History 1053: After Catastrophe: Europe Since 1945  
Spring 2019  
Tues./Thurs. 1:30-2:45 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. Brandon Bloch  
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Office Hours: TBD

Course Description:

This course surveys European politics and culture from the end of the Second World War to the present. We explore how Europeans rebuilt their societies after the devastation of total war, and how the legacies of war and genocide have shaped European politics and identities in the decades since. Topics include postwar U.S. and Soviet occupations; the Cold War; labor and consumption in communist and capitalist societies; the rise of feminist, environmental, and anti-colonial movements; immigration; memory cultures; and European unification. Lectures and readings provide historical context for understanding contemporary debates surrounding populism, ethnic diversity, and economic disparities in Europe.

Course Books:

The following books are available for purchase at the COOP and placed on reserve at Lamont Library:


Available online through the Hollis Catalog and placed on reserve at Lamont Library:


Course Requirements:

This is an introductory lecture course, meaning that no prior knowledge about European history or experience with college-level history courses is expected. The goal of the course is not only to familiarize you with the narrative of postwar European history, but to introduce you to the ways in which historians work with primary sources and build arguments about the past. Discussion sections and writing assignments will give you the opportunity to analyze original documents as
well as competing interpretations that have been offered by historians. You will be encouraged to develop your own ideas about the themes under discussion, and may well find that you reach new insights on topics presented in lectures, or even different conclusions.

The breakdown for grading is as follows:

1. Section participation (including 4 response papers): 20%
2. Three essays (5 pp. each): 40%
3. In-class midterm exam: 10%
4. Final exam: 30%

Attendance at weekly section meetings is a required component of the course. If you must miss section due to a documented medical or family emergency, please notify your TF as far in advance as possible. Four times during the semester, you will be expected to post a response paper (approximately 300-500 words) to the Canvas site on that week’s reading. Response papers should submitted at least 24 hours before your section meeting. At least one response paper is due during the first two weeks of section, so that you have a chance to practice historical writing before submitting the first essay. Response papers should not simply summarize the week’s readings, but should offer a question, comment, or point of criticism to help motivate class discussion. They may focus on only one aspect of the readings.

The major writing assignments are three essays of approximately five pages doubled-spaced. A list of possible questions to address in the essays will be distributed at least week before each is due. (For the second essay, due on April 1, a list of questions will be distributed before spring break.) No additional research beyond the course readings is expected. The first and third essay assignments will ask you to draw on selected readings from the course, including primary sources, in order to make a broader argument about postwar European history. For the second essay, you will analyze an artistic source in historical context: either George Perec’s novel *Things*, or Jaromil Jireš's film *The Joke*. We will discuss strategies for writing a paper for a history class in lectures and section meetings before the first essay is due.

An in-class midterm exam of one hour will take place on March 5, covering material from the first five weeks of the course. The exam will consist of short-answer/identification questions and one essay.

A final exam of three hours will take place during finals period. Short-answer/identification questions will cover only material since the midterm. Two essay questions will address the wider themes of the course, and you will be expected to draw on lectures and readings from the entire semester in your responses.

**Collaboration Policy:**

The exchange of ideas is essential to academic scholarship. You may find it useful to discuss your approach to assignments with your peers. You are encouraged to study for exams together. *You must, however, ensure that any written work you submit for evaluation is the result of your own thinking and writing and that it reflects your own insights and interpretations. You must*
also adhere to standard citation practices in the discipline of history and properly cite any books, articles, websites, lectures, and/or conversations with classmates (or anyone else) that have helped you with your work. If you received any help with your writing (feedback on drafts, etc), you must also acknowledge this assistance.

We will discuss expectations for citing sources in your written work before the first essay is due. If you have questions about how to properly cite a particular source, or whether a citation is required in a certain instance, please see the instructor or your TF before the essay is due. There is no penalty for checking prior to the deadline, and we will let you know if you need to adjust your writing or citation practices in order to avoid unacknowledged appropriation of a source.

