

History 3680 Europe, 1870 to the Present

(6 credits, Fall and Winter Semesters, 2013-14)

Dr. K. B. Koth

Office: 246 St. Paul's

Tel: 474-7889

Venue: Tier 403

Time: T/TR 2:30-3:45 p.m.

Office Hours: TR 12:00 noon-1:15 p.m., or by appointment

Course Description:

This course comprises the history of Europe at the zenith of its power, 1870-1945. It examines the dominant forces and personalities of the period between Bismarck and Hitler. And it emphasizes nationalism and minorities questions, the origins and events of the two world wars, and the domestic concerns of the major European states.

As part of the course you will be introduced to two historiographical problems: 1)

Bismarck: Great Man or Child of the Age?* and 2) *Was Germany really to be blamed for the First World War, or perhaps Britain or Russia or all three? In order to discuss these you will be asked to read short excerpts from relevant monographs/articles. *See bibliography below. **(Don't be scared, this should be fun.)**

Evaluation:

Essay #1	20%	due Nov. 7
Essay #2	30%	due Feb. 25
Mid-Term exam	15%	Jan. 7
Final exam	35%	TBA
Total	100%	

Textbooks:

1. *Modern Europe, 1789-Present*, Briggs, Asa and Clavin, Patricia, (Edinburgh Gate: Pearson Education Ltd., 2003).

2. Welch, David, *Modern European History, 1871-2000: A Documentary Reader*, (London and New York: Routledge, 1999).

3. Rampolla, Mary Lynn, *A Pocket Guide to Writing History*, (Boston: Bedford Books of St. Martin's Press). (OPTIONAL)

Essays: The first essay should be 6-8 pages, a **minimum** of 1500 words. The second essay should be between 2000-2500 words. All term work will be evaluated and returned prior to the Voluntary Withdrawal date of March 19, 2014. These essays should be analytical in nature, and will be explained in class. (See below, **Term Essays** for detailed instructions)

Late Papers: The grades for late papers will be discounted by 10% each day to a maximum of 3 days. Papers more than 3 days late will not be accepted, and will receive a grade of 0%.

Foot/end noting and Bibliographies: You must use the Chicago style contained in Turabian, Kate L., *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, (Chicago: University of Chicago Press). An excellent summary of these styles, as well as an aid to writing term papers and essays, is Rampolla's book (see above).

Plagiarism: If you are not aware of the regulations concerning Plagiarism, cheating and impersonation, consult the U of M Calendar, section 8.1/2, Academic Integrity, p. 27-28.

The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism on a written assignment is a grade of F on the paper and a final grade of F (DISC) (for Disciplinary Action) for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as purchase of an essay and repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five (5) years from registration in courses taught in a particular department/program in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty.

The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism or to other experts for authentication.

The common penalty in Arts for academic dishonesty on a test or examination is F for the paper, F (DISC) for the course, and a one-year suspension from courses acceptable for credit in the Faculty. For more serious acts of academic dishonesty on a test or examination, such as repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department or program in Arts or from all courses taught in or accepted for credit by this Faculty.

Final Exam:

There will be a three-hour comprehensive examination consisting of essay questions or a mix of essays and short answer questions. A document analysis might also be included. There will be a choice of questions.

Voluntary Withdrawal Date: March 19, 2014

Letter Grade equivalents:

A+ 90-100	B+ 75-79	C+ 63-69	D 50-54
A 80-89	B 70-74	C 55-62	F 0-49

Students who wish to appeal a grade given for term work must do so within 10 working days after the grade for the term work has been made available to them.

Uncollected term work will become the property of the Faculty of Arts and will be subject to confidential destruction.

