Instructor: Dr. Sharon Kowalsky  
Office Location: Ferguson Social Sciences 105  
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 2:00-5:00, or by appointment  
Office Phone: 903-886-5627  
University Email Address: Sharon.Kowalsky@tamuc.edu

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Course Materials:**
The following required books are available at the bookstore:
Additional materials will be distributed in class by the professor or made available to students through eCollege.

**Course Description:**
This course investigates the momentous events of the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries in Europe and the impact of these developments on the rest of the world. Over the course of the semester, students will explore the formation of European nations, states, and empires; the emergence of ideologies such as nationalism, socialism, communism, and fascism; the impact of technological developments; and the devastation of the wars and genocides that have
shaped the modern period. The course, framed by the Europe-wide upheavals of 1848 and 1991, gives special attention to the role of revolution, protest, and mass movements in Modern Europe, and the important contributions that Eastern Europe (including Russia) has made in shaping these events.

The period of this course is framed by communism—its emergence in the context of the 1848 revolutions and its collapse in the 1989 revolutions. Over the course of the semester we will look at communism as a response to European industrialization, as well as other responses to the modern age: imperialism, nationalism, impressionism, fascism, anti-Semitism, liberalism, and so on. This period in European history witnessed devastation through war and genocide, but also tremendous cultural achievement and social change. In the process, Europe’s relations with the rest of the world were fundamentally transformed. Through lectures, classroom discussions, focused readings, and writing assignments, we will explore the developments that shaped the modern European experience, particularly the experience with communism. We will also examine issues of women and gender, cultural developments, the way people struggled for freedom, and the impact of war, genocide, and dislocation that defined and shaped European events in this period. In particular, the course will focus on the experiences of Central and Eastern Europeans as essential for understanding now only how Europe developed in the twentieth century, but also its position today.

Prerequisite and/or Corequisite: Majors--History 253. Non-Majors may enroll with consent of instructor.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**
This course will teach students to evaluate and analyze materials and to link cultural representations to the underlying historical realities that helped shape them. By the end of the semester:
1. Students will be able to form substantive and evidence-driven arguments to propose solutions to problems or explain phenomena.
2. Student communication will follow conventions of grammar and syntax appropriate to the audience, purpose and message.

The objectives of this course include: (1) to gain factual knowledge about the period under discussion; (2) to develop the specific skills and points of view needed by historians; (3) to improve skills needed for oral and written expression; (4) to be able to place the present in a historically based context; and (5) to learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.

Students’ ability to meet the objectives of this course will be evaluated through the assigned essays and research projects.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments**

*Attendance and Participation*

Attendance is strongly encouraged. You are responsible for all material covered in our class meetings, regardless of your physical presence in the room. Students are expected to come prepared to engage with and discuss the assigned material. This means preparing the assignment before class and bringing the reading material with you to class. I expect all students to participate in our class discussions and to contribute their thoughts, ideas, and questions to our collective exploration. I especially encourage you to bring your questions to class. I will create, and expect you to uphold, an intellectual environment in the classroom where we can listen to and consider others’ arguments and opinions with an open mind and where we respect
viewpoints other than our own. Your participation grade will be based on your engagement in our class discussions and be guided by the following rubric:

A = Always prepared, frequently participates, rarely absent
B = Always prepared, participates only when called on, rarely absent
C = Usually prepared, rarely speaks, rarely absent
D = Often unprepared, several absences
F = Usually unprepared, frequent absences

Written Assignments and Class Presentations:
Students will complete one group project and one short individual research project over the course of the semester. Details of the assignments are available on the eCollege site and due dates are listed in the Course Schedule below.

Exams:
Students will take one midterm and one final exam on the dates listed in the Course Schedule below. Formats of the exams will be discussed in class.

Quizzes:
Students will complete several quizzes over content and geography during the course of the semester. Quizzes may be on eCollege or in class, and may or may not be announced in advance.

