HISTORY 428/528 WESTERN EUROPE SINCE 1945
Politics and social change
Tues./Thurs. 4:00-5:20, Pacific 30

Course description: This course centers on the social transformation of Western Europe in the postwar era. Major themes include the shift from a depression mentality to affluence in every country of Western Europe; the new consumerism; the cultural revolution of the 1960s-70s; changes in women’s roles and rights; and the evolution of Western European societies from ethnically homogeneous to multiracial and multiethnic societies. We will explore these issues against a backdrop of national politics and European integration.

Grades will be based on:
6 unannounced quizzes on assigned readings (I’ll drop the lowest grade) 30%.
1 short (4-5 page) paper on supplementary readings, with oral presentation: 20%.
1 final research paper (10-12 pages). 50%.

In addition, active, thoughtful participation may raise your grade one notch. Because the short papers are to be discussed in class, I will not accept late papers.

Required texts available at the bookstore:
Paul Ginsborg, A History of Contemporary Italy
Lawrence Wylie, Village in the Vaucluse
Ron Ramdin, Reimaging Britain

Required text available through used bookstores on-line (e.g. abebooks.com): Gisela Kaplan, Contemporary Western European Feminism. Unfortunately, this book is no longer in print. There is one copy on reserve at Knight, and another nine copies are available through Orbis. Many other copies are available on line. If you order one quickly, you should be able to get the book at a very reasonable price.

Class schedule:

Tues., Sept. 30 Introduction

Thurs., Oct. 2 “Liberation” and political renewal on the continent


Extra assignment for graduate students: two essays of your choice from Politics of Retribution in Europe (on reserve at Knight, D810.C696 P6 2000), pp. 133-232 (be prepared to describe in class).

Tues., Oct. 7 Italian politics and society: renewal or retrenchment?

Required reading: Contemporary Italy, 72-210.

Thurs., Oct. 9 Welfare states in formation

No required reading for undergraduates. Graduate students: read some of the supplementary list.


http://www.uoregon.edu/~hessler/Hist528.htm
Tues., Oct. 14  French society at the start of the 1950s

Required reading: *Village in the Vaucluse* (to p. 325, “Peyrane Today”)

Thurs., Oct. 16  French politics from the Fourth to the Fifth Republics

Required reading: Document handout.

Tues., Oct. 21  An age of affluence

Required reading: *Village in the Vaucluse*, 325-84; *Contemporary Italy*, 210-53.


Thurs., Oct. 23  Vatican II and the secularization of Western Europe

Required reading: *Contemporary Italy*, 254-97 (esp. 259-61).


Tues., Oct. 28  Youth revolt and the “bullet years”

Required reading: *Contemporary Italy*, 298-405.


Thurs., Oct. 30  Introduction to women’s liberation in Europe

Required reading: *Contemporary Western European Feminism*, 1-59.

Tues., Nov. 4  Feminism and social change in social democratic Scandinavia

Required reading: *Contemporary Western European Feminism*, 60-102.


Thurs., Nov. 6  Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, France: political currents

Required reading: *Contemporary Western European Feminism*, 103-78, plus handout.

Tues., Nov. 11  Revolution in Southern Europe

Required reading: *Contemporary Western European Feminism*, 179-283.

Thurs., Nov. 13  Toward multiracial Europe: immigration in Britain

Required reading: *Reimaging Britain*, 141-193.

**Tues., Nov. 18 British society and politics in the Thatcher era**

Required reading: *Reimaging Britain*, 193-257.

**Thurs., Nov. 20 Film:** My Beautiful Laundrette (begin). No required reading.

**Tues., Nov. 25 Film (end).**

Required reading: *Reimaging Britain*, 258-349.

**Thurs., Nov. 27 No class -- happy Thanksgiving!**

**Tues., Dec. 2 Towards European unification**


**Thurs., Dec. 4 A new Europe?**


Final paper due in my office, McKenzie 351, no later than 1:00, Wednesday, Dec. 10.

Assignment for short papers: The basic purpose of this assignment is for you to read one or more additional texts on the topic of our course. In your paper, your primary aim should be to explicate your text or texts, i.e. to identify the main argument or arguments and to describe how the author develops them. At the same time, you should try to contextualize your text against the other things we have read (or, if you are feeling energetic, against other works that you have found). For example, if you were assigned Michael Wildt’s article on consumption in West Germany, you might compare his portrayal against what you know about the British and French cases; or if you were assigned an article on the Swedish welfare state, you might try to relate it to the information in Gisela Kaplan’s book on women’s status and the women’s movement in Scandinavia. Ideally, the additional readings and short papers will give you a helpful angle on the core readings for the course. As for your in-class presentation, I’m looking for something very short: all you need to be able to do is to explain, in a few minutes, what you got out of your text, and your fellow students or I might ask you a question or two about it.