

Political Science 72
European Studies 35
Spring 2011
Amherst College
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CULTURE AND POLITICS IN 20TH CENTURY EUROPE

A seminar to discuss political culture and political ideologies that organized much of the political history of 20th century Europe. The syllabus is a selection of books, articles and films. Some important themes are war, nationalism, Marxism/socialism/communism, fascism, anti-Semitism, Freudianism, existentialism; aspects of American influence in European culture and politics, the 1960s in Europe and internationally, Pope John Paul II, soccer hooliganism, the "Idea of Europe" and European identity in the 21st century. Some knowledge of modern European history is desirable. Political science and European studies majors have enrolment preference, along with juniors and seniors. Workload: a number of response papers during the semester and a final 7-8 page essay. **Books to purchase:** (Amherst Books) Sebastian Faulks, *Birdsong : A Novel of Love and War*, and a course packet in the Political Science office, Clark House 103. All films and Youtubes are on E-reserves.

SYLLABUS

PART ONE (1900-1945)

Multilith front matter: Maps of Europe (M)

1. Introduction: the European *fin de siècle*, c. 1900

2. Rise of the modern age of ideology: class and nation, socialism and nationalism

Read: Marx and Engels, "The Communist Manifesto," parts 1 and 2 (M)(E)

Recommended: "Industrial revolution," "Nationalism," "Marxism" (Wikipedia articles, to print)

3. Landlords/Peasants/Workers/Socialism/Nationalism/Fascism

Film: "1900," part one (B. Bertolucci, Ital, 1988), (3 hrs)

Read: Bertolucci and "1900" film notes (M)(E)

Socialist Review, "Verdi: The People's Opera" (M)(E)

4. Bertolucci, "1900," part two, (2 hrs.)

5. Cultural Decadence in the *fin de siècle*: an Italian/Russian Fantasy

Film: "Dark Eyes" (2 hrs.)

6. Ideologies: Anti-Semitism in Russia

Film: "The Fixer"

Read: "Protocols of the Elders of Zion," pp. 1-19, 53-4 (M)(E)

Economist magazine, "An Ugly Head Rears" (M)(E)

Rec: film, "Fiddler on the Roof" (3 hours)

7. Why WWI was known as "The Great War"

Read: Sebastian Faulks, Birdsong, pp. 115-230 (P)

8. Mussolini and Italian Fascism

Documentary: "Mussolini" (1 hr.)

Read: Benito Mussolini, "The Doctrine of Fascism," pp. 1-20 (M)

Leon Trotsky, "What is Fascism, and How to Fight It" (M)

9. Freud and the psychoanalytic theory of history

Read: Sigmund Freud, "Civilization and its Discontents" (M)

10. The century of total war

Read: J. Glenn Gray, "The Enduring Appeals of Battle" (M)

Niall Ferguson, The War of the World, Introduction (M)

11. Marxism/Leninism/Stalinism

Documentary: "Joseph Stalin: Red Terror"

Reading: Ronald Tiersky, Ordinary Stalinism, chs. 2-3, 14-91 (M)

12. The Soviet cult of WWII: Stalinism and nationalism

Film: "Enemy at the Gates," (Jean-Jacques Annaud, Fr.) 2 hours

Read: "The Nazi-Soviet Pact and Secret Protocols" (Wikipedia) (M)

"The Battle of Stalingrad" (Wikipedia) (M)

13. The political culture of Nazism and the Fuehrer

Film: Leni Riefenstahl, "Triumph of the Will"

14. The Holocaust: issues of guilt and responsibility

Documentary: "The Trial of Adolph Eichmann," watch ½ hour

Read: Hannah Arendt, Eichmann in Jerusalem, pp. 21-35, 50-55,
68-9, 74-77, 83-111, 135-50, 244-52 (M)

"Trial of Adolf Eichmann" text, excerpt (M)

Daniel Goldhagen, Hitler's Willing Executioners, (M)

15. De Gaulle, the French Resistance movement and the rebirth of Europe

Documentary: "De Gaulle and France," part one (1 hour)

Read: De Gaulle, War Memoirs, "Free France" and "Status," pp. 758-
770 (M)

PART TWO: 1945-2000

16. Existentialism and the Death of God

Youtube: "Sartre and de Beauvoir," 4:58 (E)

"The Life of Simone de Beauvoir, part one" 9:00 (E)

Read: Jean-Paul Sartre, "Existentialism is a Humanism" (M)

Simone de Beauvoir: The Second Sex, 328-37, 558-61, 597-628 (M)

17. American jazz and post-WWII European culture

Film: "Round Midnight" 2 hours

Read, Robert Gottlieb, Reading Jazz, 537-44, 741-46 (M)

YouTube: "Louis Armstrong in Europe" (E)

18. American corporate culture and European values, 1950s-70s

Film: "Macaroni" (Ital.) (1h20)

Read: J-J Servan-Schreiber, *The American Challenge*, excerpts (M)
Jacques Ellul, *The Technological Society*, xxvi-xxxvi, 412-436 (M)

19. Post-WWII Italian Opulence and Decadence

Film: "La dolce vita"(F. Fellini) (3 hours)

20. Discussion

Read: "La dolce vita" notes (M)

21. The 60's: U.S., Europe and internationally

Documentaries: "A Grin without a Cat" (Part 1 only, 90 mins.)
"De Gaulle and France," part 3 (1 hr.)

22. "May '68" in France

Read: C. Posner (ed.), *Reflections on the Revolution in France*,
chs. 15, 6, 11 (M)
Raymond Aron, *The Elusive Revolution*, pp. 18-37 (M)

23. Pope John Paul II and the demise of Communism

Documentary: "John Paul II"
Read: George Weigel, "How Many Divisions has the Pope?" (M)
Pope Leo XIII, "Rerum Novarum" ("On the Condition of
Workers," 1891) selected quotations (M)
Pope John Paul II, Encyclical, "Centesimus Annus" (M)

24. The Revolutionary Collapse of Communism, 1989-91

Documentary: "The Fall of Communism" (1 hr.)
Read: Bernard Gwertzman, "The Collapse of Communism" (M)

25. Pope John Paul II and the Critique of Capitalism

Read: Carl Bernstein and Marco Politi, "The Angry Pope" (M)
Pope John Paul II, Encyclical, "Evangelium Vitae" (M)

26. The Significance of Soccer Hooliganism

Documentary: "Trouble on the Terraces" (1 hr. 30)
Read: Dunning (et al), "The Social Roots of Football Hooligan Violence" (M)
Gary Armstrong and Rosemary Harris, "Football Hooligans: Theory and Evidence" (M)

27. European identity in the 21st century

Film: "The Spanish Apartment," (Fr, 2001) 2 hours
Read: Mikhail Gorbachev, "The Wholeness of Europe" (M)
Vaclav Havel, "The Meaning of European Integration" (M)
Joseph J.J. Weiler, "To Be a European Citizen: Eros and Civilization" (M)
Mark Gilbert, "Narrating the Process" (M)
