

EURO*3300: Violence & Culture (0.5 credits)

European Studies
School of Languages & Literatures
University of Guelph
Fall 2020

Class meetings (Remote): Lectures – AD-A*
Seminars – AD-S+

* Lectures: Learning happens without the need for real-time interaction. It has no requirement for attendance at a specific time or location and you can access the material and satisfy these requirements based on your own schedule.

+ Seminars: Learning happens in real time. This means that you, your classmates, and your instructor/GTA interact through a specific online medium (e.g., Zoom), at a specific time.

[See Method of Presentation below for seminar schedule]

Instructor: Dr Alan McDougall
Website: <https://www.uoguelph.ca/arts/history/people/alan-mcdougall>
Office Hours (remote): Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Email: amcdouga@uoguelph.ca

Course description:

This course explores major trends in twentieth-century European culture. Within the contextual framework of key political and socio-economic events from the end of the First World War to the end of the Cold War, the course focuses on the interplay between violence and culture in Europe's turbulent modern history. Topics include fascism, the Holocaust, protest movements and ideas in the long 1960s, decolonization, and communism. New developments in culture will be studied via literary texts, films, and the visual arts.

Guest Lecturers: Margot Irvine (European Studies/French)
Paola Mayer (European Studies/German)

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

- Undertake critical inquiry and analysis about various aspects of twentieth-century European culture
- Deploy a depth and breadth of historical understanding, based on a close and integrated reading of the course materials.
- Extract information from historical and cultural sources, critically assessing its quality and validity.

- Engage with contemporary political and cultural issues through an understanding of their modern historical context.
- Understand and analyze historical development in the twentieth century, especially as it pertains to culture.
- Understand and analyze major individuals, events, themes, movements, and ideas in twentieth-century European culture.
- Engage with contemporary political and cultural issues through an understanding of their modern historical context.
- Develop effective written and oral communication skills through assignments, examinations, and class discussions.
- Develop reading comprehension through engagement with a variety of cultural and historical texts.
- Understand academic integrity as applied to the responsible use of cultural and historical sources and the ethical presentation of one's own work.

Prerequisites:

7.50 credits.

Readings:

All readings will be posted on Courselink or available electronically through the University of Guelph library.

All films will be available to view electronically via the University of Guelph library.

Courselink:

This online course will be run through the EURO*3300 Courselink site:

<https://courselink.uoguelph.ca/shared/login/login.html>

Here you will find everything that you need for the course, including the course outline; assigned readings; assignment instructions; the audio files for the weekly lectures; the lecture-accompanying PowerPoint presentations; and news updates pertaining to assignments, classes, and any other course-related matters.

Other useful resources:

Please note that there is a Course Guide on the UoG library website for EURO*3300, which provides tips on how to research and write assignments: <https://guides.lib.uoguelph.ca/EURO3300>

Method of presentation:

The class format will follow a mixture of asynchronous lectures (recorded and posted at the start of every week) and synchronous (i.e. real time) seminars.

Audio recordings of each week's lecture will be posted on Courselink before each week's seminar meetings, along with lecture-accompanying PowerPoints.

There will be two seminars (approx. 20 students each), which will meet in real time on Microsoft Teams (during the allotted lecture time), according to the following schedule:

Tuesdays, 11.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m. (Seminar Group 1)
Thursdays, 11.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m. (Seminar Group 2)

Method of evaluation, incl. breakdown of final grade:

Class participation	30%
Gobbets (2)	30% (15 % each)
Essay Plan	5%
Essay	35%

Class participation (30%): this will be assessed on (a) the quality and (b) the quantity of your contributions to the weekly seminars. Please attend all seminars and come to class prepared, i.e. having listened to the audio lecture, done the reading(s) and, where relevant, watched the film(s).

Gobbets (2x15%): gobbets are short assignments, each of approx. three double-spaced pages each in length (750 words), on primary source documents/films studied in class. In these short assignments, you will briefly summarize your selected document/film and then analyze its wider cultural and historical importance. The first gobbet is due for submission on **Thursday 8 October 2020**, the second gobbet on **Thursday 5 November 2020**. Information about assignment guidelines and how to write gobbets is posted on Courselink.

Essay plan (5%): to prepare for the essay, students are required to submit an essay plan (on **Thursday 19 November 2020**), which should include the following: your essay title/question; (ii) a short thesis statement (i.e. what will be arguing in your paper); (iii) an essay outline (showing how the essay will be structured/organized); and (iv) a preliminary bibliography (indicating a minimum of 4 scholarly sources already selected for use in the paper).

Essay (35%): each student will write an essay of approximately 3,000 words (approx. 12 double-spaced pages). A list of potential essay topics and questions, as well as essay guidelines, are posted on Courselink. Essays should be submitted (in Word) on Dropbox by 11.59 p.m. on the due date, **Thursday 3 December 2020**.

Late Penalties (please read carefully):

- Late assignments will be automatically penalized at the rate of **5% per day** (i.e. for every day that the essay is late, **including weekends**, you will lose 5% of your final mark for it:

so, for example, a student who submits a paper one week late will automatically lose **35%** of his/her mark).

- Papers should be submitted in Dropbox by 11.59 p.m. on the due date.

