



UNSW Course Outline

ARTS2785 Europe's Age of Catastrophe, 1914-1945 - 2024

Published on the 29 Jan 2024

General Course Information

Course Code : ARTS2785

Year : 2024

Term : Term 1

Teaching Period : T1

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture

Academic Unit : School of Humanities and Languages

Delivery Mode : In Person

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : Kensington

Campus : Sydney

Study Level : Undergraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

The early twentieth century was a catastrophic and transformative period in twentieth-century European history. The First World War catalysed intense demographic, ideological, and economic turmoil. You will focus on the relationship between socio-economic crises and the

development of radical new political movements (e.g. Bolshevism, Stalinism, fascism and National Socialism) that posed enormous threats to nascent liberal democracies. You will also explore some of the remarkable array of cultural and social innovations that flowered in this tumultuous period (visual arts, literature, theatre, cinema, social theory, sexuality and gender).

Relationship to Other Courses

This course can be taken as part of a History or European Studies major or minor.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Articulate a broad and coherent understanding of European societies and cultures between 1914 and 1945, from national, and international perspectives.
CLO2 : Justify a position in relation to European societies and cultures based on rigorous and engaged scholarly enquiry and analysis.
CLO3 : Evaluate and communicate complex ideas on Europe.
CLO4 : Critically and creatively apply European Studies knowledge and skills in order to engage proactively with complex social or scholarly problems.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Articulate a broad and coherent understanding of European societies and cultures between 1914 and 1945, from national, and international perspectives.	• Quizzes
CLO2 : Justify a position in relation to European societies and cultures based on rigorous and engaged scholarly enquiry and analysis.	• Critical Comparison • Essay
CLO3 : Evaluate and communicate complex ideas on Europe.	• Critical Comparison • Essay
CLO4 : Critically and creatively apply European Studies knowledge and skills in order to engage proactively with complex social or scholarly problems.	• Essay

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Echo 360 | Blackboard Collaborate

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Critical Comparison Assessment Format: Individual	25%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 01/03/2024 11:59 PM
Quizzes Assessment Format: Individual	30%	Start Date: Weekly from week 2 Due Date: Weekly in tutorials in weeks 2-5; 7-10.
Essay Assessment Format: Individual	45%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 19/04/2024 11:59 PM

Assessment Details

Critical Comparison

Assessment Overview

Students write a critical comparison of two historical accounts of the same event or process.

Length: 1,000-1,200words

Feedback via rubric and short written comments

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO2 : Justify a position in relation to European societies and cultures based on rigorous and engaged scholarly enquiry and analysis.
- CLO3 : Evaluate and communicate complex ideas on Europe.

Detailed Assessment Description

Texts will be on the causes of the First World War. The texts for comparison will be published on Moodle during O-Week.

Assessment Length

1,000-1,200 words

Submission notes

You will bring a draft outline of your comparison to the tutorial in week 2 for peer discussion.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Quizzes

Assessment Overview

Conducted in tutorials. Quizzes are designed to test knowledge of facts, concepts and arguments presented in tutorial readings and lectures.

Duration: 8 x 10 minutes

Feedback via automated response showing correct answers, and comments on incorrect answers.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Articulate a broad and coherent understanding of European societies and cultures between 1914 and 1945, from national, and international perspectives.

Detailed Assessment Description

Quizzes will be conducted online in tutorials in weeks 2-5 and 7-10. Questions will be in multiple choice, missing word or pair matching formats. The content of the quizzes will be based on the current week's lecture and the current week's tutorial reading although the week 2 quiz will also include questions based on the week 1 lecture. You are encouraged to complete all quizzes, and must complete six of the eight available. If you complete more than six, only your best six will be counted.

You may check your notes or online sources during quizzes, although time constraints mean that your scope to do so will be very limited. You may not speak, pass notes, look at another student's screen or direct their attention to your screen. Doing so will be treated as academic misconduct.

Assessment Length

N/A

Submission notes

Quizzes may only be completed while in tutorials unless attendance has been excused owing to illness or misadventure.

Assessment information

Please note that the design of this assessment has already built in the possibility that students might miss one or two quizzes through absence from tutorials, as only the six best quizzes will count towards the final mark. If you miss more than two quizzes through absence you will need to apply to the course convenor for permission to complete a quiz outside the tutorial. You must present evidence, such as a medical certificate, to explain your absence before permission will

be granted.

