Fascism, Communism and the Crisis of Liberal Democracy:
Europe, 1919-1945

This course will explore the political, social and cultural identity crisis that Western Europe faced in the interwar period, with special emphasis on the challenges to liberal democracy that were launched from mass movements on opposite ends of the political spectrum. In dissecting this crisis, we will attempt to understand where it came from, why it took the course that it did, and how it fits into the longer term narrative of Europe’s democratization.

The course requirements include a mid-term (30%), a final exam (40% of grade), given during the regularly scheduled exam period, and a short paper, 5-7 pages, double-spaced (30% of grade). No final grade will be given unless all written assignments have been completed, and un-excused late assignments will be penalized.

In the completing of all assignments, plagiarism will be taken seriously. Each student must do their own work and write in their own words, unless outside sources are directly cited. Plagiarism is not only copying exact text, but paraphrasing someone’s idea without proper attribution. The University requires both faculty and students to honor the integrity of scholarship, and faculty are required to report any suspicion of cheating, collusion or plagiarism to the Academic Integrity Coordinator.

For University guidelines see: [http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app2.htm](http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app2.htm); For History Dept guidelines, [http://historyweb.ucsd.edu/pages/undergraduate/Current/plagiarism.htm](http://historyweb.ucsd.edu/pages/undergraduate/Current/plagiarism.htm)

The following books have been ordered at the Bookstore:

William Sheridan Allen, *The Nazi Seizure of Power*
Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution*
Joachim Remak, *The Nazi Years: A Documentary History*
Martin Blinkhorn, *Fascism and the Right in Europe, 1919-1945*

These books have also been placed on reserve at the Central Library. Also on reserve are several copies of a textbook, *Society, State and Nation in Twentieth Century Europe*, for those of you who need a general overview of events. In addition, a packet of readings (those marked by a "*" on the syllabus), which each of you may purchase, can be found at University Readers and ordered online: [https://students.universityreaders.com/store/](https://students.universityreaders.com/store/).

**PART I: POST-WAR EUROPE: "THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT?"

Sept 26        INTRODUCTION: Europe in 1919
Reading: Blinkhorn, chs. 2-3
Oct 1  CRISIS IN GENDER RELATIONS: "THE WOMAN QUESTION"
Reading:  *Roderick Phillips, *Society, State and Nation, pp.142-46, 202-4
Primary Documents:
  *Alexandra Kollantai, “Communism and the Family”
  *Elsa Hermann, “This is the New Woman”
  *French Suffrage Society, “Votes for Women”

Oct 3  CULTURAL CRISIS: THE CRITIQUE OF LIBERAL SOCIETY
Reading:  * Europe: Crisis and Conflict, pp 4-7
Primary Documents:
  *Martinetti, "Manifesto of Futurism"

Oct 8  POLITICAL CRISIS: REVOLUTION IN RUSSIA
Primary Documents:
  *Lenin, selections

Oct 10  POLITICAL CRISIS: THE EMERGENCE OF FASCISM
Reading:  Blinkhorn, ch.1,6, pp.115-116

Oct 15  THE RISE OF FASCISM IN ITALY
Reading:  Blinkhorn, p 31-36
Primary Documents:
  *Giacomo Matteotti, *The Fascisti Exposed, "The Conquest of Molinella"
  *Charles Delzell, *Mediterranean Fascism,  (fascist programs, speeches)

Oct 17  CRISIS AND STABILIZATION: SPAIN AND GERMANY
Reading:  *Richard Bessel, "Why did the Weimar Republic Collapse?", (to p.132) in Ian Kershaw, ed. Weimar: Why did German Democracy Fail?,

Oct 22  RETURN TO NORMALCY: BRITAIN AND FRANCE

Part II:  INTERWAR CRISIS: THE SECOND WAVE

Oct 24  THE DEPRESSION
Reading:  *Mazower, *Dark Continent, ch.4, “Crisis of Capitalism”
Primary Documents:
  *Men Without Work, pp.ix-xii, 100-101, 133-143, 143-154, 180-188
Oct 29  MIDTERM

Oct 31  THE SOVIET UNION: FROM LENIN TO STALIN
Reading: The Russian Revolution, chs.3-5
Primary Documents:
   "Joseph Stalin, "The Socialist Drive", in Robert Daniels, The Stalin Revolution (pp.59-66)

Nov 5  ITALY: THE FASCIST STATE IN OPERATION
Reading: Blinkhorn, pp 65-71
Primary Documents:
   *Delzell, ed. Mediterranean Fascism, pp.107-109, 120-126, 133-34, 199-201

Nov 7  SPAIN: THE REPUBLIC AND THE CIVIL WAR
Reading: *Nigel Townson, "The Second Republic, 1931-1936", in SpanishHistory since 1808
   Blinkhorn, pp 54-56, 77-82
Primary Documents:
   *Jose Maria Peman speech, in The Spanish Civil War, ed. Kenwood, pp.58-62
   *Jose Antonio Primo de Rivera, "26 Point Program of the Falange", in Delzell, ed. Mediterranean Fascism, (pp.272-277)
   *Manuel Cortes excerpt from In Hiding

Nov 12  FRANCE: FROM POPULAR FRONT TO COLLABORATION
Reading: *Paxton, Europe in the Twentieth Century, pp.388-396
   "Leslie Derfler, "Resistance or Collaboration? The Example of Vichy France" An Age of Conflict, (pp.172-197)
   *Stanley Payne, A History of Fascism, 1914-1945, pp.397-402

Nov 14  GERMANY: THE RISE OF FASCISM
Reading: Blinkhorn, pp 37-42
   *Richard Bessell, "Why did Weimar fail?" pp.132-152
Primary Documents:
   The Nazi Years, ch.3
Nov 19  Propaganda: FILM: "Triumph of the Will"

Nov 21-26  HITLER AND THE NAZI STATE
Reading: Blinkhorn, pp 71-77
    Sheridan Allen, Nazi Seizure of Power, Part II
Primary Documents:
    The Nazi Years, ch.4

Nov 28  Thanksgiving Holiday

Dec 3  THE "NEW ORDER": WAR AND HOLOCAUST
Reading: Blinkhorn, pp 88-93
    *Winks and Adam, Europe: Crisis and Conflict, pp 223-44
    *Christopher Browning, "One Day in Jozefow: Initiation to Mass Murder", in
    Nazism and German Society (pp.300-315)
Primary Documents:
    The Nazi Years, chs.8-10

Dec 5  EUROPE IN 1945