation for learning and evaluations. For more information, contact the Resident Director or the CSU Office of International Programs.

COPYRIGHT AND PRIVACY LAWS

No portion of the texts, films, videos, and other material used in this course can be reproduced in any format including scanning, electronic downloading or sharing of files.

In addition, no portion of class lectures, discussions, and activities can be reproduced and used any format, including electronic, without the written consent of the instructor and/or guest speakers.

CHANGES

Information contained in this syllabus, including the class calendar, other than that mandated by the University, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance to CSU courses is mandatory. One unexcused absence is allowed during the semester but more than one unexcused absence will lower your grade as follows (excused absences will be accepted for serious medical reasons or emergencies): **TWO** unexcused absences, lowers by 1.5 letter grades (i.e., B to C-); **THREE** unexcused absences, lowers by 3 letter grades (i.e., A to D). More than **THREE unexcused absences could result in failure of the course**. (see Grading – attendance and active participation count for up to 15% of your final grade).

In order not to disrupt the class, punctuality is required. Students are expected to be in class, at the beginning of the class hour; any delay exceeding ten minutes will be considered an absence. During the academic year, material will be distributed by email or through Canvas by the instructor. Students who have not attended class are responsible for getting the material from their classmates or from Canvas. All assigned homework should be completed prior to the class.

Missing the final exam could mean failure of the course.

Incomplete assignment will be allowed only for serious emergencies and must be completed within the new date set together with the instructor.

CLASSROOM SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE)

Week One: September 20

- Outlook of the course
- Europe after the French Revolution: the Napoleonic Era

Week Two: September 27

- The Congress of Wien, Liberal revolutions and democratic movements in Europe in the first half of 19th century
- Socialism and the Communist manifesto (1848)

Week Three: October 4

- The 1848 revolutions and the Italian unification (1861)

Week Four: October 11

- Europe in the second half of the 19th century

Week Five: October 18

- The First World War in Europe

Week Six: October 25

- MID TERM EXAM: in class test (*details to be announced*): 60 minutes. Revision of the test: 20 minutes
- Video

Week Seven: November 1

- *NO CLASS: ALL SAINTS' DAY (ITALIAN HOLIDAY)*

Week Eight: November 8

- The Russian Revolution (1917)
- The peace treaties of Paris (1919 -1922)
- The fragile Europe (1920-1936)

Week Nine: November 15

- Fascist Italy (1922 – 1939)
- Consequences of the great crisis in Europe (1929)

Week Ten: November 22

- Nazi Germany
- International balance in the '30s and the "appeasement"

Week Eleven: November 29

- The Second World War in Europe (1939-1945)
- Students' presentations

Week Twelve: December 6

- Site visit: Florence American Cemetery and Memorial in Falciani (TO BE CONFIRMED)

Week Thirteen: December 13-16 (TBA)

- FINAL TERM EXAM: in class test (*details to be announced*): 60 minutes. Revision of the test: 20 minutes (**exact day and time to be announced**)
- Students' presentations (if necessary)
- The beginning of the Cold War