Grading
Grades for the semester will be determined according to the following breakdown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group Project</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Project</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation/Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your grades for written work will be determined based on the following rubric:

A = Mastery of reading and class material; factual accuracy; thoughtful, historical argumentation demonstrating ability to synthesize and/or some originality of thought; technically clean
B = Good to excellent command of most reading and class material; accuracy; good level of historical argumentation; reasonable thesis statement
C = Good command of class material; accuracy; ability to articulate a historical point of view, even if it is not compelling or is poorly reasoned
D = Poor command of required assignments; errors; ahistorical or narrow reasoning

The grading scale used for this course is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59 or less</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course:
**Word Processing:**
You will need access to a word processor and printer to prepare written exams and research projects. You should be able to insert footnotes in your papers.

**eCollege:**
This course is web-enhanced through eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To access eCollege you will need an internet connection, preferably high speed, and your CWID and password. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, please contact Technology Services at 903-468-6000 or helpdesk@tamu-commerce.edu. To get started with the course, go to: https://leo.tamu-commerce.edu/login.aspx. eCollege will be used to send you announcements and reminders, to post grades, and to provide access to course materials (except required readings) such as handouts and assignments. In addition, eCollege will be the primary means for me to communicate with you outside the classroom. Be sure that you can access the email account the university has on record for you. You should get into the habit of checking the eCollege site for this course on a daily basis.

**Turnitin:**
Students must submit all written work to Turnitin. Submissions to Turnitin will be through eCollege. Thus all written work should be submitted to the appropriate eCollege dropbox. Names should not be included on papers submitted to Turnitin.

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**COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

**Interaction with Instructor:**
Students are encouraged to contact the professor for any and all reasons whatsoever. The more you let me know what is going on with you, the better I can help you out when necessary. Beyond the classroom, the best way to get in touch with the professor is through email. I am also available during my office hours. Please come to talk to me about any concerns you might have and about any problems or issues that arise during the semester. I can be very understanding but only if I know what is going on with you.

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**COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

**Classroom Behavior**
All students are expected to observe basic tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive leaning environment (See Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct). During class time, I expect your undivided attention. This means turning off cell phones, pagers, iPods, and other devices, and putting away newspapers and other forms of distraction, for the duration of the class period (exceptions will be allowed for emergencies with advance permission of the professor). Please come to class on time and plan to stay for the entire period. Coming late and/or disrupting the learning environment shows disrespect for me, your colleagues, and the educational endeavor in which you are engaged. If you must leave early, please let me know at the beginning of class. I can be very understanding of problems that might arise over the course of the semester, but only if I know what is going on with you. I encourage you to come to my office hours, to get to know me, and to keep me informed of any issues you might have that would affect your performance in this class.

**Late Papers**
All written assignments are due at the start of class on the date listed in the Course Schedule below. Late assignments may be accepted only with the advance approval of the professor and will be assessed a penalty of one letter grade per week. If you have a problem with a due date
because of a specific emergency, please notify the professor in advance or plan to turn the assignment in early. *I can be very understanding and flexible with you, but only if you come to talk to me in advance.* Quizzes can be made up only by advance request. Students must have a valid excuse for missing the quiz; missing class is not a valid reason. To pass this class, all assignments must be completed. Any missing assignments (excluding quizzes) at the end of the course will result in an overall course grade of D or F.

**Academic Honesty**
In all courses, we expect that all work that you do and turn in is your own. It is the policy of the University, the History Department, and myself that no form of plagiarism, cheating, collusion, or any other form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. Plagiarism is defined as deliberately taking the words or ideas of someone else and passing them off as your own. Cheating is obtaining unauthorized assistance on any assignment. Collusion is the selling of academic products with the intention that they be submitted to satisfy an academic requirement. Students are expected to uphold and support the highest academic standards at all times. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will automatically fail the assignment in question, will likely fail the entire course, and will be subject to disciplinary action by the University (See Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b(1,2,3)). Further information on the History Department plagiarism policy can be found on the History Department web page. If you are even unclear about what constitutes plagiarism or academic dishonesty, please ask.

**Writing Center**
Students are encouraged to take advantage of the resources of the Writing Center for assistance with drafting their papers. The Writing Center is a resource for you. They will not write your paper; they will help you improve your writing skills. If you use the Writing Center, please plan ahead. They can only help you if you see them in advance and have time to incorporate their suggestions into the final paper. More information can be found at [http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/litlang/CSC/](http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/litlang/CSC/).

