COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides an introduction to the relationship between national tensions and international conflict in Europe from the beginning of the First World War and the end of the Second. The social dislocation consequent upon the First World War intensified such tensions and pushed the international system to heating point. Faced by the existence of Communist Russia, the Western Powers attempted to reconstruct their political and economic systems in such a way as to build defences against the Left. The emergence of fascism as an extreme form of such defences had important consequences for the international relations between states, as did the social and economic crisis of the democratic Powers in the 1930s. The course examines the most important developments of the period 1914-1945, including the impact of the War, Mussolini, Hitler, Stalin, the breakdown of democracy and the appeal of dictatorship.

Readings:

A huge body of literature exists on the large and important themes that we shall pursue in the course.

The following readings are specially recommended:


**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

The course is intended to be general in nature. The course is organised into lectures and seminars. Typically the first meeting of the week is a lecture, while the second is a seminar. Regular participation in discussions is necessary and expected. Students are required to read the items marked with an asterisk (*) under each week topic. There will be a final writing assignment (ca. 7-page) to compare the views of two modern authors. The students should be able to elaborate a thesis/argument and support it with evidence taken from the texts. Please note that class attendance is required.

**GRADING:**

The final paper will weight 50 percent of the grade. The remaining 50 percent will be assigned for presentations (30 percent) and class participation (20 percent).

**LEARNING OUTCOMES AND THEIR ASSESSMENT**

The overall grade will primarily indicate the ability of the students to comprehend the principal events and historical processes that have helped to shape the history of Europe in the Twentieth Century. They will also be introduced, through the study of political, social and economic background in individual nation states, to a conceptual understanding of the determinants of International relations.

The learning outcomes of the course are supported and measured by the present course in the following ways: The ability to deploy effective oral presentation and discussion skills is assessed through the seminars. The skills to analyze historical events and evaluate them in a comparative perspective are reflected by the final paper. The discussions and final paper will also measured the ability of students to elaborate a
critical review of the most recent socio-historical research and debates concerning the history of Europe between the Wars.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**Week 0:** Course description, content and works of relevance to the course.

**Week 1 (Session 1 and 2):** Europe against Europe: a panoramic view

**Readings:**

**Week 2**

**Session 1:** War, Revolution and the Rise of Communism

**Session 2:** Seminar (Discussion)

**Readings:**

**Week 3**
Session 1: Mussolini and Italian Fascism.
Session 2: Seminar (Discussion)

Readings:
- BOSWORTH, R.J.B., Mussolini, Oxford University Press, New York, 2002
- --- Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany. The 'Fascist' Style of Rule, Routledge, 1995.
- KITCHEN, Martín, “Italian Fascism”, in Europe between the Wars, pp. 131-155.

Week 4
Session 1: The Weimar Republic and the rise of Nazism
Session 2: Seminar (Discussion)

Readings:

Week 5
Session 1: The Europe of dictators
Session 2: Seminar (Discussion)

Readings:
Week 6


Readings:


Session 2: Postwar.

Readings

  *-LOWE, Keith, Savage Continent: Europe in the Aftermath of World War II, St. Martin’s Press, New York, 2012, Conclusion

Conclusions. Final Paper Due