World War II in Eastern Europe

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Class meets M 4-7 pm in GAR 1.126

Course Description
In Eastern Europe, the Second World War was, as the Czech Jewish woman Heda Margolius-Kovaly remarked, “a war no one had quite survived.” Wedged between Hitler’s Germany and Stalin’s Soviet Empire, Eastern Europe was the site of unprecedented human and material destruction in the years between 1938 and 1948. As the staging ground for Stalin’s terror and Hitler’s vision for a new racial order in Europe, the region was devastated by genocide and ethnic cleansing, programs of economic and social exploitation, and warfare. Using a wide variety of sources, this course will examine the war in Eastern Europe with a particular emphasis on state violence, occupation, collaboration, and resistance; the Holocaust; and the connection between ethnic cleansing, population transfer, and the establishment of Communism in postwar Eastern Europe.

Course Goals
• Explore the history of World War II in Eastern Europe
• Learn how to analyze primary and secondary sources
• Engage the course materials through active participation in class discussion
• Write analytical, thesis-driven papers based on close reading of the course materials

Please Note: The use of electronic equipment incl. laptops, net books, iPads, phones, MP3 players among others is not allowed in this class. A designated note taker will assist students with documented needs.

Course Books
Timothy Snyder, Bloodlands: Europe between Hitler and Stalin (New York: Basic Books, 2010)

Readings marked with * can be found in the course packet available at Paradigm Books, 407 W. 24th St. Austin, TX 78705
All readings and other course materials are required
Grading Policy
Participation  25%
Map Quiz  5%
Document Analysis (3 pages)  10%
Essay 1 Diary (3 pages)  10%
Essay 2 Ordinary Men (4 pages)  15%
Essay 3 Terrible Revenge (4 pages)  15%
Article Project (4 pages)  20%

Grades: A through F. Plus and minus grades will be issued for this course.

Extra Credit Opportunities: You can receive extra credit by attending events on or off campus that are related to our course. I will make announcements in class about relevant events and welcome suggestions from you as well. To receive credit you need to write 1 double-spaced page in which you reflect on the exhibit, film, or lecture that you attended. Being able to make connections between your subject and our class readings and lectures is always a plus. You should hand in your piece to me in the first or second class following the event.

On Campus Events in Spring 2011 (all are opportunities for extra credit!)
• The Restless Heart of Europe – a Czech Film Series at UT
  When: Every Tuesday @ 7 pm (begins Feb 1) -- Tentative time and place – updates will follow
  Where: GRG 102 (Geography Building)
  For the full program, see http://www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/slavic/

  Films in this series dealing with the Holocaust and antisemitism:
  Feb 1  “Protector” (98 min/2009)
  Feb 15 “Romeo, Juliet, and Darkness” (92 min/1960)
  Mar 22 “A Trial in Prague” (84 min/2000)
  Apr 12 “The Shop on Main Street” (125 min/1965)

• “A Film Unfinished,” 2010, dir. Yael Hersonski
  When: Jan 25, 2011 @ 7 pm in GAR 0.102

• Pictures of Resistance: The Wartime Photography of Jewish Partisan Faye Schulman
  When: Feb 28-Mar 28, 2011 (M-F 9 am to 9 pm)
  Where: At the Texas Hillel, 2105 San Antonio Street, Austin

Course Policies
Students with Disabilities
Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (Video Phone) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations. http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssp
It is essential that you inform Services for Students with Disabilities and me in the beginning of term so we can make appropriate accommodations.

**Attendance and Participation**

Lectures and class discussions are a significant part of this course. Therefore, **attendance and participation are required**. You are expected to have done the readings before you come to class. This will be essential for your ability to participate in group work, to ask questions, and to do well on in-class assignments.

You are expected to be on time for class. If you are consistently late or leave class early, this will affect your final course grade. If you have any concerns about this, please contact me in the beginning of term.

**Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing, which means misrepresenting as your own work any part of work done by another; submitting the same paper, or substantially similar papers, to meet requirements of more than one course without the approval and consent of all instructors concerned; depriving another student of necessary course materials; or interfering with another student’s work. **Any act of academic dishonesty will result in an F for the course and referral to Student Judicial Services.**

**Schedule of Classes**

**Week 1**  
**Jan 24**  
**Introduction to the Course**

Introduction to the class, readings, and assignments

Snyder, Bloodlands, “Preface”

In-Class Film Excerpt: *The Nazis: A Warning from History* (“The Wrong War”)

**Week 2**  
**Eastern Europe before WWII**  
**Jan 31**


*Miron Dolot, “Famine in Ukraine,” in Sources of Twentieth-Century Europe, 124-128.

Map Quiz

Week 3  
Feb 7     German Visions for a New Racial Order – Race and Space


Adolf Hitler, “Poland will be depopulated and settled with Germans,” in Sources of Twentieth-Century Europe, 232-233.

Document Analysis due in class

Week 4     German-Soviet Alliance and the Beginning of WWII  
Feb 14


*The German-Soviet Non-Aggression Treaty, August 1939  
* Adolf Hitler, “Poland will be depopulated and settled with Germans,” 232-233, in Sources of Twentieth-Century Europe  

Week 5  
Feb 21     “Survival through Labor” – Jewish Ghettos in German-Occupied Poland

The Diary of Dawid Sierakowiak: Five Notebooks from the Łódź Ghetto,

Diary of Dawid Sierakowiak essay due in class
Week 6  
Feb 28  
**Operation Barbarossa and the Barbarization of Warfare**


*Commissar Order June 6, 1941*

*Indoctrination of the German Soldier: For Volk, Führer, and Fatherland”*

*An Eyewitness Describes a Mass Shooting in the Soviet Union.”*

*Major General Walter Brun’s Description of the Execution of Jews outside Riga on Dec 1, 1941*

*Affidavit of SS-Gruppenführer Otto Ohlendorf*

*Stalin’s Speech on 3 July 1941*

*Soviet Order Concerning Discipline in the Red Army, 28 July 1942*

*Ilya Ehrenburg, Excerpt from “Kill” (1942)*

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Week 7  
Mar 7  
**Ordinary Men, the Holocaust, and German Warfare in the East**

Christopher R. Browning, *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland* (all)

*Essay due in class*

**SPRING BREAK**

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Week 8  
Mar 21  
**Death Camps**


*Tadeusz Borowski, This way for the Gas Ladies and Gentlemen, 29-49.*

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Week 9  
Mar 28  
**Partisans**

Snyder, “Holocaust and Revenge,” 225-252.
*Karel Berkhoff, “Toward the End of Nazi Rule,” 275-304, In Harvest of Despair

Read entry on “The Bielski Partisans” in the United States Holocaust Museum’s online Holocaust Encyclopedia www.ushmm.org


Watch Film: “Come and See” (1985) and optional “Defiance” (2008)

In-Class Film Excerpt: War of the Century: When Hitler Fought Stalin (Partisans in Belorussia)

**Week 10**
**Apr 4**  Warsaw 1943/1944 – a symbol of resistance

Snyder, “Resistance and Incineration,” 277-312


http://americanradioworks.publicradio.org/features/warsaw/

Watch Film: “The Pianist” (2006)

**Week 11**
**Apr 11**  Group Work on Article Projects

Read and prepare comments on draft of article projects for each of your group member
Come to class as usual
In class groups gives feedback on each student project

**Week 12**
**Apr 18**  Retribution Against the Germans of Eastern Europe

Alfred-Maurice de Zayas, A Terrible Revenge: The Ethnic Cleansing of the East European Germans (all)


*A Terrible Revenge paper due in class*
**Week 13**

**Apr 25**  
**Jews and the End of War in Eastern Europe**


*Piotr Wrobel, “Double Memory: Poles and Jews After the Holocaust,” *East European Politics and Societies* vol. 11, no. 3 (Fall 1997), 560-574.

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**Week 14**

**May 2**  
**The Unsettling Memory of War**


In-Class Film Excerpt: *The Shop on Main Street* (Czechoslovakia, 1965)