Lecture Schedule:

Date	Lecture Topics	Readings:
		These will be assigned two weeks ahead
Sep. 5-19	Post 1848 Revolution to the Unification of Italy and Germany	
Sep. 24-Oct. 3	The Alliance System and WW I	
Oct. 8-17	Modernity and Anti-Semitism	
Oct. 22-31	Colonies, Empires and neo-Mercantilism	
Nov. 5-14	France and the Third Republic	
Nov. 19-Dec 3	The First World War	
Jan, 7-14	The Inter-War Years	
Jan. 16, 21	Attempts at Disarmament	
Jan. 23, 28	The Great Depression	
Jan 30, Feb 4	Russia in Revolution: Communism	
Feb 6-13	Fascism	
Feb. 17-21	Spring Break	
Feb 25-Mar 4	Appeasement	
Mar, 6, 11	The Second World War to 1941	
Mar. 13, 18	The Holocaust against Gypsies and Jews	
Mar. 20-27	The Grand Alliance	
Apr. 1, 3	The Legacy of the Second World War	
Apr. 8	Revision/ discussion of final exam	

(dates are approximate)

Term Essays:

DOs

1. Consider the topic/question of your choice by constructing your own thesis, and attempt to address it coherently.
2. It is **essential** that you choose and limit your theme carefully in terms of chronology and content, and present your point of view (your thesis) clearly to the reader (me) somewhere at the beginning of your essay. The rest of the essay will consist in your laying out an argument in support of your thesis.
3. In order to substantiate your argument you need to consult at least 7 (seven) different sources, (primary sources, books, academic articles, newspapers, etc.). These must be acknowledged in a **bibliography**, and properly foot/end-noted throughout your paper, using the Chicago style. This format may be most easily accessed in Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing History*, (Boston, New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 1998), or Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, (Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 1973).
4. It goes without saying that merely depending on the thesis of one of your sources will not be acceptable. I would suggest that you use your sources first for gathering evidence, facts. From

these you will construct your own thesis and argument, and avoid falling into the “dependency” trap.

5. Give a computer generated word count at the end of your essay.
6. Your essay will therefore consist of a title page, text which includes foot- or endnotes, numbered pages, and a bibliography.
7. DO clarify your thesis statement with me before you begin writing.
8. The preferred font is Times New Roman, #12.

DON'Ts

1. Do NOT use the Internet, especially sources such as WIKIPEDIA. You may use the Internet to access and download academic journal articles through EPSCO or other such sites.
2. Also, DO NOT use your text, my class notes, or any book you may have read for another course.
3. Do not leave spaces between paragraphs, and do not use sub-headings. Double space.

Essay #1 Topics

- 1) Considering the Unification of Germany, 1871, assess Bismarck as a master strategist or an opportunist taking advantage of forces he could and did not control.
- 2) Was the French Commune of 1871 really the first emanation of “class struggle?”
- 3) Account for the economic rise of Germany, with particular attention to the Second Industrial Revolution.
- 4) Why was Russia unable to undertake successful reforms in the second half of the nineteenth century?
- 5) Explain the success of British Liberalism to 1884.
- 6) Explain the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe before the First World War. Was it due to an “inherent” European racism, or were there other causes, such as the instability of industrial society especially after the economic collapse of 1873.
- 7) Did art (music, literature, the visual arts, dance) in any way predict or foreshadow the problems of Europe which seem to come to a head in 1914? (You should limit yourself either by genre or artist)

Essay #2 Topics

- 1) What lessons might one draw from the Japanese defeat of Russia in 1904? (I realize this topic is extremely broad, so limit yourself accordingly).
- 2) How and why did the Bismarckian diplomatic system break down between 1890 and 1914?
- 3) Explain the “scramble for Africa.” Was imperial competition a cause of the First World War?
- 4) Which country is to blame for the First World War? Perhaps ALL or NONE? (There are a variety of fairly new and differing responses to this question. See below*)
- 5) Account for the instability of the inter-war years (1918-39).
- 6) What does Lenin’s institution of the NEP policy tell us about Russian communism?
- 7) Was the defeat of Germany in 1945 due to the unlikely Grand Alliance? Discuss

***Bibliography**

For the discussion on Bismarck see:

Eyck, Erich, *Bismarck and the German Empire*, (New York: W.W. Norton and Co., 1964), is the standard English version of this earlier assessment of the man.

Jonathan Steinberg, *Bismarck: A Life*, (London: Oxford University Press, 2011), is the latest and most complete version in English.

