**HSTEU 276 – POSTWAR: EUROPEAN HISTORY AND FILM AFTER 1945**

Winter 2019 Prof. Bailkin

M, W 10:30-12:20 Smith 218D; 543-5790

MGH 241 bailkin@uw.edu

Prof. Bailkin’s office hours: Wednesdays, 12:30-1:30, or by appointment

TA: Emma Hinchliffe (emmarh@uw.edu); Smith 204, 543-8921

Emma’s office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:00-10:00

Section AA: Fridays, 8:30-9:20 (MGH 082A)

Section AB: Fridays, 9:30-10:20 (Denny 213)

Section AC: Fridays, 12:30-1:20 (PAB B164)

Canvas website: <https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1256306>

How did Europeans attempt to come to terms with the aftermath and legacy of the Second World War? As they sought to rebuild their cities, laws, empires, economies, and social relations in the wake of the war, the place of Europe in the world seemed ever more fragile. In this course, we will explore efforts to reconstruct Europe and European identity after 1945, as well as assessing the successes and failures of these efforts. We will address the themes of poverty and affluence, postwar justice, Americanization, the expansion and collapse of communism, decolonization, migration, and ongoing ethnic tensions that threatened new forms of warfare.

Throughout this tumultuous period, film offered a powerful way for Europeans to rethink their identity. We will focus on films that illustrate how Europe tried to memorialize (and forget) the wartime past, and what arguments Europeans made about how they might build a new future. The course thus provides students with an opportunity to explore the historical uses of film, and to sharpen their skills of visual analysis, along with an overview of key themes in post-1945 European history.

**Course Requirements:**

1. Lectures

The lectures provide an introduction to the political, intellectual, social, and cultural context for the weekly readings. We will have a regular film component for this course (all films will be screened during the lecture), and students will have the opportunity to discuss and write about these films as part of their coursework.

1. Readings and Discussion

Readings are listed in the weekly schedule. They will be the basis for discussion during your sections. You are always expected to be in class on time, to bring the assigned readings to class with you, and to respond thoughtfully to the texts and comments of your peers.

1. Paper (7-8 pages; 12-point font, double-spaced)

You will have a choice from a list of paper topics, which will be based on the readings and films for this class. You are encouraged to meet with me and your TA about your papers.

Late papers will be penalized .2 for each day. Papers more than three days late may not receive any written comments. Extensions will be granted only in cases of a documented medical problem or a verifiable family emergency.

1. Exams

The midterm and final exams will cover material from the lectures and readings.

\*\*\*you must take both exams and turn in the paper to pass the course\*\*\*

**Grading:**

Participation ........................................................ 20%

Midterm (Monday, February 4th).........................20%

Paper (due Wednesday, February 20th)…….........30%

Final Exam (Monday, March 18th) ……..…….... 30%

**Required Texts (in order of assignment):**

The books for HSTEU 276 are available for purchase at the University Bookstore. I have also placed copies of each book on reserve at Odegaard Undergraduate Library. You will also need to purchase a course reader, which is available at Rams Copy Center (4144 University Way N.E.). These readings are indicated as (CR) in the syllabus.

Primo Levi, *The Reawakening* (Touchstone)

Frantz Fanon, *A Dying Colonialism* (Grove)

Slavenka Drakulic, *Café Europa: My Life After Communism* (Penguin)

**LECTURE AND ASSIGNMENTS SCHEDULE:**

Week 1: Living the War: Soldiers and Civilians

 LECTURES: January 7 and 9

 •FILM: *Triumph of the Will* (D: Leni Riefenstahl, 1935)

 •FILM: *London Can Take It* (D: Humphrey Jennings, 1940)

 •DISCUSSION (January 11): Tony Judt, “The Past is Another Country” (CR); Winston Churchill, “Sinews of Peace” (CR)

Week 2: Postwar Justice? Reconstruction and its Limits

 LECTURES: January 14 and 16

 •FILM: *Germany Year Zero* (D: Roberto Rossellini, 1948)

 •FILM: *The Sorrow and the Pity* (D: Marcel Ophüls, 1969)

 •DISCUSSION (January 18): Primo Levi, *The Reawakening*

Week 3: Warfare/Welfare

 LECTURES: January 23 (NO CLASS ON JANUARY 21st – MLK DAY)

 •FILM: *One, Two, Three* (D: Billy Wilder, 1961)

 •DISCUSSION (January 25): Beveridge Reader (CR); Alva Myrdal, *Nation and Family* (CR)

Week 4: The Ends of Empire?

 LECTURES: January 28 and 30

 •FILM: *Battle of Algiers* (D: Gillo Pontecorvo, 1965)

 •DISCUSSION (February 1): Fanon, *A Dying Colonialism*; Jane Kramer, “*Les Pieds Noirs*” (CR)

Week 5: 1956 and 1968: Revolutions East and West

 \*\*\*MIDTERM: February 4\*\*\*

 LECTURE: February 6

 •FILM: *Hard Day’s Night* (D: Richard Lester, 1964)

•FILM: The *Up* Series (D: Michael Apted, 1964, etc.)

 •DISCUSSION (February 8): *Beneath the Paving Stones* (CR)

Week 6: Troubles on the Right and Left

 LECTURES: February 11 and 13

 •FILM: *Some Mother’s Son* (D: Terry George, 1996)

 •DISCUSSION (February 15): Bobby Sands, *Writings from Prison* (CR)

Week 7: 1989 and After: The Wall in Our Minds

 LECTURES: February 20 (NO CLASS ON FEBRUARY 18th – PRESIDENTS’ DAY)

 •FILM: *The Berlin Wall* (1962)

 •FILM: *Goodbye, Lenin* (D: Wolfgang Becker, 2003)

 •DISCUSSION (February 22): Slavenka Drakulic, *Café Europa: Life After Communism*

\*\*\*PAPER DUE WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20th IN CLASS (by 10:30 a.m.)\*\*\*

Week 8: Who is European? Guests and Aliens

LECTURES: February 25 and 27

 •FILM: *Dirty Pretty Things* (D: Stephen Frears, 2002)

 •DISCUSSION (February 29): Hanif Kureishi, “London and Karachi” (CR); Ian Buruma, “Letter from Amsterdam” (CR)

Week 9: Wartime Divisions Revisited: The Break-Up of the Former Yugoslavia

 LECTURE: March 4 and 6

 •FILM: *No Man’s Land* (D: Danis Tanovic, 2001)

 •DISCUSSION (March 8): Thomas Friedman, “Was Kosovo World War III?” (CR); Margaret Thatcher, “New Threats for Old” (CR); Brexit readings (links TBA)

Week 10: Are We Really “Post” War?

 LECTURES: March 11 and 13

 •FILM: *Inglourious Basterds* (D: Quentin Tarentino, 2009)

 •DISCUSSION (March 15): Mircea Cărtărescu, “Europe Has the Shape of My Brain” (CR)

\*\*\*FINAL EXAM ON MONDAY, MARCH 18TH FROM 8:30-10:20 a.m.\*\*\*