

HISTORY 209—Europe, 1945 to the Present

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Spring 2023

FINAL EXAMINATION STUDY GUIDE

Welcome to the Final Exam for History 209! It is a chance to demonstrate (some of) what you've learned this semester about Europe since 1945 and film & history. Preparing for an exam like this is not about cramming details into your short-term memory, rather, it is a chance to reflect on the most important examples we have studied and to consolidate your understanding of this history and these sources. As you will see, the emphasis here is on synthesis over memorization. If you have been paying attention along the way, I have no doubt you will do well.

Time and Place: Tuesday, May 9, 2023, 4:00 to 6:00pm, in our regular classroom, Kauke 244

For the Exam: Please bring your laptop or tablet for the exam. You will write your essays in Word or Google docs (or such) and submit as a pdf on Moodle. The exam is closed book. You cannot use outside resources of any kind (notes, encyclopedias, internet searches, ChatGPT, etc.). You may however spell check your essays.

Guidelines

The final exam will cover the entire course.

I have written this as a 90-minute exam, but you can stay as long as 120 minutes.

The exam will consist of two parts:

- *Part 1. Essay on Europe Since 1945* (50%, about 45 minutes). Answer one long essay question with an essay of about 4-5 full paragraphs. I'll give you the choice of two questions that center on historical developments. I will ask you to use material from across the semester, including historical details from the textbook, references to our outside sources, and examples from the films.
- *Part 2. Essay on Film & History in Europe Since 1945* (50%, about 45 minutes). Answer one long essay question with an essay of about 4-5 full paragraphs. I'll give you the choice of two questions that center on film as a historical source. I will ask you to use material from across the semester, including historical details from the textbook, references to our outside sources, and examples from the films.

How to Study

To review, work through this study guide, review the details, review your notes, look over class presentations. Meet in a group and talk through the essay themes below. Outline key arguments and examples for the essay themes.

For the Exam Itself

Please read the essay questions carefully! They might emphasize one part or another of the larger theme. Plan your essay before you start writing. Be sure you have a clear argument that responds to the question, and concrete details and analysis to deliver your argument.

Good luck! gks

Themes for Part 1 – On History of Europe 1945 to Present

Turning Points in European History—what are some important turning points where the direction of history seemed to change? Or failed to change?

History & Memory—of the Second World War, of collaboration, or imperialism, of authoritarian governments, etc.

The Cold War—its source, its effects on Europe, turning points, its aftermath

Europe and the United States—political & economic ties, cooperation, tensions & ruptures

Eastern vs. Western Europe—divergent developments, parallel developments, points of contact, mutual influences

Social Experience—how has the social position of individuals shaped their experience of historical developments, Europe as a way of life, European identities, gender identities

The Rebirth of Europe—economic recovery, European institutions, the power of European example

Europe & Its Others—the legacy of empire, decolonization, immigration, nationalism, European identity, marginalized groups

Themes for Part 2 – On Film as Historical Source

How can dramatic films help us to understand the past?

What are some changes in the history of Europe that are evident in the films we've watched?

How did European filmmakers grapple with the problems of their day and turn these into dramatic films?

How did European filmmakers grapple with social change?

How did European filmmakers portray political authority in postwar Europe?

How did European filmmakers deal with difficult national (and sometimes personal) memories?

Consolidated List of Details

I will not ask you to identify details (as I did on the short exams), but this list of details from the previous study guides may be useful as you review material from the course and plan your essays.

Details from Exam #1

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
 Nuremburg 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)

Details from Exam #2

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?

Ukraine

Russian invasion in February of 2022

Part of Russian Empire, Republic in USSR

Holodomor of the 1930s

Independence 1991

Budapest Memorandum 1994

Pulled between west and east

The Economic Miracle, 1948-1973

Trentes glorieuses (thirty glorious years)

Wirtschaftswunder (economic miracle)

Ludwig Erhard, The Social Market Economy (a German idea)

Contrast between East European and West European industrial expansion in the 1950s – consumer goods versus industrial production

Contrast between French economic planning (with national industries and top-down planning) and German economic planning (where the government role was limited to social welfare) – both saw enormous economic growth, but achieved it in different ways

Mon Oncle (1958)

Dir. Jacques Tati

Monsieur Hulot, The Arpel Family, Betty New France and Old

A distinctive sound landscape – diegetic sounds, music, minimal conversation...

