

## SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

(Revised May 4, 2008 )

SEMS 101: Europe – East and West (Global Studies)

Summer 2008

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This course is designed to provide the student with a broad set of stimuli to thinking about Europe in historical and comparative context and in particular to see Russia and Europe (and indirectly the United States) in their complex interrelationship. Historical, comparative and contemporary themes are interwoven into the course, which has been constructed with the itinerary of the summer 2008 Semester at Sea voyage in mind. The raw material for the course involves the usual sequence of lectures and readings; these are to be supplemented by a series of films targeted to recurrent topics as well as by the shore experiences of the student while in port. Traditional examinations will thus be supplemented by analytical essays on select films as well as reflective essays on shore experiences in relation to themes covered in the classroom and readings.

*Course assignments are as follows:*

*I. Two analytical essays on films of the student's choice from the list of films in the syllabus. The essays are due on Monday, July 7 and Monday, July 28. There is a 1,500 word limit for each essay. Each film is to be evaluated in light of the student's whole experience in the course to that date.*

*II. A "take-home" mid-term essay exam to be handed out on Friday, July 18 and turned in at class on Sunday, July 20. There is a 1,500 word limit.*

*III. A "field essay," due on Tuesday, August 12, that compares experiences in three countries in light of the whole experience in the course to that date. "Experiences" that might be compared include but are not limited to: houses of worship, museums, cemeteries, urban design, monuments, geography, architecture, archaeological digs, markets, languages, youth culture, attitudes to the USA, etc. There is a 2,500 word limit.*

*IV. A final examination, to be administered on Sunday, August 17.*

*Each assignment will constitute 20% of the student's grade for the course. Student work will be evaluated according to the criteria of: degree of mastery of lectures and readings; degree of analytical incisiveness and coherence; soundness and originality of judgment.*

A set of books has been ordered for purchase; in addition, a course packet of readings for purchase at cost has been assembled. (Course packet materials will also be available electronically on board; be advised that a number of students have found it difficult to do a lot of reading on screen while the ship is at sea.) Books ordered for purchase include:

J.M. Roberts, The Penguin History of Europe (Penguin Books, 1997). (\$17.95)

Tony Judt, Postwar: A History of Europe Since 1945 (Penguin Books, 2005). (\$20)

Ronald Tiersky and Erik Jones, eds., Europe Today: A Twenty-first Century Introduction (Rowman & Littlefield, 2007, third edition). (\$39.95)

Marshall Poe, The Russian Moment in World History (Princeton University Press, 2006). (\$14.95)

Robert Kagan, Of Paradise and Power: America and Europe in the New World Order (Knopf, 2003). (\$11.95 new in paper)

### Course Schedule

#### **Tuesday, June 17: Introduction to the Class—What is “Europe”?**

Read: J.M. Roberts, The Penguin History of Europe, pp. 3-21; Norman Davis, “Peninsula: Environment and pre-History,” in Europe: A History, pp. 47-94 (course packet).

#### **Wednesday, June 18: Europe’s Formative Legacies—Antiquity.**

Read: Roberts, pp. 22-88.

#### **Thursday, June 19: Europe’s Formative Legacies—Christianity.**

Read: Roberts, pp. 120-145, 171-204.

#### **Friday, June 20: The Improbable Rise of Europe**

Read: Roberts, pp. 205-230, 233-249.

#### **Sunday, June 22: The Russian Reaction to the Rise of Europe**

Read: Roberts, pp. 297-307, 310-315; Marshall Poe, The Russian Moment in World History, pp. 1-70.

#### **Monday, June 23: Scandinavia in the European Context**

Read: “Introduction,” and “Scandinavia: Still the Middle Way?” in Ronald Tiersky and Erik Jones, eds., Europe Today, pp. 1-15, 161-205.

#### **Saturday, June 28: The Industrial Revolution and Russia’s Failed Reponse**

Read: Roberts, pp. 365-378, 462-467, 493-533; Poe, pp.71-85.

**Sunday, June 29: The Soviet Response to Hyper-Modernity**

Read: Poe, pp. 85-114; Tony Judt, Postwar, pp. 13-41; Bruce Parrott, "Russia: European or Not?" in Europe Today, pp. 209-241.

**Sunday, July 6: Western Europe: Social and Political Legacies of World War II**

Read: Judt, pp. 63-99, 324-43.

**Monday, July 7: The European Union**

Read: Judt, pp. 302-09, 360-77; Tiersky and Jones, Europe Today, pp. 247-280.

*First film essay due.*

**Saturday, July 12: Emerging Challenges in the European Union--I**

Read: Judt, pp. 701-48; "France: Hopes and Fears of a New Generation," in Tiersky and Jones, Europe Today, pp. 21-53.

**Sunday, July 13: Emerging Challenges in the European Union—II**

Read: Judt, pp. 749-776; "Germany" in Tiersky and Jones, Europe Today, pp. 91-123.

**Friday, July 18: The New Russia and the New Europe**

Read: Angela Stent, "Reluctant Europeans: Three Centuries of Russian Ambivalence Toward the West," in Robert Legvold, ed., Russian Foreign Policy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and the Shadow of the Past, pp. 393-435 (course packet); Allen C. Lynch, "The Putin Succession and Russian Foreign Policy," The Brown Journal of World Affairs, Fall 2007, pp. 53-64 (course packet).

*"Take-home" mid-term essay examination to be handed out.*

**Sunday, July 20: The Democratization of Southern Europe: Portugal, Spain, Greece**

Read: Judt, pp. 504-28.

*"Take-home" essay examination to be turned in.*

**Monday, July 21: The European Union as a Vehicle of Human Rights Observance and Expansion**

Read: Tiersky and Jones, Europe Today, pp. 317-339.

**Tuesday, July 22: Italy: Evolution of a Political System**

Read: Judt, pp. 206-09, 256-60, 328-29, 473-77, 703-04; "Italy: A Troubled Democracy," in Tiersky and Jones, Europe Today, pp. 127-57).

**Sunday, July 27: The Ottoman Legacy for Modern Turkey**

Read: Dominic Lieven, "The Ottoman Empire," in Empire: The Russian Empire and Its Rivals, pp. 320-339 (course packet); Chris Morris, "'Devlet': Ataturk and his Legacy," in The New Turkey, pp. 31-59 (course packet).

**Monday, July 28: Democratization in Contemporary Turkey**

Read: Benli Altunisik, "Politics in the Turkish Republic," in Turkey: Challenges of Continuity and Change, pp. 24-67 (course packet); Judt, 508-10, 765-68; Tiersky and Jones, Europe Today, pp. 361-63.

*Second film essay due in.*

**Monday, August 11: Brave New World: Yugoslav Wars and Trans-Atlantic Relations**

Read: Judt, pp. 777-800; "Beyond European Security: Europe, the United States and NATO," in Tiersky and Jones, Europe Today, pp. 405-34.

**Tuesday, August 12: Europe and the USA: Venus and Mars?**

Read: Robert Kagan, Of Paradise and Power, pp. 3-53.

*Field essay due in.*

**Thursday, August 14: Europe and the USA: Two Roads Divergent?**

Read: Kagan, pp. 53-103.

**Friday, August 15: Futures: Russia, Europe and the USA**

Read: Niall Ferguson, "Empire: Europe Between Brussels and Byzantium," in Colossus: Rise and Fall of the American Empire, pp. 227-257 (course packet); Amy Chua, "Why They Hate Us: America as a Global Market-Dominant Minority," in World on Fire, pp. 229-258 (course packet); Dmitri Trenin, "Russia Leaves the West," Foreign Affairs, July/August 2006, pp. 87-96 (course packet).

**Sunday, August 17: *Global Studies Test.***

(See below for list of films.)

**Films: Students are to submit essays analyzing two films in light of their work in the course. Films include:**

A Man for All Seasons—Church and State in Henry VIII's England.

Alexander Nevsky—Stalin-era film directed by the legendary Sergei Eisenstein depicting Russian resistance to the Teutonic Knights at the time of Russia's subjection to the Mongols. Russian patriotism and Germanophobia dominate.

Battleship Potemkin—Soviet director Eisenstein's brilliant silent film framing the Russian revolution of 1905 around a sailors' mutiny in Odessa. Not to miss the baby carriage tumbling down the long steps.

The Bicycle Thief—THE classic of Italian realism depicting the raw realities of life just above the survival line in early postwar Italy.

Bread and Chocolate—Italian migrant workers in Switzerland circa 1970.

Burnt by the Sun—Russian director Nikita Mikhalkov's Oscar winning film about Stalin's terror and its impact on one family. The film was played over a week on Russian TV in 1996 to influence the election against the communists.

Europa-Europa—A Jewish boy tossed between the Soviets and the Nazis in World War II, disguising his identity by rising in the SS!

The Garden of the Fitzi-Contini's—Fate of upper-class Italian Jews in Mussolini's Italy.

Gallipoli—The failed British invasion of Ottoman Turkey in 1915.

The Inner Circle—Stalin's entourage during the Terror.

The Lives of Others—Secret police penetration of East German society in the 1980's.

Man of Marble—Daring investigation into the communization of Poland.

The Marriage of Maria Braun—Fassbinder's masterly and cynical depiction of West Germany's postwar economic recovery.

Mephisto—Career versus morality in Nazi Germany. Based on actor Gustav Gruendgens' life from novel by Klaus Mann.

One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovitch—Stalin's forced labor camps. Based on Solzhenitsyn novella.

Is Paris Burning?—The last days of the Nazi occupation of Paris.

Stalingrad—The turning point of World War II and the most violent film that I have ever seen; not one frame is gratuitous.

Triumph of the Will—Leni Riefenstahl’s masterly pro-Hitler film proving that genius and virtue do not necessarily go hand in hand.

Z—Costa Gavras’ portrayal of Greece under the colonels’ dictatorship (1967-74) that was tacitly supported by the USA.

***To be viewed in tandem:***

Joyeux Noel (Merry Christmas)—Spontaneous Christmas truce in 1914 on Western Front in WWI France: transcendence or treason? Quintessential EU-era view of war.

Saving Private Ryan—THE now classic US film about World War II. One French critic termed it “wargasm” Do you agree?