**Students with Disabilities**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services  
Texas A&M University-Commerce  
Gee Library 132  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148  
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

**COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

This schedule will guide you through the semester and indicates when your assignments are due. It should be referred to often. I will do my best to adhere to this schedule, but I reserve the right to make adjustments to it during the course of the semester as such circumstances arise.

- **August 26:** Introduction: Europe in 1848  
  Skim: *Making of the West*, Chapter 21
- **August 28:** End of the Concert of Europe: The Crimean War
Read: *Making of the West*, Chapter 22, 695-702

September 2: no class: Labor Day
September 4: Unification: Italy and Germany
Read: *Making of the West*, 702-712
Sources, 174-178 (Cavour and Bismarck)

September 9: Social Transformations, Ideological Transformations
Read: *Making of the West*, 712-726
Sources, 161-165 (Engels); 198-200 (Bondfield); *Communist Manifesto* (eCollege)

September 11: Work and Workers
Read and Discuss: *Germinal*, all

September 16: Europe Abroad: Imperialism and Colonization
Read: *Making of the West*, 731-753
Sources, 178-185 (Spencer and Darwin); 186-197 (Ferry, Kumalo, Williams); 218-221 (Kipling)

September 18: The Age of Modernity and the Belle Epoch
Read: Sources, 200-203 (Degas); 207-209 (Freud)

September 23: Mass Politics, Ethnic Politics
**Group Project I: Dreyfus Affair**
Read: *Making of the West*, 753-764
Sources, 210-214 (Zola)

September 25: Mass Politics, Ethnic Politics II
Read: *Making of the West*, 767-793
**Group Project II: Beilis Affair**

September 30: The Road to War and Revolution
Read: *Making of the West*, 793-800, 803-817
Sources, 221-225 (Treitschke and Massis and Tarde); 226-235 (Franke and Sassoon, Doriat, Lenin)

October 2: Building Socialism/Interwar Europe
Film: *Metropolis* (DVD1130)

October 7: Interwar Europe/Building Socialism
Read: *Making of the West*, 817-837
Sources: 235-242 (Mussolini and Hitler)

October 9: Stalinism
Read: TBA (eCollege)

October 14: Midterm Exam

October 16: Fascism Ascendant: Germany, Italy, Spain
Read: *Making of the West*, 841-857
Sources, 243-245 (Goebbels); Fascism (eCollege)

October 21: Nazi Culture
Film: *Triumph of the Will* (VHS1391)

October 23: Hitler’s Europe: The Road to War
Read: *Making of the West*, 857-863
Sources, 249-252 (Chamberlain)
October 28: World War II/Holocaust
   Read: *Making of the West*, 863-877
   *Sources*, 252-258 (Bankhalter and Kibort); WWII (eCollege)

October 30: Making Sense of the War
   **Group Project III: Nuremberg Trials**

November 4: Postwar Europe/Cold War Europe
   Read: *Making of the West*, 881-898
   *Sources*: 263-270 (Cominform and NSC)

November 6: Decolonization
   Read: *Making of the West*, 899-914
   *Sources*: 270-272 (Ho Chi Minh); Fritz Fannon (eCollege)

November 11: Europe 1956/1968
   Read: *Making of the West*, 917-937
   *Sources*, 278-284 (Smrkovsky and Student Voices)

November 13: Postwar Europe/Cold War Europe II
   Read and Discuss: *Under a Cruel Star*, all

November 18: Eastern European under Communism
   Film: *The Lives of Others*

November 20: Eastern European under Communism
   Film: *The Lives of Others*

   Read: *Making of the West*, 937-949
   *Sources*: 291-296 (Glasnost)

November 27: No Class. Thanksgiving Break

December 2: The Yugoslav Crisis
   Read: *Making of the West*, 953-988
   *Sources*: 297-304 (Filipovic)
   **Group Project IV: Yugoslav Criminal Tribunal**

December 4: Conclusions on the New Europe
   Research Papers Due

Final Exam: TBA