



ARTS2785

Europe's Age of Catastrophe, 1914-1945

Term One // 2021

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Jan Lanicek	J.Lanicek@unsw.edu.au	Wed 11am-12pm or by email	MB 367	51497

School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

The early twentieth century was a catastrophic and transformative period in twentieth-century European history. The First World War catalysed intense demographic, ideological, and economic turmoil. You will focus on the relationship between socio-economic crises and the development of radical new political movements (e.g. Bolshevism, Stalinism, fascism and National Socialism) that posed enormous threats to nascent liberal democracies. You will also explore some of the remarkable array of cultural and social innovations that flowered in this tumultuous period (visual arts, literature, theatre, cinema, social theory, sexuality and gender).

Course Learning Outcomes

1. analyse major political, social, cultural and economic developments and issues in Europe between 1914 and 1945
2. evaluate the significance of these developments and issues and place them in context
3. make scholarly arguments using independently located and credible evidence.
4. explain relevant aspects of European politics, culture and/or society between 1914 and 1945
5. communicate ideas amongst peers/engage in discussions/debates

Teaching Strategies

The learning and teaching strategy is designed to deliver a course that encourages student engagement with the fields of European Studies and European History and develops their critical and research skills through multiple modes of teaching and assessment. There is a two-hour lecture, a one-hour lecture/seminar, and a one-hour tutorial per week. Each week a specific development or issue will be the focus of the lecture, the readings and tutorial discussion.

The lectures will provide background information and introduce theoretical and analytical perspectives and debates that will be explored in or exemplified by the specialized weekly readings. The lectures and tutorials will also address specific primary sources or cultural artefacts for discussion. The tutorials will involve in-depth discussion of readings and primary sources. The teaching strategy is to encourage student engagement with and structured reflection on the readings by setting specific discussion questions each week which will require reflection and note-taking.

Engagement with the lecture and reading material will be assessed by a short-quiz (midterm) and a final exam, which will give students the opportunity to synthesize the material, consider the bigger picture and reflect on what they have learnt. The research essay will require students to undertake independent research on a specific topic, to engage with scholarship in the field and to practice their critical thinking, analytical and writing skills. The weekly tutorial responses will require students to engage critically with readings and to display their own and encourage their classmates' analytical skills.

Assessment

Detailed information will be available on Moodle.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Tutorial Responses	20%	Not Applicable	2, 4, 5
Take Home Assessment	30%	28/04/2021 11:00 AM	2, 4
Final Research Essay	50%	11/04/2021 11:59 PM	1, 2, 3, 4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Tutorial Responses

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 4x300 words

Details:

Students submit four tutorial responses during the term, each app. 300 words plus questions. The responses will be based on questions that are linked to the main readings for the week.

Students will receive feedback via a rubric and short individual comments on their first response, but only marks on the following three responses.

Additional details:

The weekly tutorial responses will require students to engage critically with readings and to display their own and encourage their classmates' analytical skills.

Submission notes: Students will submit their weekly responses via Moodle. The deadline is on Thursday at 12pm (noon) the day before the tutorial.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 2: Take Home Assessment

Start date: 28/04/2021 09:00 AM

Length: app. 1,000-1,500 words

Details:

Students will have two hours to complete an online open book assignment in the form of an essay

question. They will be expected to write approximately between 1,000 and 1,500 words.

Feedback in the form of short written comments.

Additional details:

Instructions will be posted on moodle.

Submission notes: 1,000-1,500 words based on lectures and tutorials. Short feedback via moodle.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 3: Final Research Essay

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 2,000-2,500 words

Details:

Final research essay (2,000 to 2,500 words). Students are expected to use at least 8 quality sources. They will submit the essay via Turnitin.

The assignment will be marked online with feedback via a rubric and comments in Turnitin.

Additional details:

Students write an essay (ca. 2,000-2,500 words) based on independent research. Students receive feedback via individual comments and rubric within three weeks after the deadline.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 15 February - 19 February	Lecture	Introductory Lecture: The Age of Catastrophe, 1914-1945; Belle Époque: Europe Before 1914 Why did the states decide for war in 1914?
	Tutorial	Introduction World War 1: Why? Expectations and reality. Map exercise (1914, 1919, 1945)
Week 2: 22 February - 26 February	Lecture	Transition to the New World I: Peace and the post-war peace settlement; When did the war end?
	Tutorial	When did World War 1 end? Triumph of Liberalism or revenge?
Week 3: 1 March - 5 March	Lecture	Embattled Democracy: The Bolshevik Revolution and its consequences for interwar Europe
	Tutorial	Social Crisis: How did the Bolshevik revolution influence interwar Europe?
Week 4: 8 March - 12 March	Lecture	Embattled Democracy 2: Counterrevolutions across Europe. Guest Lecture: A/Prof David Blaazer, Economy and Politics in the Age of Catastrophe
	Tutorial	Counterrevolutions and the rise of dictators: How successful was the introduction of liberal democracy in the Age of Catastrophe?
Week 5: 15 March - 19 March	Lecture	The Age of Dictators: Nazism and Stalinism
	Tutorial	Ordinary people in totalitarian societies
Week 6: 22 March - 26 March	Lecture	No classes - Flexi Week
Week 7: 29 March - 2 April	Lecture	Interactive lecture: Minorities in the Age of Catastrophe Genocide: A New Word in the Age of Catastrophe.
	Tutorial	No tutorials - Easter Friday.

Week 8: 5 April - 9 April	Lecture	International relations: Path to the War Guest Lecture: A/Prof David Blaazer, The Appeasement
	Tutorial	Origins of World War 2 and the Appeasement
Week 9: 12 April - 16 April	Lecture	The Second World War
	Tutorial	European societies during the Total War The Nazi Empire
Week 10: 19 April - 23 April	Lecture	Transition to the New World II: The End of the Second World War Conclusions: 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 compared
	Tutorial	The End of WW2 and transition to peace Concluding discussion

Resources

Prescribed Resources

All key readings for tutorials will be available on moodle and via Leganto.

Recommended Resources

Recommended background reading: Most of the recommended books are available at the UNSW Library (some online) or at the UNSW Bookshop.

I recommend the following surveys of early twentieth-century European history:

Conan Fischer, *Europe between Democracy and Dictatorship: 1900-1945* (Oxford: Wiley Blackwell, 2011).

Robert Gerwarth, *The Vanquished: Why the First World War Failed to End, 1917-1923* (London: Penguin, 2017).

Ian Kershaw, *To Hell and Back: Europe, 1914-1949* (London: Penguin, 2016).

I also highly recommend the following surveys on the whole of the twentieth-century:

Nicholas Doumanis (ed), *The Oxford Handbook of European History 1914-1945* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016).

Eric Hobsbawm, *Age of Extremes: The Short Twentieth Century 1914-1991* (London, Abacus, 1994).
Konrad Jarausch, *Out of the Ashes: A New History of Europe in the Twentieth Century* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2015).

Mark Mazower, *Dark Continent: Europe's Twentieth Century* (New York: Random House, 1999). Robert O. Paxton – Julie Hessler, *Europe in the Twentieth Century. Fifth Edition* (Boston: Wadsworth, 2012).

Marvin Perry et al., *Sources of European History Since 1900. Second Edition* (Boston: Wadsworth, 2011).

Course Evaluation and Development

Students will have an opportunity to provide feedback through the myExperience surveys that will be available in Moodle. The lecturer will also collect informal feedback in the classroom.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/>). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

<https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

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CRICOS

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Bedegal people who are the traditional custodians of the lands on which UNSW Kensington campus is located.