



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Introduction to 20th Century History - 39215

Last update 28-08-2024

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: History

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Iris Nachum

Coordinator Email: iris.nachum@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Wednesday, 12:30-13:30

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Iris Nachum

Course/Module description:

This introductory course provides an overview of key events in 20th-century history, focusing on Europe and beyond. The course spans from the outbreak of the First World War to the period following the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989.

Course/Module aims:

The aim of the course is to examine the World Wars and their enduring political consequences; the rise and fall of Stalinism, Italian Fascism and Nazism; the Holocaust; decolonization; the Cold War's impact on European societies as well as the 1989 revolutions and their aftermaths. Using current research literature and a variety of primary sources, the course also explores intellectual, cultural and social phenomena that shaped Europe during this "Age of Extremes".

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- describe major political developments in 20th-century Europe,*
- explain key terms and identify significant figures who shaped the 20th century in Europe and beyond,*
- analyze the causes and effects of central historical events from 1914 to 1989,*
- evaluate the impact of major historical milestones on social, cultural, and intellectual phenomena during this period, and*
- critically assess ideologies that flourished during this "Short Century".*

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lecture

Course/Module Content:

1. "The Short Century": Europe in the 20th Century
2. "The Seminal Catastrophe": The Great War
3. "The Wilsonian Moment": Hope and Despair
4. "The New Woman" in Golden Berlin and Red Vienna
5. "The Age of Extremes": Hitler and Mussolini
6. The Munich Agreement: "Peace for our Time"?
7. "Apocalypse": The Second World War
8. "Rupture in Civilization": The Shoah
9. "Animal Farm": The 1917 Russian Revolution and the Great Terror

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10. *The Cold War: The West - "The Free World"?*
 11. *Decolonization: "Provincializing Europe"*
 12. *The Cold War: Eastern Europe - The Bloc of Equals?*
 13. *1989: "The End of History"?*

Required Reading:

For the required reading material (research literature and primary sources), see course's Moodle site.

Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:

Computerized Exam - At the cluster % 100

Additional information:

Teaching Assistant:

Asaf Segal Doron

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Office hours: upon appointment