# European Studies

# School of Languages & Literatures

# University of Guelph

# Fall 2022

# Course Title: EURO\*3300: Violence & Culture (0.5 credits)

**Class meetings:** MWF 4:30-5:20 p.m. (MCKN 234)

**Instructor:** Dr. Paola Mayer

**Extension:** 58562

**Office:** MacKinnon (MCKN) 255

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**Office hours:** via Teams, by appointment only

Course objectives:

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 Second World War, 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.

Prerequisites:

7.50 credits.

Guest Lecturers:

Dr. Margot Irvine (European Studies/French Studies)

Dr.Alan McDougall (European Studies/History)

Dr. Ruediger Mueller (German Studies)

Dr. Sandra Parmegiani (European Studies/Italian)

Dr. Ania Wroblewski (French Studies)

Learning Outcomes:

Given that students invest the time and effort necessary, at the end of the course they should be able to:

* undertake critical inquiry and analysis about political ideologies in twentieth-century Europe and their reflections in cultural products
* critically reflect on the dehumanizing effects of violence and atrocities and analyze how these are worked through in cultural products
* extract information from historical and cultural sources, critically assessing its quality and validity
* produce a well-structured account of the arguments in the texts they read
* formulate their own arguments about literary or philosophical texts with appropriate proofs
* make responsible use of cultural and historical sources and present their own work in an ethical manner

Required Textbook:

John Merriman, *A History of Modern Europe: From the Renaissance to the Present* (New York: Norton, 2019).

This book is available to purchase at both the University and Co-Op Bookstores.

Additional Readings and Artwork:

Additional readings and artwork (see class schedule below) will be made available on the Courselink site or can be accessed online via the Library website (<https://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/>). Students are expected to locate and watch the films ahead of class. Most of the films are available via the University Library, either via online access or at the reserve desk: <https://ares.lib.uoguelph.ca/ares/> (see also the class schedule below). If you have problems accessing a certain film, please contact the course instructor for help.

**Please note:** for the class to function successfully, in-class discussion of all texts, films, and artwork is essential. It is your responsibility to keep up with the weekly readings and viewings.

Courselink:

For up-to-date information on this class, students should regularly consult the [EURO\*3300 Courselink site](https://courselink.uoguelph.ca/shared/login/login.html).

Here you will find, among other things, news updates pertaining to classes, exams, etc.; the course outline; instructions and style sheets for the assignments; and the weekly, lecture-accompanying PowerPoint presentations.

Other useful resources:

Please note that there is a [Course Guide](http://guides.lib.uoguelph.ca/HIST1150) on the UoG library website for EURO\*3300, which provides tips on how to research and write assignments.

Method of presentation:

# A mixture of lecture and seminar style.

***Please note: the class will normally meet in person (unless Covid restrictions are brought back); however, some classes will be held remotely via Teams to accommodate guest lecturers who can’t come to Guelph. And one class will be held an hour early because of the time difference for the guest lecturer who is in Europe.***

Method of evaluation:

Class participation and discussion posts: 15%

Weekly quizzes (best 8 out of 10): 20%

Research essay outline 10%

Research essay: 30%

Take home final exam: 25%

Class participation and discussion posts:

Participation in discussion is a vital element of this class. Students will be graded based on their postings to the Courselink discussion board and on their contributions to in-class discussions throughout the semester. Students are **required** to post a minimum of 6 times on the Courselink discussion board; please consult the guidelines on discussion posts found on Courselink for instructions. For both discussion posts and in-class contributions, students will be graded based on (a) their preparation (i.e. detailed knowledge of the contents of texts and films) (b) the quality and (c) the frequency of their comments.

**Quizzes:**

Will take place every week except weeks 1 and 12. The lowest 2 grades will be dropped to allow for illness or other emergency. The quizzes are online, accessed via the Quizzes tab on Courselink. They are timed. Students will have a period of 48 hours to access each quiz (Wednesday-Thursday). Because of this, and because the lowest two grades are dropped, *there will be no makeup quizzes whatsoever, regardless of the reason why you missed them.*

Each quiz will cover all the readings/films for that week, including the Friday. The only exception is Quiz 1 which will cover the readings/films from weeks 1 and 2.

Research Essay:

The research essay should be approximately 2,500 words (approx. 10 double-spaced pages) in length, exclusive of footnotes and a bibliography. A list of possible essay themes/questions can be found on Courselink, along with essay guidelines.

Due date: Nov. 7

**An outline of the research essay,** consisting of a commented bibliography (= brief summary of contents relevant to your work), your working thesis and 3 main arguments, is due Oct. 24.

