

COURSE OUTLINE

HIST-201

Europe in the Twentieth Century

3 Semester Hours

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

The student will be able to describe the political, economic, intellectual and cultural development in Europe beginning with the events and conditions that led to the breakdown of European stability and World War I. The student will examine the diplomatic maneuverings of the Peace of Paris and its consequences, the roots and impacts of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia and the evolution and development of totalitarianism in Germany and Italy. The student will also explain the origins, events, and results of World War II, the Cold War, the collapse of the Soviet Empire, and the quest for a united Europe. Prerequisite: ENGL-121. (3 hours weekly)

A liberal education prepares students to lead ethical, productive, and creative lives and to understand how the pursuit of lifelong learning and critical thinking fosters good citizenship. General education courses form the core of a liberal education within the higher education curriculum and provide a coherent intellectual experience for all students by introducing the fundamental concepts and methods of inquiry in the areas of mathematics, the physical and natural sciences, the social sciences, the arts and the humanities, and composition. This course is part of the general education core experience at Howard Community College.

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Discuss and analyze the political and cultural conditions of Europe in the decades before the First World War.
2. Summarize and evaluate the diplomatic and political course of events leading to the First World War.
3. Discuss and evaluate the war guilt responsibility controversy for the First World War.
4. Summarize the character and impact of the First World War.
5. Assess the European and international changes precipitated by the Paris Peace Conference of 1919.
6. Summarize and analyze the factors that led up to and influenced the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917.
7. Discuss and evaluate the policies, motivations and conditions that influenced Stalin's transformation of the Soviet Union.

8. Compare and contrast the domestic and diplomatic policies of the United States, Great Britain, France and the U.S.S.R. between the two world wars.
9. Summarize and evaluate the conditions and factors that affected the rise of Fascism in Spain, Italy and Germany.
10. Compare and contrast the character and institutional mechanisms of two prominent 20th century totalitarian regimes - particularly Nazi Germany and Stalinist Russia.
11. Summarize and assess the long-range and immediate events and crises that precipitated the outbreak of the Second World War.
12. Describe and evaluate the character, scope and impact of the Second World War.
13. Analyze and discuss the factors and situations that influenced the post-war Cold War.
14. Summarize the changing politics of the global and colonial world in the post-war decades of decolonization and the emergence of the Third World.
15. Evaluate the impact of the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War era.

Major Topics

- I. The European Setting (1871-1914), The Road to War
- II. Causes and Nature of World War I
- III. The Search for a New Order and Balance
- IV. Russian Politics, Economics and Revolutionary Heritage
- V. Stalin and Stalinism: The New Soviet State
- VI. The West and the Uncertainties of the Twenties and Thirties
- VII. The Rise of Fascism
- VIII. Causes of World War II
- IX. Hitler's Germany
- X. Politics and Diplomacy During World War II
- XI. The Cold War
- XII. Decolonization and the Third World
- XIII. Collapse of Communism

Course Requirements

Writing

This course is a writing intensive class, meaning that there are written requirements amounting to at least 2500 words. Short answer identifications, essay questions and perhaps a research paper will be used to determine the final course grade.

Grading/Exams

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include exams and formal writing assignments.

Other Course Requirements

This course is a Social and Behavioral Science core course.