For the controversy regarding blame for the First World War, see:

Fischer, Fritz, *Germany's Aims in the First World War*, (*Griff nach der Weltmacht*), (New York: W. W. Norton, 1967), attributes much of the blame to Germany;

Ferguson, Niall, *The Pity of War: Explaining World War I*, (New York: Basic Books, 1998), blames Great Britain;

McKeekin, Sean, *The Russian Origins of the First World War*, (Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 2013), to round things off, sees the Russians and their Near Eastern policy as the culprits.

The climate of St. Petersburg is humid continental, with freezing winters and pleasantly warm, cloudy summers. Snowfall is frequent in winter, just as rainfall in summer. Winter sets in from late November to late March and is characterized by long nights, snowfall, and chilly winds. January and February are the coldest months, with temperatures dropping to -8°C . Warmer weather usually lasts from April to October. The temperatures vary between 15°C and 23°C in June, July, and August. In 2019, the city enjoyed 271 sunny days with a total of 1,500 sunny hours. So, when packing your suitcase for S... Khan, Nadeem and Korac-Kakabadse, Nada 2013. Collaborative Corporate Strategy Research Programmes (C.C.S.R.P.) a Conceptual Integrative Strategic Framework for a Practical Research Agenda. Open Journal of Business and Management, Vol. 01, Issue. Bertilorenzi, Marco 2014. Business, finance, and politics: the rise and fall of international aluminium cartels, 1914-45. Business History, Vol. 56, Issue. 2, p. 236. US history and popular culture like to promote the emergent United States as an isolated beacon of Democracy emerging out of the specialness of the colonial experience. In fact, the values and ideals upon which this country is founded were first expressed and practiced in the Dutch Republic. And indeed, those values were transported to the Dutch colony in what was later named New York -- with basic concepts forming the underpinning of the US Constitution. If we want to understand the US, we need to understand our REAL predecessor. Read more. 6 people found this helpful. Helpful. Comment Report Events from the year 1870 in the United Kingdom. Monarch " Victoria. Prime Minister " William Ewart Gladstone (Liberal). Parliament " 20th. 28 January " General Post Office takes over business of private telegraph companies. 5 March " first ever (unofficial) international football match, England v Scotland, takes place under the approval of the Football Association at The Oval, London. The Winter Court or Unseelie Court is one of the Faerie Courts, ruling over part of Faerie in the Nevernever. Their fae members are termed Winter Sidhe, or Winterfae. Winter's nature was beautiful violence, stark clarity, the most feral needs and animal desires and killer instinct pitted against the season of cold and death"the will and desire to fight, to live, even when there was no shelter, no warmth, no respite, no hope, and no help." Harry Dresden.

At any rate, it reached Europe no later than the 6th century, when a bishop in France unmistakably described its symptoms—a violent fever followed by the appearance of pustules, which, if the patient survived, eventually scabbed over and broke off. By that time, the contagious disease, caused by the variola virus, had spread all across Africa and Asia as well, prompting some cultures to worship special smallpox deities. But the effects were even worse in the Americas, which had no exposure to the virus prior to the arrival of Spanish and Portuguese conquistadors. Tearing through the Incas before Francisco Pizarro even got there, it made the empire unstable and ripe for conquest. It also devastated the Aztecs, killing, among others, the second-to-last of their rulers. (6 credits, Fall and Winter Semesters, 2013-14). Dr. K. B. Koth Office: 246 St. Paul's Tel: 474-7889 Venue: Tier 403 Time: T/TR 2:30-3:45 p.m. Office Hours: TR 12:00 noon-1:15 p.m., or by appointment. Course Description: This course comprises the history of Europe at the zenith of its power, 1870-1945. It examines the dominant forces and personalities of the period between Bismarck and Hitler. And it emphasizes nationalism and minorities questions, the origins and events of the two world wars, and the domestic concerns of the major European states. The six founding countries are Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. The 1950s are dominated by a cold war between east and west. Protests in Hungary against the Communist regime are put down by Soviet tanks in 1956. A small village in Luxembourg gives its name to the Schengen agreements that gradually allow people to travel without having their passports checked at the borders.