Take-home final exam:

Short essay format, testing your understanding of specific texts but also your knowledge of broad developments explored in the course.

Note: the exam will focus almost exclusively on the second half of the course (weeks 7-12).

Due date: Dec. 6. *Note: late submissions will not be accepted*. If you cannot meet the deadline you will have to apply for a deferral as you would for an in-person final exam.

Policy on Late Assignments:

Late assignments will be automatically penalized at the rate of **5%** **per day** (i.e. for every day that the assignment is late, **including weekends**, you will lose 5% of your final mark for it: so, for example, students who submit a paper one week late will automatically lose **35%** of their mark).

**Syllabus**

**Week 1 (Sept. 12-16)**

Monday: Europe after the First World War – politics, society, and culture ***[Mayer]***.

Reading: Merriman, *Modern Europe*, pp. 934-36, 956-58, 964-top of 975, 978-985, 987-top of 997, 1004-05

Wednesday: The rise of fascism in inter-war Europe – Italy and Germany. ***[Mayer]***

Reading: Merriman, *Modern Europe*, pp. 1006-07, 1013-1029, 1032-1044

Friday: The rise of fascism in Italy and Germany ***[Mayer]***

Reading: excerpts from Mussolini & Gentile, *The Doctrine of Fascism* (1932); excerpts

from Hitler, *Mein Kampf*

**Week 2 (Sept. 19-23)**

Monday: The propaganda machine ***[Mayer]***

Viewing: Triumph of the Will (Dir. Leni Riefenstahl, 1935 <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6uajey>

Wednesday: Literary responses to fascism ***[Mayer]***

Reading: excerpts from Silone, *Fontamara*

Friday: Literary responses to fascism***[Mayer]***

Reading: excerpts from Brecht, *Fear and Misery*

**Week 3 (Sept. 26-30)**

Monday: Literary responses to fascism ***[Mayer]***

Reading: excerpts from Brecht (as above)

Wednesday: Literary responses to fascism***[Mayer]***

Reading: A.M. Frey, *The Dogs*

Friday The Spanish Civil War: Introduction ***[Mayer]***

Viewing/reading: Picasso, *Guernica* [available on Courselink]; Picasso’s Guernica: Great Art Explained [Courselink]; Merryman, *Modern Europe*, pp. 1053-1058

**Week 4 (Oct. 3-7)**

Monday: Spain’s “dismemory.” From the Spanish Civil War to the present. **[Guest talk: Serena Aznar Ballarín]**

Readings: excerpts from Serena Aznar Ballarín, *Filling the gaps/*lacuna *in Spain’s personal and national dismemory*

***Note: this lecture will take place at 3:30-4:30 and will be remote, via Teams***

Wednesday: The Holocaust: Introduction ***[Mayer]***

Reading: Merriman, *Modern Europe*, pp. 1086-1094

Screening: *Night and Fog* (dir. Alain Resnais, 1955)

**Note: attendance at the screening is mandatory**

Friday: The Holocaust: *Night and Fog* ***[McDougall]***

Reading: Charles Krantz, ‘Teaching *Night and Fog*: history and historiography’, *Film and History* vol. 15, no. 1 (1985): 1-15; Merriman, *Modern Europe*, 1094-1098

***Note: this lecture will take place remotely via Teams***

**Week 5 (Oct. 10-14)**

Monday: no class (Thanksgiving)

Wednesday: The Holocaust: Primo Levi***[Parmegiani]****.*

Reading: excerpts from Levi, *If This Is A Man*.

Friday: The Holocaust: Levi (cont.) ***[Parmegiani]***

Reading: Levi, *If this is a Man*

**Week 6 (Oct.17-21)**

Monday: The Holocaust: Paul Celan ***[Mayer]***

Reading: Celan, “Death Fugue”

Wednesday: Library Presentation

Reading: please consult Courselink for instructions

***Note: this lecture will take place remotely via Teams***

Friday: The Holocaust: Felix Nussbaum ***[Mayer]***

**Week 7 (Oct. 24-28)**

Monday: Post-Holocaust: Through a Daughter’s Eyes***[Mayer]***

Reading: excerpts from Edith Bruck, *Letter to My Mother.*

Wednesday: Dealing with the Nazi Past ***[Mayer]***

Reading: excerpts from Helga Schneider, *Let me go*.

Friday: Europe after the Second World War – politics, society, and culture ***[Mayer]***

Reading: Merriman, *Modern Europe*, 1109-1111, 1113-1115, 1119-1131, 1140-44, 1160-1163, 1167-1170

**Week 8 (Oct. 31-Nov.4)**

Monday: Existentialism – Sartre ***[Irvine]***

Reading:Sartre, *No Exit*; Merriman, *Modern Europe*, 1150-1152

***Note: this lecture will take place remotely via Teams***

Wednesday: Existentialism – Camus ***[Irvine]****.*

Reading: Camus, excerpts from *The Myth of Sisyphus*

***Note: this lecture will take place remotely via Teams***

Friday: Decolonization: “the moment of the boomerang” ***[McDougall]***

Reading: Merriman, *Modern Europe*, pp. bottom of 1172-1173, 1179-1183; Frantz Fanon, “On Violence”.

***Note: this lecture will take place remotely via Teams***

**Week 9 (Nov. 7-11)**

Monday: The Algerian War ***[McDougall]***

Reading/viewing: Manifesto of the 121 (1960); Edward Said, ‘The dictatorship of truth: an interview with Gillo Pontecorvo’, *Cineaste*, vol. 25, no. 2 (2000): 24-25

*The Battle of Algiers* (dir. Gillo Pontecorvo, 1965)[available online via the Library website and on 2-hour reserve at the Library]

***Note: this lecture will take place remotely via Teams***

Wednesday: Red terror – violence and the radical left in 1970s Western Europe ***[Mayer]***

Reading: Alfred Andersch, “Jesuskingdutschke”; Merriman, *Modern Europe*, pp. 1190-middle of 1196

Friday: Andersch discussion (cont.) ***[Mayer]***

**Week 10 (Nov. 14-18)**

Monday: Red terror – violence and the radical left in 1970s Western Europe ***[McDougall]***

Viewing/reading: *Die bleierne Zeit* (dir. Margarethe von Trotta, 1981) [available on youtube]; James Skidmore, ‘Intellectualism and emotionalism in Margarethe von Trotta’s *Die bleierne Zeit*’, *German Studies Review* vol. 25, no. 3 (2002): 551-67

***Note: this lecture will take place remotely via Teams***

Wednesday: Red terror – violence and the radical left in 1970s Western Europe ***[Parmegiani]***

Viewing: *Good Morning, Night* (dir. Marco Bellocchio, 2003)

Friday: Good Morning Night (cont.) ***[Parmegiani]***

**Week 11 (Nov. 21-25)**

Monday: Second wave feminism in Western Europe ***[Wroblewski]****.*

Reading: Merriman, *Modern Europe*, pp. 1152-1153; excerpts from Simone De Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*

***Note: this lecture will take place remotely via Teams***

Wednesday: In the shadow of Stalinism, introduction to Socialist Realism ***[Mayer]***

Reading: Merriman, *Modern Europe*, pp. 934-36, 956-961,1044-1053, 1145-1149, 1164-1167, 1202-1210; excerpts from Reiner Kunze, *The Wonderful Years*

Friday: Dissent in Surveillance Societies ***[Mayer]***

Reading: Kunze (as above); excerpts from Milan Kundera, *The Joke*

**Week 12 (Nov. 28-Dec. 2)**

Monday: Kundera (cont.) ***[Mayer]***

Wednesday: Dissent in surveillance societies ***[Mueller]***

Viewing/Reading: *The Lives of Others* (Dir. Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, 2006);

Mary Beth Stein, “*Stasi* with a Human Face? Ambiguity in *Das Leben der Anderen,*”

German Studies Review, Vol. 31, No. 3 (Oct., 2008), pp. 567-579; Merriman, *Modern*

*Europe*, pp. 1212-1215, 1226-1229

Friday: *The Lives of Others* (cont.); conclusions ***[Mueller, Mayer]***

**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

Associate Diploma Calendar - Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions  
https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/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

Associate Diploma Calendar - Dropping Courses  
https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/c08/c08-drop.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 make a booking at least 14 days in advance, and no later than November 1 (fall), March 1 (winter) or July 1 (summer). Similarly, new or changed accommodations for online quizzes, tests and exams must be approved at least a week ahead of time.

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

For Ridgetown students, information can be found on the Ridgetown SAS website  
https://www.ridgetownc.com/services/accessibilityservices.cfm

**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, changes in classroom protocols, and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email.

This includes on-campus scheduling during the semester, mid-terms and final examination schedules. 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**

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g.. final exam or major assignment).

**Covid-19 Safety Protocols**

For information on current safety protocols, follow these links:

* https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campuses/how-u-of-g-is-preparing-for-your-safe-return/
* https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campuses/spaces/#ClassroomSpaces

Please note, these guidelines may be updated as required in response to evolving University, Public Health or government directives.