

History 209—Europe, 1945 to the Present

Prof. Greg Shaya

STUDY GUIDE EXAM #1 – 2/1/2023

Directions:

The exam will take place at the beginning of class on Wednesday, February 8, 2023. Bring your laptops. I will provide a link to the exam and you will complete your answers online.

For the exam: Read all the directions! Watch the time carefully. You have thirty minutes for the exam. Be sure that you address all the questions as well as you can. Your answers should be clear, precise, detailed, but concise.

To study for the exam: This first short exam will cover the material from the first day of class through Monday, February 6 (from our introduction to the class through our discussion of *Bicycle Thieves* and postwar ideas). I'll ask you a mix of questions. The exam will be one-part names and dates and details (do you know your facts) and one-part big ideas (how should we think about the large questions of postwar European history and these films we've studied?). To review, you'll want to read through your notes, review the textbook and the outside readings, consolidate your notes, and make outlines. You'll want to be sure that you can identify—and say a few words about—the key terms, names, dates, and sources. You will also want to think about how to answer the questions laid out below.

Part 1. Very Short Answer. (5 minutes. Ten questions; choice of fifteen.)

In a word or a phrase, answer **ten** of the following questions.

For example:

1. Who was the chairman of the French Provisional Government in 1944-1946?
2. Why can't Dr. Hans Merten (in *Murderers Among Us*) love again?

Part 2. Short Answer. (10 minutes. Two questions; choice of four.)

In a few sentences, answer **two** of the following questions.

For example:

1. What was the political message of *Open City*?
2. According to William Beveridge, what should be the outcome of the war?

Part 3. Longer Answer. (15 minutes. One question; choice of two.)

Write a fully developed paragraph to answer **one** of the following questions. Give concrete details from lecture, discussion, textbook, and/or films.

For example

1. What was the impact of the Cold War on western Europe in the late 1940s?
2. How did Communists take control in Eastern Europe?

Key Terms, Ideas, Names, Dates, Sources

What are the elements of film?

Film representations as interpretations

How can we use film as a primary source to understand the past?

How can we use history to understand film?

The impact of the Second World War

physical, economic, human toll

Yalta Conference, Feb. 1945

Stalin, Roosevelt, Churchill

Post-war democracy for Europe

Plan for United Nations

Potsdam Conference, July-Aug. 1945

Stalin, Truman, Atlee

Question of Postwar Germany - German Reparations

SED – Socialist Unity Party – in Soviet Zone of Germany (unifying Communists & Socialists)

Open City (1945)

Roberto Rossellini

Don Pietro / Pina / Francesco / Manfredi

Communists and Catholics need to work together!

Benito Mussolini and the legacy of fascism

Italian Resistance

A “usable memory” of the war

Charles de Gaulle

Vichy France and the experience of collaboration

“myth of resistance”

Denazification

Nuremberg Trials

Four Power Control Council or Allied Control Council of Germany

George Kennan (Long Telegram, February 1946)

Churchill’s “Iron Curtain” speech (March 1946)

Harsh Winter of 1946/7

Crisis over Turkey & Greece (spring 1947)

Truman Doctrine (February 1947)

George Marshall’s Plan (June 1947)

Berlin Blockade & Airlift (June 1948-May 1949)

Murderers Are Among Us (1946)

Writer and Dir. Wolfgang Staudte

Soviet Zone of Germany

“Süss the Jew” 1940 Nazi anti-Semitic propaganda film

Hans Mertens / Susanne Wallner / Bruekner

“rubble film” - Trümmerfilm

film style – pre-war German cinema (Expressionist cinema)

War criminals into capitalists

A Romantic Comedy?

Another “usable memory” of the war

DP’s

Stephen Spender on scars of war, physical, economic, moral

Gerald Frank on Jewish refugees

Palestine

Bruno Foa on economic situation of 1945

The challenge of economic recovery

Winston Churchill

Clement Atlee (PM 1945-51)

The Labour Party

Sir William Beveridge

The Welfare State

National Health Service

Ernest Bevin (Labour) Foreign Minister

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO, 1949)

The Third Man (1949)

Graham Greene / Carol Reed

Harry Lime / Holly Martins / Anna / Calloway

Postwar Vienna, a scarred people

Context of Four Power Occupation of Austria

The Black Market

Film Noir – compromised heroes in a world of moral ambiguity

Moral dilemmas in postwar Europe

A British view of the Cold War – and an invitation to American action

The Beveridge Report (1942)

“New Britain”

Five Evils

Cf. J.M. Keynes in 1919

George Marshall

Bevin’s role in the Marshall Plan

European Recovery Program (Marshall Plan, May 1948)

Marshall Plan Films

“Marshall and Me” (1948)

The Story of Koula (1950)

Charles De Gaulle – Chairman of French Provisional Govt (resigned 1946)

French Fourth Republic (1946)

MRP (Mouvement Républicain Populaire) in France

Jean Monnet – Technocrats

Christian Democratic Party (of Italy)

PCI – Italian Communist Party

Alcide De Gasperi

Federal Republic of Germany (FRG or BRD, 1949)

Konrad Adenauer

Christian Democratic Union (CDU) of Western Germany

Hugh Seton-Watson (stages of Communist takeover)

Polish Workers Party

Poland – Wladyslaw Gomulka

Prague “Coup” (Feb. 1948)

Czechoslovakia – Edward Benes, Klement Gottwald, Rudolf Slansky

Cominform (Communist Information Bureau)

Yugoslavia – Marshal Tito

“People’s Democracies”

Socialist Unity Party of Eastern Germany (SED)

German Democratic Republic (GDR or DDR, 1949)

The Bicycle Thieves (1948)

Dir. Vittorio De Sica

Antonio / Bruno / Maria / The Thief

Italian Neo-Realism

In backdrop - elections of April 1948

Another scarred city

A crisis of fatherhood – and political authority

How to build a new Italy?

Existentialism and Jean-Paul Sartre

Simone de Beauvoir

The Second Sex (1949)

Some Possible Questions for Part 3

What was remembered, and what was forgotten, in postwar commentaries (films for examples) on the war experience?

What was the economic situation of Europe from 1945-1948?

When did the Cold War start? And why?

What was the impact of the Cold War on Western Europe in the late 1940s?

What was the impact of the Marshall Plan?

What institutions tied the United States to Europe?

How did West European states reconstruct their political systems (in France, or in Germany, say)?

How did Germans manage to overcome the debilitating memories of the Second World War?

How did Communists take control in Eastern Europe?

What new ideas were made possible by the experience of war?