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 final exam, given during the regularly scheduled exam period, and a short paper, 5-7 pages, double-spaced. In addition, students will have the choice of 1) enrolling in a discussion section, which will meet once a week and will require some short writing assignments, OR 2) taking an in-class midterm. No grade will be given unless all written assignments have been completed, and unexcused late assignments will be penalized.

The following books have been ordered at Groundworks 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.

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

April 1 INTRODUCTION: Europe in 1919
Reading: Blinkhorn, chs. 2-3
   *Mark Mazower, Dark Continent, Preface, Intro (pp 3-5, 22-27)

April 3 CRISIS IN GENDER RELATIONS: "THE WOMAN QUESTION"
Reading: *Roderick Phillips, Society, State and Nation, pp.142-46, 202-4
Primary Documents: all from Lives and Voices
   *Alexandra Kollontai, "Communism and the Family"
   *Elsa Hermann, "This is the New Woman"
   *French Suffrage Society, "Votes for Women"
April 8  CULTURAL CRISIS: THE CRITIQUE OF LIBERAL SOCIETY
Reading: * Europe: Crisis and Conflict, pp 4-7
Primary Documents:
  * Martinetti, "Manifesto of Futurism"

April 10  POLITICAL CRISIS: REVOLUTION IN RUSSIA
Reading: Fitzpatrick, The Russian Revolution, Intro, chs.1_2
Primary Documents:
  * Lenin, selections

April 15  POLITICAL CRISIS: THE EMERGENCE OF FASCISM
Reading: Blinkhorn, ch.1.6, pp.115-116

April 17  THE RISE OF FASCISM IN ITALY
          Blinkhorn, p 31-36
Primary Documents:
  * Giacomo Matteotti, The Fascisti Exposed, "The Conquest of
Molinella" (pp.103-119)
  * Charles Delzell, Mediterranean Fascism, pp.12-25,
(fascist programs, speeches)

April 22  CRISIS AND STABILIZATION: SPAIN AND GERMANY
Reading: * Richard Bessel, "Why did the Weimar Republic Collapse?",
120-132
  * Luis Arranz et.al., "The Assault on Liberalism, 1914-1923", in Junco/
Shubert, eds., Spanish History Since 1808

April 24  RETURN TO NORMALCY: BRITAIN AND FRANCE
Reading: * Robin Winks and R.J.Q.Adams, Europe: Crisis and
Conflict, pp 28-41, 176-185

Part II: INTERWAR CRISIS: THE SECOND WAVE

April 29  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,
May 1 MIDTERM

May 6 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)

May 8 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

May 13 SPAIN: THE REPUBLIC AND THE CIVIL WAR
Reading: *Nigel Townson, “The Second Republic, 1931-1936”, in Spanish History 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

May 15 FRANCE: FROM POPULAR FRONT TO COLLABORATION
Reading: *Paxton, Europe in the Twentieth Century, pp.388-396
*Leslie Derfler, An Age of Conflict, ch.7, "Resistance or Collaboration? The Example of Vichy France" (pp.172-197)
* Stanley Payne, A History of Fascism, 1914-1945, pp.397-402

May 20 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

May 22 Propaganda: FILM: "Triumph of the Will"

May 27-29 HITLER AND THE NAZI STATE
June 3  THE "NEW ORDER": WAR AND HOLOCAUST  
Reading: Blinkhorn, pp 88-93  
   Winks and Adam, Europe: Crisis and Conflict, pp 216-44  
      *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

June 5  EUROPE IN 1945