

SYLLABUS
SSC 303, Political History of Modern Europe
PROF. PAOLO NELLO
Spring Semester, 2010/2011

The class will meet: Monday 17.30-18.50
 Wednesday 17.30-18.50

Office hours: before (by appointment) and after class.
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THE AIM OF THE CLASS:

The course aims at providing the necessary instruments for understanding and interpreting the process of cultural, political, economic and social modernization of Europe from the end of the 18th century up until World War II. The issues dealt with include: the spread of liberalism and democratic ideals; the birth of socialism; the evolution of reactionary, conservative and authoritarian ideologies and movements; and the growth of a social and later political Catholic movement. Particular attention is paid also to the political unification of Italy and Germany, and the dissolution of the Austrian, Russian and Ottoman Empires during or after World War I. The course will analyze the Communist revolution in Russia, the crisis of liberal democracy in Europe, the Fascist conquest of power in Italy and Germany, and its impact on the European international relations. The last part of the course will deal with: World War II; the Resistance movements; the rebirth of democracy in Western Europe and the Communist conquest of power in Central and Eastern Europe.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) One mid-term test and a final exam. Each will consist of a single essay to write in class.
- 2) Active participation in the class and regular readings of assigned texts. Roll will be called at all classes.

N.B.

- 1) **Lectures are in Italian**
- 2) **Exams and readings are in English, but students who wish are encouraged to use Italian and this will count in favour of the final grade**

Mid-term and final exams only on the dates fixed for the class.

EVALUATIONS:

35% for the mid-term, 35% for the final exam and 30% for active participation in class.

ORGANIZATION BY TOPIC

- 1) The effects of the French Revolution and Napoleon on Europe. Europe at the time of the Congress of Vienna and Restoration.

2) Liberal revolutions and democratic riots in Europe in the first half of the 19th century. The *Manifesto of the Communist Party* by Marx and Engels (1848). The British Empire.

3) The Unification of Italy (1861) and Germany (1871). The spread of anarchism and socialism in Europe. The Paris Commune (1871).

4) The attitude of the Roman Catholic Church towards modernity (*Syllabus*, 1864). The encyclical, *Rerum Novarum*, of Leo XIII and the growth of a social Catholic movement. Christian Democracy.

5) The European international relations in the age of imperialism and colonialism up until World War I. The new enemies of the liberal state: authoritarian nationalism and national populism. Different political regimes in Europe. Reformists and radicals in the socialist movement.

6) The First World War, Lenin's revolution, the dissolution of the Austrian, German, Russian and Ottoman Empires, the birth of new states, and postwar European instability.

7) Mussolini conquers power in Italy (1922). Hitler comes to power in Germany (1933). Stalin's dictatorship in the Soviet Union. Authoritarian regimes in Europe. Britain and France.

8) The Great Depression. Fascists and National Socialists offer their corporatism as the third way between capitalism and Communism. European international relations and Mussolini's wars (Ethiopia, 1935-1936, and Spain, 1936-1939). Popular Fronts in France and Spain; anti-Fascism and Communism, and *For Whom the Bell Tolls* by Hemingway.

9) Dying for Danzig? Hitler's expansionism towards Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Poland (1938-1939). The Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact and the "strange" alliance between Hitler and Stalin at the beginning of World War II. Mussolini's intervention in World War II (1940). The German invasion of the Soviet Union (1941). Pearl Harbour (1941). The Axis and Japan's military crisis between 1942 and 1943.

10) The Resistance movements in Europe, the fall of Mussolini, the victory of the Allies and the Soviet Union. Europe divided in two, the difficult peace, and the beginning of the Cold War.

EXAMINATION SCHEDULE:

a) Mid-term examination: April 6, 17.30-18.50;

b) Final Examination: May 23 - May 26 (day and time to be announced).

TEXTBOOK:

James Joll, *Europe since 1870. An International History*, Penguin Books.

Other readings will be assigned during class.

General CSU Attendance Policy 2010/2011
(for classes that meet twice a week)

Attendance to all CSU courses is mandatory. Two unexcused absences are allowed during the semester but more than two unexcused absences will lower your grade (excused absences will be accepted for serious medical reasons or emergencies) as follows: 3 unexcused absences, lowers one letter grade; 4 unexcused absences, lowers two letter grades; 5 unexcused absences, lowers 3 letter grades. More than **five unexcused absences will result in failure of the course.**

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.

Dates of mid-term and final exams **can not** be changed for individual travel plans or personal needs. Students should take note of the dates and hours of the midterm and final exams and plan their trips after the last exam. It is important to inform friends and relatives about these exam dates so that no tickets are purchased for you that will interfere with these exam dates. Missing the midterm or the final exam will mean failure of the course.

During the academic year photocopies and other material may be distributed in class by the instructors. Students who were not in class are responsible for getting the material from their classmates and making their own photocopies.

Other class policies:

Use of the computer in class is restricted to oral presentations, unless previously approved by the professor.

Eating is NOT allowed in class.

Cellular phones must be **turned off** or placed on *silent mode* during class.