MIR 561 European Diplomatic History
Spring 2017-MIR Program
Thursday, 6:30-9:30pm.
Room IB 301
Instructor: Sandrine Bertaux
sandrinebertaux@gmail.com
Office hours: Before and after class, and by appointment

Course description: This course introduces students to the history of Europe from the end of the old regime with the advent of the French revolution (1789) till the end of the Cold War with the fall of the Berlin Wall (1989) and the collapse of the communist bloc. Topics include the French and Bolshevik revolutions; Napoleon’s empire and the rise of nationalism; the industrial revolution and the social question; the two world wars; fascist dictatorships and the Soviet Union; Europe’s imperial expansion and decolonization; European integration and the end of the Cold War. The question of the relationship between citizenship, human rights, race, empire and the nation state will serve as a common thread to understand the making of modern and contemporary Europe.

Organization of the course: Weekly readings are composed of one or several primary sources that is, documents contemporary to the period, and of one or several secondary sources that is, historians’ analysis of that period. In addition, I will give before each session a short timeline, a list of key concepts and of study questions; you will receive a summary of the lectures after each session. There is approximately 70 pages of weekly reading.

Requirements: students must have carefully read the texts assigned for the session as well as the timeline, key concepts and study questions before coming to class.

Assignments:
1) One oral presentation
2) One in-class midterm exam
4) One in-class final exam.

Grading policy:
Class participation: 10%
Oral presentation: 20%
Exam: (30+40) 70%

WEEK 1-(9 Feb.) Introduction to the course

WEEK 2- (16 Feb.) The French Revolution: Citizenship, Nation State and Human Rights
Primary sources:
Abbé Sieyes, What is the Third Estate? January 1789
National Assembly, The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, 26 August 1789
Secondary sources:
WEEK 3- (23 Feb.) The Haitian Revolution and Napoleon’s Empire
Primary source:
Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, 1790
Secondary source:

WEEK 4- (2 March) Slavery, Citizenship and Human Rights

WEEK 5- (9 March)- The Social and National Questions in Europe
Primary Sources:
Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*, 1848
Ernest Renan, *What is a Nation?* 1882
Secondary sources:

WEEK 6- (16 March)- European Imperialism and Nation-Building
Primary sources:
John Stuart Mill, *On Colonies and Colonization*, 1848
Jules Ferry, *Speech before the French Chamber of Deputies*, 28 March 1884
Secondary sources:

WEEK 7- (23 March) The First World War
Primary Sources:
Woodrow Wilson “The Fourteen Points”, 1918
Secondary sources:

WEEK 8- (30 March) Fascist Dictatorships
In Class Midterm: 45 minutes

Primary Sources:
Sandrine Bertaux, *Projecting the Nation. European States in the 1920s and 1930s* (Istanbul: Ottoman Bank Archives and Research Center, 2006).
Benito Mussolini “Fascism” *Italian Encyclopedia*, 1932
Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honour (15 September 1935); Reich Citizenship Law (15 September 1935), First Regulation of the Reich Citizenship Law (14 November 1935).
Secondary sources:

WEEK 9-(6 April) The Soviet Union
Primary Sources:
Sandrine Bertaux, Projecting the Nation. European States in the 1920s and 1930s (Istanbul: Ottoman Bank Archives and Research Center, 2006).
Secondary sources:

WEEK 10-(13 April) The Second World War
Secondary sources:

20 April –Spring Break: No Class

WEEK 11-(27 April)-Postwar Europe: The Cold War and European Integration
Primary sources:
Rudolf Hess, Testimony at the Nuremberg Trial, 5 April 1946.
Secondary sources:

Week 12-(4 May)- Late Imperial Europe and Decolonization
Aimé Césaire, Discourse on Colonialism, 1950.
Secondary sources:
Peo Hansen and Stefan Jonsson, Eurafrika. The Untold History of European Integration and Colonialism (London: Bloomsbury, 2014)

WEEK 13-(11 May)-The Collapse of Communism, the End of the Cold War and the Remaking of European Identity
Secondary sources: