

HIST 425/525
European Economies in the 20th Century
Fall 2019

CRN 12849/12864

Tuesday, Thursday 10:00 – 11:20 am 105 Fenton Hall

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Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 11:45 am – 12:30 pm 359 McKenzie Hall

Description of Course

This is a course about the development, crises, and transformations of the economies of Europe in the twentieth century. The course addresses economies in both Western and Eastern Europe. Beginning with an overview of the pre-1914 system of global economy in which Europe and, to a lesser degree, the United States were the center, the course progresses through the economics of World War I, economic recovery in the 1920s, and the Depression of the 1930s for which the failed or fragile economic policies adopted in the 1920s were in large part responsible. The course then addresses different topics for the second half of the twentieth century; the impact of World War II and postwar recovery, economic growth in postwar Western Europe, planned economies and forced industrialization in postwar Eastern Europe, and economic aspects of European integration and the European Union.

Although economic history is emphasized in lectures and readings, students may pursue social history topics in course papers.

The course requires no background knowledge of European history or economics. Basic lessons in essential concepts and technical relationships will be provided for topics that involve close analysis of economic processes. This course combines analysis at a rather high level with less familiar empirical detail about major events, developments, institutions, and policies. Students should therefore be prepared to devote close attention to the material of both lectures and readings throughout the entire term.

Course Requirements

The course grade will be based on the following elements:

- Two written assignments, one of these a major course paper
- Two examinations (mid-term and final exams)

The written assignments together will count for 50% of the course grade, and the two examinations for the remaining 50%. Respective weights of each written assignment and exam are described below.

First Written Assignment (due October 31): 20%

For the first written assignment, there are two options. Do either Option 1 or Option 2:

- **Option 1:** The student will choose one book from the list of books posted for this assignment on **Canvas**. The student will develop a theme that is significantly addressed in the book, in a manner that reflects the student's independent use of the content of the book. This should include some analysis (such as explanations, cause and effect relationships, concepts) as well as supporting empirical detail (description). Lecture material and assigned readings may be used to develop particular points, as long as the core of the paper relies on the book. A paper of a minimum length of 7 pages (double-spaced, 12-point type), or **2100 words**, is required for this option.
- **Option 2:** Using the data provided from the Excel file posted on **Canvas**, the student will generate and interpret tables on movements of certain specified variables for one country (UK, France, or Germany) pertaining to the international economy in the period 1919-1933. In addition to data provided from the posted Excel file, readings pertaining to the country chosen will be provided. These are to be used to assist in analyzing tables and situating the movements so described in a broader historical context.

Details on both options will be provided by the beginning of the second week of the term.

Major course paper (due December 5): 30%

The major course paper may be on any topic related to the subject matter of this course. The paper must use substantially **at least two scholarly books, or one scholarly book plus three scholarly articles or chapters of books**. None of these may be a book, article or chapter assigned for the weekly readings. A bibliography of books acceptable for this paper will be provided on **Canvas**. Other books are acceptable on the condition that they are scholarly in content and approach, and are approved in advance by the instructor. A brief statement of the proposed topic and readings that will be used for the paper must be submitted by **November 14** in writing or by email. For any readings not on bibliography provided on **Canvas**, the author, title, and Knight library call number of the book or books must be provided. Use of online (internet) material is not allowed for this paper, except for books and articles available through "Online access" (indicated as such) on the Knight Library website.

The required length of the paper is a minimum of 10 pages (double-spaced, 12-point type), or **3000 words**.

Examinations

There will be two examinations, weighted as follows:

- Mid-term examination 20%
- Final examination 30%

The mid-term examination will take place in class on **November 7 (Thursday)**. It will cover all assigned readings and lecture material from the beginning of the term through the week of Oct. 22, 24. The exam will include essay questions along with identifications or short response questions; a study guide will be distributed and posted on **Canvas** during the week preceding the exam.

The final examination will take place on **Monday December 9 at 8:00 am**. The exam will also consist of essays and identifications and/or short answers. A study guide for the exam will be distributed and posted on **Canvas** at the beginning of the week of December 3, 5.