Syllabus & Class Schedule

[Unless stated otherwise, classes are taught by Dr McDougall; class schedule may be subject to change]

Thursday 10 September: no class.

Week 1 (15, 17 Sep): Europe after 1918 – an introduction

- (i) Europe after the First World War – politics, society, and culture.
 - (ii) The rise of fascism in inter-war Europe – Italy and Germany.
- No readings.

Week 2 (22, 24 Sep): Italian fascism [Mayer]

- (i) Italian fascism in power: an introduction.
 - (ii) Thomas Mann’s “Mario and the Magician” (1928).
- Reading: Mann, “Mario and the Magician”.

Week 3 (29 Sep, 1 Oct): Nazism

- (i) Nazism in power: an introduction.
 - (ii) Bertolt Brecht, *Fear and Misery in the Third Reich* (1938).
- Reading: Brecht, *Fear and Misery in the Third Reich*.

Week 4 (6, 8 Oct): The Spanish Civil War

- (i) The Spanish Civil War: an introduction.
 - (ii) George Orwell’s *Homage to Catalonia* (1938) and Pablo Picasso’s *Guernica* (1937).
- Reading: Orwell, *Homage to Catalonia*.
Viewing: Picasso, *Guernica*.

--- 1st Gobbet due for submission on 8 October ---

Week 5 (15 Oct): The Holocaust I

- (i) The Holocaust: history and historiography.
 - (ii) Art after Auschwitz: Paul Celan and Anselm Kiefer.
- Reading: Paul Celan, “Death Fugue” (1948).
Viewing: Kiefer, “Margarethe” (1981) and “Sulamith” (1983).

--- FALL STUDY BREAK: No class on Tues 13 Oct ---

Week 6 (20, 22 Oct): The Holocaust II

- (i) Bearing witness: Primo Levi, *If This Is A Man* (1947).
 - (ii) Alain Resnais, *Night and Fog* (1955).
- Reading: Levi, *If This Is A Man*.
Viewing: Resnais, *Night and Fog*: <https://uoguelph.kanopy.com/video/night-and-fog>

Week 7 (27, 29 Oct): Europe after 1945 – an introduction

(i) Europe 1945-49: the legacy of World War II and the Cold War

(ii) Divided Europe after 1949: an introduction.

Reading: Anonymous, *A Woman in Berlin* (1953).

Week 8 (3, 5 Nov): New directions in European cinema

(i) Introductions: Italian Neo-Realism & the Polish School.

(ii) *Rome Open City* (1945) and *Ashes and Diamonds* (1958).

Readings:

Peter Bondanella: “Roma città aperta and the birth of Italian Neorealism,” in *The Films of Roberto Rossellini* (1993), pp. 21-30.

Janina Falkowska, “Ashes and Diamonds,” in Peter Hames (ed.), *The Cinema of Central Europe* (2004), pp. 65-74.

Viewings:

Roberto Rossellini, *Rome Open City*: <https://uoguelph.kanopy.com/video/rome-open-city>

Andrzej Wajda, *Ashes and Diamonds*: <https://uoguelph.kanopy.com/video/ashes-and-diamonds-0>

--- 2nd Gobbet due for submission on 5 November ---

Week 9 (10, 12 Nov): Decolonization

(i) “The moment of the boomerang”: an introduction to European decolonization.

(ii) The Algerian War and Gillo Pontecorvo’s *The Battle of Algiers* (1966).

Readings:

Manifesto of the 121 (1960).

Frantz Fanon, “On Violence” (1961).

Viewings: <https://uoguelph.kanopy.com/video/battle-algiers-0>

Week 10 (17, 19 Nov): Past & present in Europe’s long 60s

(i) The banalities of evil: reckonings with the Nazi past.

(ii) Red terror: violence and the radical left in 1970s Western Europe.

Reading: Hannah Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem* (1963).

Viewing: Margarethe von Trotta, *Die bleierne Zeit* (1981).

--- Essay plan due for submission on Thursday 19 November ---

Week 11 (24, 26 Nov): Second-wave feminism [Irvine]

(i) Second-wave feminism in Europe: an introduction

(ii) The ideas and impact of Simone de Beauvoir’s *The Second Sex* (1949).

Reading: Simone De Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*.

Week 12 (1, 3 Dec): The rise and fall of communism

(i) Dissent & surveillance: life in the shadow of Stalinism.

(ii) The fall of communism, 1989-91.

Readings:

Milan Kundera, *The Joke* (1967).

Peter Schneider, *The Wall Jumper* (1982).

Listening: Wolf Biermann, “The Stasi Ballad” (1974):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nUoJ46K-EQI>

--- Essay due for submission on Thursday 3 December ---

University Statements

Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. The grounds for Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Grounds for Academic Consideration

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg-regchg.shtml>

Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway. Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance and not later than the 40th Class Day.

For Guelph students, information can be found on the SAS website
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>

Academic Integrity

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity, and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community-faculty, staff, and students-to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff, and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that encourages academic integrity. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work - including lectures - cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Resources

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies, and regulations that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs.

Academic Calendars: <https://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/calendars>

Disclaimer

Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website (<https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/>) and circulated by email.

Illness

The University will not normally require verification of illness (doctor's notes) for fall 2020 or winter 2021 semester courses. However, requests for Academic Consideration may still require medical documentation as appropriate.