Results, correct answers and feedback for each quiz will be published at 6pm on the Wednesday of each week in which quizzes are conducted. No requests to complete a weekly quiz after that point can be considered.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Essay

Assessment Overview

Students are expected to use at least 8 high-quality sources.

Length: 2,000-2,500 words

Feedback via rubric and short written comments

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO2 : Justify a position in relation to European societies and cultures based on rigorous and engaged scholarly enquiry and analysis.
- CLO3 : Evaluate and communicate complex ideas on Europe.
- CLO4 : Critically and creatively apply European Studies knowledge and skills in order to engage proactively with complex social or scholarly problems.

Detailed Assessment Description

You will be required to write an essay (ca. 2,500 words) based on independent research. You will receive feedback via comments and rubric in Grademark within two weeks of the deadline. You must make extensive use of high-quality scholarly sources appropriate to university study. The library has many such sources relevant to this course in the form of books (print and electronic) and academic journal articles.

Referencing systems: You may use any recognised 'footnote - bibliography' system of referencing (e.g. Turabian, Chicago). In-text referencing (sometimes called 'Harvard') is unacceptable in this essay and will result in a loss of marks. I strongly recommend the use of bibliographic software such as Endnote (available via UNSW IT), Zotero or Refworks.

Assessment Length

2,500 words (+/- 10%) including footnotes, excluding bibliography.

Submission notes

Please indicate your chosen question clearly in your filename: e.g. Q.5.docx. Do not simply call

your file 'history essay' or similar.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

General Assessment Information

Use of generative AI. For assessment tasks 1 and 3, you may use standard editing and referencing software, but not generative AI. You are permitted to use the full capabilities of the standard software to answer the question. If the use of generative AI such as ChatGPT is detected, it will be regarded as serious academic misconduct and subject to the standard penalties, which may include 00FL, suspension and exclusion.

Use of machine translation and grammar tools. The language of instruction at UNSW is English, and students admitted to UNSW are assumed to possess a level of English-language competence sufficient to enable them to read academic texts and complete assessment tasks in English. Translation and grammar tools can be very valuable to help you refine and improve your written work and develop your English-language capabilities. You are therefore encouraged to make judicious use of these tools. Such use does not include writing a whole essay in another language and submitting a machine-translated version as your own work. Any such work will be identified as AI-generated and treated accordingly. You should also be aware that Grammarly now incorporates generative AI, so significant volumes of text submitted to Grammarly may be changed significantly from your own ideas to give a false impression of your work and capability. Such work will also be flagged as AI-generated and treated accordingly.

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

You must achieve a composite mark of 50% overall to pass the course.

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 12 February - 18 February	Tutorial	Introduction Map exercise (1914, 1919, 1945)
	Lecture	Introduction, overview and the coming of the First World War
Week 2 : 19 February - 25 February	Lecture	The First World War and after: 1914-1921
	Tutorial	World War 1: Why? Bring a draft outline of your critical comparison for peer discussion.
Week 3 : 26 February - 3 March	Lecture	Europe in Revolution: 1917-1920
	Tutorial	Never again! Understanding the postwar settlement.
Week 4 : 4 March - 10 March	Tutorial	How did the Bolshevik revolution influence interwar Europe?
	Lecture	Permanent crisis: economics and politics between the wars
Week 5 : 11 March - 17 March	Lecture	The Age of Dictators: Fascism, Nazism and Stalinism
	Tutorial	What went wrong? Nationalism, counter-revolution, and the rise of dictators.
Week 6 : 18 March - 24 March	Homework	'Flex' week - no classes
Week 7 : 25 March - 31 March	Lecture	From postwar to prewar: aggression, resistance and appeasement
	Tutorial	Everyday life and ordinary people in totalitarian societies
Week 8 : 1 April - 7 April	Lecture	Nations, minorities and genocide NOTE: This lecture is scheduled for the Easter Monday public holiday. It will be pre-recorded and will be available via Moodle from 1300 on Monday 1 April.
	Tutorial	Reflecting on appeasement: the uses and abuses of history.
Week 9 : 8 April - 14 April	Lecture	The Second World War
	Tutorial	European societies during 'Total War': case studies
Week 10 : 15 April - 21 April	Lecture	Lessons learned? The World Wars and their aftermaths compared.
	Tutorial	The End of WW2 and transition to peace Concluding discussion: did the 'Age of Catastrophe' end?