Signs of modernity – Plastac, American jazz, the automobile

Consumerism, modernity, and the enduring value of play

What else is happening in 1958? In Algeria, for example?

Victoria De Grazia

A new standard of living – a new consumer society – based on an American model

The “Laundry Revolution”

Obsession with cleanliness (at the same time that wars of decolonization and student protests were unfolding)

The Kitchen Debate, Nixon & Khrushchev

Sarcelles, Modern French housing developments of the 1960s

And the French suburbs – *les banlieues* – a social exclusion

Coca-Colonization

An open question – was American trade with Europe a manifestation of cultural imperialism?

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Decolonization

Cf world of 1900 with world of 2000 – empires to nations

Some examples :

- India and Pakistan (former British India, 1947)

- French Indochina (1954)

- Ghana (former Gold Coast, 1957)

- Kenya (1963)

- Algeria (1962)

- 1960 – the Year of Africa

Forces for decolonization...

- Ideas of self-determination

- Anti-colonial movements among colonial subjects

- European publics

Forces of resistance...

- Politicians – and some publics

- Settlers

- The Army – as in French Algeria

Cf. British vs. French decolonization

Dien Bien Phu – French military defeat

Suez Crisis, 1956

Gamel Nasser

At same time :

- Treaty of Rome 1957

- European Economic Community

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Jawaharlal Nehru

Ho Chi Minh

Ferhat Abbas

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French Algeria

- Settler Society – 1950 c. 1 m. Europeans, 9 m. Algerians

- FLN (National Liberation Front)

- Algerian War, 1954-1962

- Battle of Algiers, September 1956-late 1957

- The Crisis of the 4th Republic and the Return of de Gaulle (1958)

- Charles de Gaulle, founder of the Fifth Republic

- Algerian Independence, 1962

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Battle of Algiers (1965)

Dir. Gillo Pontecorvo

Saadi Yacef helped write the story, starred

Ali la Pointe / Col. Mathieu

Gen. Jacques Massu (a model)

Torture

Terrorism

Visual style – documentary-like, closeups on faces, non-professional actors

Narrative style – complicated timeline

A Portrait of Revolutionary Change – terrorism helps produce... a people. And the people will demand independence

What is missing here? (conflicts bw FLN and other Algerians, role of Degaulle, the French public, international pressure)

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Destalinization and the Soviet Bloc

- Death of Stalin, 1953

- Lavrentiy Beria, “New Course”

- East German Protests, 1953

- Nikolai Khrushchev

Khrushchev’s “Secret Speech” (February 1956)

Poland

- Polish strikes 1956 - Poznan
- Polish Workers Party
- Wladyslaw Gomulka (and the Polish Thaw)

Hungary

- Imre Nagy
- Hungarian Revolution of 1956
- Janos Kadar
- Goulash Socialism

East Germany

- East Germany - 1949 - GDR (German Democratic Republic, DDR)
- SED – Socialist Unity Party
- Walter Ulbricht (Head of SED, then President of DDR)
- Berlin Wall 1961 – Operation Rose

French German cooperation

- EEC from 1957
- Friendship Treaty 1963
- DeGaulle & Adenauer
- Different ideas of European institutions
- No to Britain

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Cleo from 5 to 7 (1962)

Dir. Agnes Varda

French New Wave – a cinema of *auteurs* telling stories of real people

2 hours from a woman's life

Visual style – every shot carefully composed (Varda a photographer), the presence of mirrors, in the background a world of consumerism in midst of *trentes glorieuses*

Cleo's life is in question - that leads her to see herself in a new light

An existential drama – a story of self-discovery and self-understanding – what is an authentic life?

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The Sixties

European Integration & Economic Expansion

Youth Culture

- Subcultures - Mods & Rockers
- The Beatles, "I Want to Hold Your Hand" (Lennon/McCartney, 1964)
- Rolling Stones, "Let's Spend the Night Together" (Jagger/Richards, 1967)
- Mick Jagger on generations
- Existentialism

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1968 in Paris

- Baby boom after WWII
- Crisis in the universities
- Inspired by revolutionaries
- Daniel Cohn-Bendit ("Dany the Red")
- Student protest – police violence
- Massive strikes
- Response of De Gaulle, June elections

In the east, the Prague Spring

- Alexandre Dubcek, Slovak Communist leader
- "Socialism with a human face"
- Response? Brezhnev Doctrine
- Warsaw Pact invasion

Wider outcomes?

- Extreme left – turn to terrorism, RAF, Red Brigades
- Green movement
- Feminist movement

The Joke (1969)

Dir. Jaromil Jires

Based on novel by Milan Kundera

Ludvic Jahn / Helena / Paul / Margareta

The film is a portrait of the revolutionary fervor (of 1948) & the disappointment (for some like Kundera and Jires) of the 1960s

Czech New Wave, or "Czech Film Miracle"

In the background - show trials (1950-1954)

The film is a document of the Prague spring – a critical perspective on Communist Czechoslovakia – but ultimately as pessimistic one. The film – and the story from Kundera – sees no hope in politics

Postwar Czechoslovakia and the Prague Spring

- "People's Democracy"
- Communist Coup (February 1948)
- Alexander Dubcek
- Rudolf Slánsky (d. 1952)
- Dubcek Government Commission of Inquiry on Political Trials (1968)
- Communist Action Program
- Warsaw Pact Invasion (1968)

Details from Exam #3

Chronologies for the 1970s

End of Economic Miracle

Oil crisis

Unemployment

Post-1968 Terrorism (R.A.F., Red Brigade)

Brezhnev Doctrine

Détente

Willy Brandt (SPD, Chancellor, 1969-1974)

Ostpolitik

Helsinki Final Act 1975

Dissent/Dissidents

The Plastic People of the Universe

Charter 77

Samizdat

Václav Havel (b. 1936)

"The Power of the Powerless" (1978)

"Post-Totalitarian Societies"

"Living in the Truth"

John Paul II. Karol Wojtyła, Cardinal of Craków, elected to Papacy (October 1978).

Visit to Poland (June 1979)

Solidarity – Solidarnosc (Organized and legalized 1980. Illegal 1981)

Gdansk – Lenin Shipyards

Lech Walesa

General Wojciech Jaruzelski (PM February 1981-1989)

Martial Law in Poland (1981)

Blind Chance. Dir. Krzysztof Kieslowski, completed 1981, premiered 1987, Poland
Witek (& his father & Czuska & the Dean)

Witek – represents modern Poland – born Poznan, 1956, with ancestry that connects him to Polish history

Background: Reform in the Party / Dissidents / The Catholic Church / Free Universities / Samizdat

The search for a father – and the failure of authority

All three lives he leads are dead ends – this is a world with no escape

Kieslowski – brilliant filmmaker – a humanist – and a pessimist

Francisco Franco (d. Nov. 20, 1975)

Spanish Civil War (1936-39)

The Falange

King Juan Carlos and the Transition to Democracy – 1975-1977

"Pact of Forgetting" or "Pact of Ignorance" (Pacto de olvido)

Movida Madrileña, Madrid Movement, Spain's "Sixties" (c. 1980)

Spain to NATO (1982) and EEC (1986)

Bad Education. Dir. Pedro Almodóvar, 2004, Spain.

Angel/Juan/Zahara, Enrique, Ignacio

Father Manolo / Manuel Berenguer

1964 / 1977 / 1980

A Picture of Madrid Movement

A Portrait of (Complicated) Queer Lives

Spain and the Church

The Unraveling of the "Pacto de olvido"

Historical Memory Law (2007)

Economic challenges of UK in 1970s

Trade Union movement

Margaret Thatcher (PM 1979-1990)

Conservative/Tory Party Leader

The “Iron Lady”
 Falklands War (1982) in the Malvinas Islands
 Mineworkers Strike (1984-5)
 Her politics: anti-welfare state, small govt, pro-private industry, pro-U.S., anti-Europe
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 Mikhail Gorbachev
 Perestroika, Glasnost
 “Sinatra Doctrine”
 Failures of Soviet command economy (and of East European economies)
 Slavenka Drakulic...
 Cascading events. Ash: “Ten years in Poland, ten months in Hungary, ten weeks in East Germany, and ten days in Czechoslovakia”
 Long history of reform in Poland
 Solidarity Trade Union
 Roundtable Talks in Poland (Feb-Apr 1989)
 Elections in Poland (4 June 1989)
 Polish People’s Republic (1989)
 1989 in Hungary
 Goulash Communism
 Communist Reformers in Hungary
 Opening of Hungarian Borders (May 1989)
 State Funeral for Imre Nagy (June 1989)
 Hungarian People’s Republic (1989)
 “The Peaceful Revolution” (East Germany)
 Monday Demonstrations in East Germany (Leipzig, Dresden, Berlin)
 Erich Honecker, Chairman of Council of State, 1976-1989
 Stasi, German Secret Police
 Visit of Gorbachev (October 1989)
 Opening of East German Borders (9 Nov 1989)
 Berlin Wall, 1961-1989
 “The Velvet Revolution” (Czechoslovakia)
 Civic Forum in Czechoslovakia
 November Protests
 Election of Vaclav Havel as President of Czechoslovakia (December 1989)

“Refolution” (Timothy Garton Ash)
 The “End of History”? No
 Return of Ethno-Nationalism
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 GDR/DDR/German People’s Republic/East Germany
 FRG/BRD/Federal Republic of Germany/West Germany
 German Reunification
 - October 7, 1949. Founding of GDR
 - August 13, 1961. Berlin Wall
 - October 1989. Demonstrations in GDR Lead to Honecker Stepping Down. Egon Krenz
 - November 9, 1989. Fall of Berlin Wall
 - March 18, 1990. Free Elections
 - October 3, 1990. Reunification with FRG

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Goodbye, Lenin! Dir. Wolfgang Becker, 2003, Germany
 Alex, Alex’ Mother (Christiane), Ariane, Lara, Rainer
 Alex’ Father, Dennis, Sigmund Jähn
 October 7, 1989-October 7, 1990
 DDR/GDR (1949-1990)
 Things change... and quickly
 Ossies & Wessies
 Ostalgie – nostalgia for East Germany
 A West-Germany Fantasy of the East – a West-German Celebration of the East –
 salve for the historical trauma of GDR and unification

Details from after Exam #3

The short answer questions will be drawn from the previous exam study guides and exams, with the addition of the following details:

Yugoslavia
 The peoples of the former Yugoslavia:
 Serbs, Croats, Bosnians, Slovenes, Kosovars, and others
 Tito
 Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

Slobodan Milosevic
 Bosnian War 1992-5
 UNPROFOR
 Ethnic Cleansing
 Dayton Accords
 ICTY
 - - -
No Man's Land (dir. Danis Tanovic, 2001)
 Nino / Ciki / Cera / Sgt. Marchand / Jane
 Livingston / UN FORCES
 A film about humanity & hatred
 International responses to the war
 Compare to *All Quiet on the Western Front*
 (1928)
 Sonja from Banja Luka
 "Who started the war?"
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 Multicultural Europe? Views on
 multiculturalism
 Immigration to Germany, France, Britain
 jus sanguinis v. jus soli
 xenophobia
 Schengen Zone
 Fortress Europe
 The Far Right, 1980s to present. Anti-
 immigrant, xenophobic, ethnic-nationalist,
 anti-EU
 Enoch Powell
 Jean-Marie Le Pen
 Jörg Haider
 Neo-nationalism of 2010s
 And today. Some exs we've mentioned
 - Law & Order in Poland
 - Victor Orban & Fidesz in Hungary
 - Marine Le Pen in France
 - VOX in Spain
 Islamophobia
 - - -
 European Union today – 27 states, 446 m.
 features of intergovernmental AND a
 supranational org.

European Coal & Steel Community ECSC
 (1950)
 Treaty of Rome 1957 – EEC
 Maastricht 1992 – EU
 Euro
 Brexit
 Brussels! (Seat of the European
 Commission)
 "Democratic deficit"
 Forces of European identity: sister cities,
 Champions League, Eurovision Song
 Contest, ERASMUS
 Eurobarometer surveys on European
 identity
 - - -
*The Spanish Apartment (L'Auberge
 Espagnole)*, dir. Cédric Klapisch, 2002
 Xavier – and his apartment of friends
 The ERASMUS Program
 A fantasy of European identity. Travel as a
 path to understanding. A love letter to
 Europe.... but one full of stereotypes and
 contradictions
 - - -
 Tony Judt – Europe as a Way of Life – the
 "European social model"
 What defines Europe?
 Challenges of Europe today: refugee crisis,
 immigration, integration, terrorism,
 economic crisis, political malaise
 Russo-Ukraine War (2022-)