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HIST 319.01: Contemporary Europe

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Fall 2001

R. Drake

Syllabus for History 319 (Contemporary Europe)

Objectives of the Course

We survey the impact of the Cold War on European society and culture. In the course examinations and the term paper, students are expected to demonstrate powers of historical analysis at the upper-division level of university work.

Required Readings

Viktor Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning* (Beacon)
Alexander Solzhenitsyn, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (NAL-Dutton)
Czeslaw Milosz, *The Captive Mind* (Random House)
Vaclav Havel, *Summer Meditations* (Random House)
Milovan Djilas, *The New Class: An Analysis of the Communist System* (HBJ)
Simone De Beauvoir, *The Second Sex* (Random House)-selections
Thomas Mann, *Doctor Faustus* (Vintage)
Graham Greene, *The Heart of the Matter* (Viking-Penguin)

Examinations and Papers

Students will write a mid-term and a final examination. The mid-term will be given on Monday 22 October, the final on Tuesday 18 December. Both examinations will have mainly an essay format, with some short-answer questions. A ten-page term paper, the subject of which will be determined by each student in consultation with the professor, will be due Friday 30 November. Graduate students who are taking the course for graduate credit must write a twenty-page paper in place of the ten-page undergraduate paper. Students should feel free to write on any author or book on the required reading list.

Lectures, Reading Assignments, and Films

Week 1

W	5 September	Introduction
F	7 September	The Nature of Contemporary History

Week 2

M	10 September	The Second World War
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W 12 September The Holocaust

F 14 September Discussion of Frankl

Week 3

M 17 September The United States and Europe: Historical Background

W 19 September The United States and the Cold War

F 21 September The American "Empire"

Week 4

M 24 September The Soviet Union and Europe: Historical Background

W 26 September The Soviet Union and the Cold War

F 28 September Discussion of Solzhenitsyn

Week 5

M 1 October Eastern Europe: An Overview

W 3 October Poland

F 5 October Discussion of Milosz

Week 6

M 8 October Czechoslovakia

W 10 October Discussion of Havel

F 12 October Yugoslavia: An Overview

Week 7

M 15 October Discussion of Djilas

W 17 October Yugoslavia: An Update

F 19 October Review

Week 8

M	22 October	Mid-term Examination
W	24 October	Italy and the Cold War
F	26 October	Italian Neorealism (In conjunction with this lecture, the film “The Bicycle Thieves” will be shown on Friday and on Monday at 3:10 in the IMS Viewing Room).

Week 9

M	29 October	Terrorism in Contemporary Italy
W	31 October	The Mafia
F	2 November	France and the Cold War

Week 10

M	5 November	French Intellectual Life after World War II
W	7 November	Discussion of De Beauvoir
F	9 November	Postmodernism and Its Critics

Week 11

M	12 November	Holiday
W	14 November	The Unique Legacy of World War II in Germany: Part I (Friedrich Meinecke)
F	16 November	The Unique Legacy of World War II in Germany: Part II (Thomas Mann)

Week 12

M	19 November	Germany and the Cold War
W	21 November	Holiday
F	23 November	Holiday

Week 13

M	26 November	The <i>Historikerstreit</i> in Germany
W	28 November	Great Britain and the Cold War
F	30 November	George Orwell: Cold War Novelist

Week 14

M	3 December	Discussion of Graham Greene
W	5 December	The European Union: History
F	7 December	The European Union: Prospects

Week 15

M	10 December	The Soul of Europe at the End of the Twentieth Century (in conjunction with this lecture, “The Seventh Seal” will be shown on Monday at 3:10 and again on Tuesday at 3:40 in the IMS Viewing Room).
W	12 December	Europe Today
F	14 December	Conclusions and Review

Final Examination: 8:00-10:00 A. M. on Tuesday 18 December.