Attendance Requirements

Students must attend a minimum of six tutorials in order to complete assessment item 2 (Quizzes) which consists of quizzes conducted in the tutorials. Completion of this assessment item is necessary to achieve LO 1. Note that these quizzes include questions on the lecture content as well as on tutorial readings, so a failure to prepare for tutorials, attend lectures or listen to recordings will inevitably result in poor marks for the learning portfolio. Students are therefore expected to attend lectures regularly or, if unable to attend, to view the lecture recording prior to their weekly tutorial. Students who have lecture clashes with other subjects should flag this with the course convenor no later than the end of Week 2 to discuss suitable arrangements.

General Schedule Information

There will be a 5-10 minute break approximately at the mid-point of each lecture.

Note that tutorials last for 90 minutes. The quizzes will take place near the beginning of the tutorial. Note that it is **not** the purpose of the tutorial to provide the answers to the quiz questions; you should know these when you arrive prepared to participate in the tutorial discussion.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

All key readings for tutorials will be available on moodle and via Leganto.

Recommended Resources

Most of the recommended books are available at the UNSW Library (many online) or at the UNSW Bookshop.

Recommended background reading:

I recommend the following surveys of early twentieth-century European history:

Conan Fischer, *Europe between Democracy and Dictatorship: 1900-1945* (Oxford: Wiley Blackwell, 2011).

Robert Gerwarth, *The Vanquished: Why the First World War Failed to End, 1917-1923* (London: Penguin, 2017).

Ian Kershaw, *To Hell and Back: Europe, 1914-1949* (London: Penguin, 2016).

I also highly recommend the following surveys on the whole of the twentieth-century:

Nicholas Doumanis (ed), *The Oxford Handbook of European History 1914-1945* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016).

Eric Hobsbawm, *Age of Extremes: The Short Twentieth Century 1914-1991* (London, Abacus, 1994).

Konrad Jarausch, *Out of the Ashes: A New History of Europe in the Twentieth Century* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2015).

Mark Mazower, *Dark Continent: Europe's Twentieth Century* (New York: Random House, 1999).

Robert O. Paxton & Julie Hessler, *Europe in the Twentieth Century*. Fifth Edition (Boston: Wadsworth, 2012).

Marvin Perry et al., *Sources of European History Since 1900*. Second Edition (Boston: Wadsworth, 2011).

Additional Costs

Nil

Course Evaluation and Development

Students will have an opportunity to provide feedback through the myExperience surveys that will be available in Moodle. The lecturer will also collect informal feedback in the classroom and via a Moodle forum.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	David Blaazer		MB 372	52896	Monday 3-4 or by appointment via email	No	Yes
Tutor	Carolin Kautz					No	No

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided).

Please see: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines> for essential student information relating to:

- UNSW and Faculty policies and procedures;
- Student Support Services;
- Dean's List;
- review of results;
- credit transfer;
- cross-institutional study and exchange;

- examination information;
- enrolment information;
- Special Consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;

And other essential academic information.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

- **Copying:** Using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.
- **Inappropriate paraphrasing:** Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.
- **Collusion:** Working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student for the purpose of them plagiarising, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.
- **Inappropriate citation:** Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.
- **Duplication ("self-plagiarism"):** Submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

The UNSW Academic Skills support offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. One of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items. UNSW Library has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW, but it can also be a great refresher during your

study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time
- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Use of AI for assessments

As AI applications continue to develop, and technology rapidly progresses around us, we remain committed to our values around academic integrity at UNSW. Where the use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, has been permitted by your course convener, they must be properly credited and your submissions must be substantially your own work.

In cases where the use of AI has been prohibited, please respect this and be aware that where unauthorised use is detected, penalties will apply.

[Use of AI for assessments | UNSW Current Students](#)

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au

Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin, you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support, you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone, you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on

Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, alternative submission details will be stated on your course's Moodle site. For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Late Submission Penalty

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per calendar day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,
- capped at five calendar days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request [Special Consideration](#) as early as possible before the deadline. Support with [Time Management is available here](#).

School Contact Information

School of Humanities & Languages

Email: hal@unsw.edu.au

Location: School Office, Morven Brown Building, Level 2, Room 258

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm