**HSTEU 274 - SEEING THE TWENTIETH CENTURY: EUROPEAN HISTORY AND FILM FROM THE 1890S TO THE PRESENT**

Autumn 2019 Prof. Jordanna Bailkin (she/her/hers)

TTH, 10:30-12:20 543-7342

Raitt 121 [bailkin@uw.edu](mailto:bailkin@uw.edu)

Prof. Bailkin’s office hours (Smith 218D): Tuesdays, 12:30-1:30 or by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Adrian Kane-Galbraith ([akane14@uw.edu](mailto:akane14@uw.edu))

Office hours (Smith 103C): Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30, or by appointment

Section AA: Fridays, 830-9:20, ARC G070

Section AB: Fridays, 9:30-10:20, PAA A212

Section AC: Fridays, 11:30-12:20, DEN 112

Course website: <https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1321269>

The twentieth century, as the historian Eric Hobsbawm has said, was an “age of extremes.” This course serves as an introduction to this turbulent age, exploring themes in European history from the 1890s to the 1990s. We will survey the histories of world war, the rise and fall of fascism and communism, postwar migrations, the Cold War and decolonization, and the making of the European Community.

Our discussions will be unified by our focus on the social and political function of film in the specific context of 20th-century Europe. This course is intended to provide an opportunity for students to explore the diverse historical uses of film – and to sharpen their own skills of visual analysis – along with an overview of major themes in 20th-century European history. Through our explorations of key moments in the recent European past, we will consider broader questions of citizenship and identity in modern political life.

**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 in sections and must be completed before the Friday meetings. Active participation in section is a major component of this class. On the first day of class, I will distribute discussion questions for the quarter. These questions are intended to help you focus your thoughts for the sections, but you are encouraged to bring your own questions to class as well.

Your section leader will go over expectations for discussion in more detail during your first Friday meeting, but 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 (1 7-8 page paper; 12-point font, double-spaced; 1-inch margins)

You will have a choice from a list of paper topics, which will be based on the readings for this class and will not require additional research. You are encouraged to meet with your section leader and professor about your papers.

Late papers will be penalized .2 for each day. Papers more than three days late will be penalized one full grade point and 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 turn in the paper and take both exams in order to pass the course\*\*\*

**Grading:**

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

Midterm (Tuesday, October 15th)...................................... 20%

Paper (due Monday, November 25th)………………………. 35%

Final Exam (Monday, December 10th) ..…........................ 25%

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

There is no required textbook for this course. The books for HSTEU 274 are available for purchase at the University Bookstore. I have also placed copies of each book on reserve at Odegaard Undergraduate Library. You will 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.

Robert Graves, *Goodbye to All That* (Penguin)

Art Spiegelman, *Maus II: And Here My Troubles Began* (Pantheon)

Heda Kovaly, *Under a Cruel Star* (Holmes and Meier)

Frantz Fanon, *A Dying Colonialism* (Grove)

**LECTURE, DISCUSSION, AND ASSIGNMENTS SCHEDULE**:

**Week 1: Crises of the Century**

LECTURE: September 26

FILM: George Méliès, *Untamable Whiskers* (1904) and *One-Man Band* (1900)

DISCUSSION (September 27): King Leopold II, “The Sacred Mission of Civilization,”

(CR); Edmund D. Morel, “Property and Trade versus Forced Production” (CR)

**Week 2: The Great War**

LECTURES: October 1 and 3

FILM: *Grand Illusion* (D: Jean Renoir, 1937)

DISCUSSION (October 4): Graves, *Goodbye to All That*; Jünger, *Storm of Steel* (CR)

**Week 3: Russian Revolutions**

LECTURES: October 8 and 10

FILM: *Ten Days That Shook the World* (D: Sergei Eisenstein, 1928)

DISCUSSION (October 11): Litveiko, “In 1917” (CR); Kollontai, “Communism and

the Family” and “Prostitution” (CR)

**Week 4: Fascist Experiments: The Hungry ‘30s**

\*\*\*MIDTERM: October 15\*\*\*

LECTURE: October 17

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

DISCUSSION (October 18): Stalin, “The Policy of Eliminating the Kulaks as a Class,”

“Results of the First Five-Year Plan” and “Dizzy with Success”(CR)

**Week 5: World War II and Modern Holocausts**

LECTURES: October 22 and 24

FILMS: *Olympia* (D: Leni Riefenstahl, 1938); *Shoah* (D: Claude Lanzmann, 1985)

DISCUSSION (October 25): Spiegelman, *Maus II*

**Week 6: Postwar Memories**

LECTURES: October 29 and 31

FILM: *The Nasty Girl* (D: Michael Verhoeven, 1990)

DISCUSSION (November 1): Kovaly, *Under a Cruel Star*

**Week 7: The Americanization of Europe**

LECTURES: November 5 and 7

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

DISCUSSION (November 8): Kuisel, “Yankee Go Home” and “The American

Challenge” (CR); Poiger, “Rock‘N’Roll” (CR)

**Week 8:** **The Retreat from Empire**

LECTURE: November 12 and 14

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

DISCUSSION (November 15): Fanon, *A Dying Colonialism*

**Week 9:** **Countercultures and Revolutions – 1968 and 1989**

LECTURES: November 19 and 21

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

DISCUSSION (November 22): Garton Ash, “The Magic Lantern” (CR)

\*\*\*PAPER DUE ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25th\*\*\*

\*\*NO CLASS ON NOVEMBER 26 or 28 – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!! \*\*

**Week 10: Conclusion – Guests and Aliens**

LECTURES: December 3 and 5

FILM: *La Haine/Hate* (D: Mathieu Kassovitz, 1996)

DISCUSSION (December 6): Hanif Kureishi, “London and Karachi” (CR)

\*\*\* FINAL EXAM: MONDAY, DECEMBER 9th, 10:30 a.m.-12:20 p.m.\*\*\*