Students enrolled in this course are expected to abide by the Harvard College Honor Code:

Members of the Harvard College community commit themselves to producing academic work of integrity – that is, work that adheres to the scholarly and intellectual standards of accurate attribution of sources, appropriate collection and use of data, and transparent acknowledgement of the contribution of others to their ideas, discoveries, interpretations, and conclusions. Cheating on exams or problem sets, plagiarizing or misrepresenting the ideas or language of someone else as one’s own, falsifying data, or any other instance of academic dishonesty violates the standards of our community, as well as the standards of the wider world of learning and affairs.

Further information about Harvard's policies on academic integrity is available in the Harvard College Handbook for Students. Any suspected case of plagiarism will be reported to the Harvard College Administrative Board.

Students with Disabilities:

Students needing academic adjustments or accommodations because of a documented disability must present their Faculty Letter from the Accessible Education Office (AEO) and speak with the instructor by the end of the second week of the term. Failure to do so may result in the Course Head's inability to respond in a timely manner. All discussions will remain confidential, although instructors are invited to contact AEO to discuss appropriate implementation.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings:
[Readings marked with an *asterisk are available on the Canvas site.]

Tues. Jan. 29 (Lecture 1): Introduction

Thurs. Jan. 31 (Lecture 2): Background: World War II and the Endkampf

Readings:
❖ Kaplan, The Collaborator, pp. 1-91
Tues. Feb. 5 (Lecture 3): 1945 as Year Zero? Partisans, Punishment, and Postwar Legacies

Thurs. Feb. 7 (Lecture 4): Origins of the Cold War

Readings:
  - Robert H. Jackson, "Opening Address for the United States," November 21, 1945
  - Hartley Shawcross, "Opening Address for the United Kingdom," December 4, 1945
- "Directive to the Commander in Chief of the U.S. Occupation Forces (JCS 1067)" (April 1945), excerpt in "German History in Documents and Images"

*first meetings of sections will take place on Feb. 7-8*

Tues. Feb. 12 (Lecture 5): "Stalinization" of Eastern Europe

*Questions for Essay 1 distributed in lecture*


Readings:

Tues. Feb. 19 (Lecture 7): *Wirtschaftswunder*: Economic Sources of Western Recovery

*Essay 1 due Wed., Feb. 20 at 5 p.m.
[Grades will be made available online by Mon. Feb. 25, before the Add/Drop deadline.]*

Thurs. Feb. 21 (Lecture 8): Consumption and "Normalization" in the West
Readings:

Sources in "German History in Documents and Images" (http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/):

- "Renate Mayntz on What Motivates Women to Pursue a Career" (1955) [GHDI 8/17/3]
- "Press Statement by Maria Weber, Main Department 'Women in the DGB,' on the Working Woman and the Social Situation of the Family" (August 30, 1960) [GHDI 8/17/7]
- "The Foreign Workers and Us," Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (June 3, 1961) [GHDI 8/17/8]
- "Emil Schäfer on the Person and Tasks of the Federal Minister of Family Affairs" (1953) [GHDI 8/19/7]
- "The Illegitimate Children of Members of the Occupying Forces in the Federal Republic and in West Berlin" [GHDI 8/19/10]
- Heinz Kluth, "The ‘Hooligans’ – Legend or Reality?" (1956) [GHDI 8/21/4]
- Adolf Busemann, "Barbarization and Brutalization" (1956) [GHDI 8/21/5]
- Pastoral Sermon by Cardinal Frings against Die Sünderin (1951) [GHDI 8/23/5]
- Ludwig Erhard, Prosperity for All (1957) [GHDI 8/25/3]


- Adam Tooze, "Reassessing the Moral Economy of Post-war Reconstruction: The Terms of the West German Settlement in 1952," Past and Present (2011), Supplement 6

Tues Feb. 26 (Lecture 9): Politics of Decolonization

Thurs. Feb. 28 (Lecture 10): Wars of Decolonization

Readings:

- Simone de Beauvoir and Gisele Halimi, Djamila Boupacha: the story of the torture of a young Algerian girl which shocked French liberal opinion, trans. Peter Green (Macmillan, 1962), selections

Tues. March 5 (Lecture 11): In-class Midterm Exam (1 hour)

Thurs. March 7 (Lecture 12): The "Social Democratic Moment": Politics and Social Change in the 1960s

Readings:

- Georges Perec, Things: A Story of the Sixties, trans. David Bellos
Tues. March 12 (Lecture 13): Student Radicalisms and "1968" in the West

*Wed. March 13, 7 p.m.: Film Screening: Jaromil Jireš, The Joke (1968)*
[The film is on reserve at Lamont Library if you are unable to attend.]

Thurs. March 14 (Lecture 14): "Third Way" Socialisms and the Prague Spring

¥ No reading for this week; sections will discuss the Jireš film.

***Spring Break***

Tues. March 26 (Lecture 15): End of the Postwar Boom: Economic Transformations in East and West after 1973

Thurs. March 28 (Lecture 16): Terrorism and Democracy in 1970s Europe

Readings:
¥ Selections from Ulrike Meinhof, Everybody Talks about the Weather...We Don't: The Writings of Ulrike Meinhof, ed. Karin Bauer (Seven Stories Press, 2008):
  ➢ "On the Topic of July 20" (1964)
  ➢ "Dresden" (1965)
  ➢ "Vietnam and Germany" (1966)
  ➢ "Three Friends of Israel" (1967)
  ➢ "Counter-Violence" (1968)
  ➢ "From Protest to Resistance" (1968)
¥ Jeffrey Herf, "An Age of Murder: Ideology and Terror in Germany," Telos 144 (Fall 2008): 8-37
¥ Quinn Slobodian, "The Borders of the Rechtsstaat in the Arab Autumn: Deportation and Law in West Germany, 1972/73," German History 31 (2013): 204-224

*Essay 2 due Mon. April 1 at 5 p.m.*

Tues. April 2 (Lecture 17): The (Re)-Birth of Human Rights

Thurs. April 4 (Lecture 18): The "New Conservatism"? Memory Politics and Victimization Narratives in East and West

Readings:

**Tues. April 9 (Lecture 19): Contesting Citizenship: Citizens' Initiatives, Civil Rights, and Social Movements in 1980s Europe**

**Thurs. April 11 (Lecture 20): Immigration, "Race", and Changing Ethnic Dynamics**

**Readings:**
✓ Khouma, *I was an Elephant Salesman*, selections
✓ May Opitz, Katharina Oguntoye, and Dagmar Schultz, eds., *Showing Our Colors: Afro-German Women Speak Out*, tr. Anne V. Adams (Massachusetts, 1992), pp. 101-124 (Helga Emde, Astrid Berger, Miriam Goldschmidt)

**Tues. April 16 (Lecture 21): Why did Communism Fall?**

**Thurs. April 18 (Lecture 22): European Unification and Disunity: Origins of the EU**
*Questions for essay 3 distributed in lecture*

**Readings:**
✓ Slavenka Drakulić, "Our Little Stasi," in *How We Survived Communism and Learned to Laugh about it* (Hutchinson, 1992), pp. 93-103

**Tues. April 23 (Lecture 23): The Yugoslav Wars and European Responses: Genocide in the "New Europe"**

**Thurs. April 25 (Lecture 24): Islam, Difference, and Democracy**

**Readings:**
✓ Scott, *The Politics of the Veil*, chs. 1, 5
✓ European Court of Human Rights, "Dogru vs. France" (2008)

*Essay 3 due Mon. April 29 at 5 p.m.*

**Tues. April 30 (Lecture 25): Conclusion: Populism and Challenges to Europe Today**

**Reading:**
✓ George Packer, "The Quiet German: The astonishing rise of Angela Merkel, the most powerful woman in the world," *The New Yorker*, December 1, 2014
*Sections will meet on May 2-3 to review for the final exam

*Final exam (3 hours) will take place during finals week (date and time TBD)