

HI2G3-15 Radical Politics in Europe II (1929-1945)

21/22

Department

History

Level

Undergraduate Level 2

Module leader

Joachim Haeberlen

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

Building on the first part of this sequence, this module will first discuss "contested democracy" in interwar Europe, focusing on the cases of Germany, France and Spain. Second, it will turn to regimes that sought to implement radical visions for political and social change, namely in the Soviet Union, in Fascist Italy, and in Nazi Germany.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

This 15 CATS undergraduate second-year option module will discuss the battles "for" and "against" democracy in interwar Europe, namely in the Weimar Republic, in France during the Popular Front, and in Spain during the Civil War. The second part of the module will then explore how radical movements tried to implement their ideas in an attempt to reshape both polities and societies according to their visions. Case studies here will include the Soviet Union, Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany. While the module will draw upon national case studies, it aims at providing a genuinely European understanding of these developments, highlighting how national cases were interconnected.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Week 1: Introduction: A Contested Continent: Europe in the 1920s

Part 1: The Struggle for Democracy

Week 2: Implementing Democracy in Weimar Germany

Week 3: Communists and Nazis: Radical Politics at the End of Weimar

Week 4: The French Popular Front

Week 5: The Spanish Civil War

Week 6: Reading Week

Part 2: Implementing Radical Politics

Week 7: Stalinist Russia

Week 8: Fascist Italy

Week 9: Building a Racial State: Nazi Germany before the War

Week 10: Building a Racial Empire: Wars of Annihilation and Genocide

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a detailed knowledge of historical and theoretical interpretations of modern Europe.
- Communicate ideas and findings, adapting to a range of situations, audiences and degrees of complexity.
- Generate ideas through the analysis of a broad range of primary source material for the study of modern Europe, including electronic resources.
- Analyse and evaluate the contributions made by existing scholarship.
- Act with limited supervision and direction within defined guidelines, accepting responsibility for achieving deadlines.

Indicative reading list

- Berghahn, Volker. *Europe in the Era of Two World Wars. From Militarism and Genocide to Civil Society, 1900-1950*. Princeton; Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2006.
- Ziemann, Benjamin. *Contested Commemorations. Republican War Veterans and Weimar Political Culture*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012.
- Brown, Timothy S. *Weimar Radicals. Nazis and Communists between Authenticity and Performance*. New York: Berghahn Books, 2009.
- Swett, Pamela E. *Neighbors and Enemies: the Culture of Radicalism in Berlin, 1929-1933*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004.
- Jackson, Julian. *The Popular Front in France. Defending Democracy, 1934-38*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988.
- Wardhaugh, Jessica. In *Pursuit of the People. Political Culture in France, 1934-1939*. New

York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009.

- Graham, Helen. *The Spanish Civil War : a Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
- Payne, Stanley. *The Spanish Civil War*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012.
- Casanova, Julián. *The Spanish Republic and Civil War*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.
- Edele, Mark. *Stalinist Society, 1928-1953*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.
- Ebner, Michael R. *Ordinary Violence in Mussolini's Italy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011.
- Ferris, Kate. *Everyday Life in Fascist Venice, 1929-40*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012.
- Kühne, Thomas. *Belonging and Genocide: Hitler's Community, 1918-1945*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2010.
- Wildt, Michael. *Hitler's Volksgemeinschaft and the Dynamics of Racial Exclusion: Violence against Jews in Provincial Germany, 1919-1939*. New York: Berghahn Books, 2012.
- Mazower, Mark. *Hitler's Empire. How the Nazis Ruled Europe*. New York: The Penguin Press, 2008.

Subject specific skills

See learning outcomes.

Transferable skills

See learning outcomes.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Seminars	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Tutorials	2 sessions of 1 hour (1%)
Private study	130 hours (87%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

History modules require students to undertake extensive independent research and reading to prepare for seminars and assessments. As a rough guide, students will be expected to read and prepare to comment on three substantial texts (articles or book chapters) for each seminar taking approximately 3 hours. Each assessment requires independent research, reading around 6-10

texts and writing and presenting the outcomes of this preparation in an essay, review, presentation or other related task.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A

	Weighting	Study time
1500 word applied task (essay)	40%	
3000 word essay	50%	
Seminar contribution	10%	

Feedback on assessment

written feedback on essay and exam cover sheets
student/tutor dialogues in one-to-one tutorials

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 2 of UENA-VQ32 Undergraduate English and History

This module is Option list B for:

- UHIA-V100 Undergraduate History
 - Year 2 of V100 History
 - Year 2 of V100 History