Course Materials

The following books are available for purchase at The Duck Store:

- Ivan T. Berend, *An Economic History of Twentieth-Century Europe*, 2nd Edition
- Barry Eichengreen, *The European Economy since 1945*

Additional readings will be posted on **Canvas**. These include material written by the course instructor and excerpts from additional sources on twentieth-century European economies.

HIST 525: Graduate Student Requirements

Students taking the course as HIST 525 have special requirements. These pertain primarily to specifications for the major course paper. There will also be some additional sessions in the initial weeks of term, other than those of regularly scheduled classes, to discuss Gabriel Tortella, *Origins of the Twenty-first Century* (available for purchase at The Duck Store) and possibly a few other readings based on participants' field interests. HIST 525 students will meet individually with the instructor by the second week of the term for elaboration of these specifications.

Learning Objectives

- Acquire a knowledge of major topics of twentieth-century European history from the perspective of economic conditions, developments, crises, and transformations
- Acquire an understanding of causal relationships between economic and non-economic historical processes and developments in twentieth-century Europe
- Develop an appreciation for the complexity of economic factors and processes in "real world" occurrences as manifest in the situations and cases studied in this course
- For students of economics, business, and related social sciences: application and assessment of the tools they have acquired from their specialized studies to the complexity and untidiness of European historical reality
- For students of history and humanistic disciplines: introduction to concepts and tools of economics and enrichment of knowledge of the European past with perspectives drawn from economic developments sharpened with the clarity and rigor of economic argument

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Weekly Readings

References:

Twentieth-Century Europe: Ivan T. Berend, *An Economic History of Twentieth-Century Europe*, 2nd Edition

European Economy since 1945: Barry Eichengreen, *The European Economy since 1945*
Readings on *Canvas*

October 1, 3: Europe Before 1914

- **Twentieth-Century Europe**, Introduction and chapter 1 (pp. 1-42)

October 8, 10: European Economies in World War I

- **Twentieth-Century Europe**, chapter 2 (pp. 43- 53)
- Sheridan on World War I Economies [*Canvas*]

October 15, 17: European Economies after World War I: the 1920s

- **Twentieth-Century Europe**, chapter 2 (pp. 53-58)
- Aldcroft on the European Economy in the 1920s, from Derek H. Aldcroft, *The European Economy 1914-1990*, chapter 2 (pp. 31-62) [*Canvas*]

October 22, 24: The 1930s: Depression Economies

- **Twentieth-Century Europe**, chapter 2 (pp. 58-71), chapter 3 (entire chapter)
- Aldcroft on Origins of Depression, from *The European Economy 1914-1990*, chapter 3 (pp. 63-71) [*Canvas*]

Oct. 29, 31: World War II: Wartime Economies and Postwar Recovery

- **Twentieth-Century Europe**, chapter 2 (pp. 71-87), chapter 5 (pp. 180-193)
- **European Economy since 1945**, chapter Three (pp. 52-58)

October 31 (Thursday): First Written Assignment Due

Nov. 5, 7: Postwar Growth: Foundations and Issues

- **European Economy since 1945**, chapters One and Two (pp. 1-51), chapter Three (pp. 59-85)
- **Twentieth-Century Europe**, chapter 5 (pp. 193-203, 207-210, 222-245)

November 7 (Thursday): Midterm Examination

Nov. 12, 14: The Golden Age in the West

- **European Economy since 1945**, chapters Four (pp. 86-130) and Seven (pp. 198-224)
- Sheridan on Growth in Postwar Europe [*Canvas*]

November 14 (Thursday): Submission of Topic Statement and Bibliography for Major Course Paper (Required)

Nov. 19, 21: Planned Economies in the East

- **European Economy since 1945**, chapters Five (pp. 131-162) and Ten (pp. 294-334)
- **Twentieth-Century Europe**, chapter 4 (entire chapter)

Nov. 26: European Integration

- **European Economy since 1945**, chapters Six (pp. 163-197), Nine (pp. 282-293), Eleven (pp. 335-378)

Dec. 3, 5: Some Contemporary Topics

- **Twentieth-Century Europe**, chapter 6 (entire chapter)

December 5 (Thursday): Major Course Paper Due

FINAL EXAMINATION Monday, December 9, 8:00 am