

HISTORY 209—Europe, 1945 to the Present

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Spring 2025

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 13, 2025, 4:00 to 6:00pm, in our regular classroom, Kauke 039

For the Exam: Please bring your laptop and a power source. You will take the exam on Moodle. I'll bring along green books in case there are technical difficulties. The exam is closed book. You cannot use outside resources of any kind (notes, encyclopedias, internet searches, ChatGPT, etc.). However, I will allow you to bring one 3"x5" note card with a few notes you may want to bring along.

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 / Marcello

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

Ernest Bevin’s role in the Marshall Plan

European Recovery Program (Marshall Plan, May 1948)

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 – attempted murder of Palmiro Togliatti

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 features characterized the 1950s in Europe (West and East)?

See Tony Judt for key examples

Federico Fellini, dir., *La Dolce Vita* (1961)

The Economic Miracle, 1948-1973 (note the years)

- *Trentes glorieuses* (thirty glorious years)
- *Wirtschaftswunder* (economic miracle)

Decolonization

- India, Indochina, Year of Africa, Algeria

Eastern Europe after Stalin

- East Germany, Poland, Hungary...

European Cooperation

- European Coal and Steel Community
- Treaty of Rome & European Economic Community

How to think like a historian

The C’s of history

- Change/continuity
- Context
- Causes
- Contingency
- Complexity

What is history good for?

- Rich understanding of the world

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? New Wave Cinema, Trentes glorieuses, Algeria, Poujadisme

Victoria De Grazia

A new standard of living in late ‘50s and ‘60s – 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 at the Moscow World’s Fair – what system would deliver for adherents

Sarcelles - Modern French housing developments of the 1960s

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

Fears of Coca-Colonization

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

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Forces of change in the 1950s

- Economic growth
- Decolonization
- European cooperation

Decolonization

Cf world of 1900 to world of post-1945 – empires to nations

Some examples :

- India and Pakistan (1947). Gandhi, Nehru, Jinna, Lord Monbatten, Partition
- Malaysia (1957). Communist insurgency
- Ghana (former Gold Coast, 1957). Kwame Nkrumah
- Kenya (1963)
- French Indochina (1954). Dien Bien Phu
- Algeria (1962). Brutal war of decolonization
- 1960 – the Year of Africa

How to explain differences ?

- Local contexts
- Settlers
- Political choices

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

Suez Crisis, 1956. Gamel Nasser

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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 – threat of army coup – and the Return of de Gaulle (1958)

- Charles DeGaulle, founder of the Fifth Republic

- Algerian Independence, 1962

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Battle of Algiers (1965)

Dir. Gillo Pontecorvo

Soundtrack of Ennio Morricone

Saadi Yacef (FLN operative) helped write the story, starred

Ali la Pointe / Col. Mathieu

Torture as state policy

Terrorism as resistance tactic

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

Narrative style – complicated timeline

Violence of terrorism helps produce... a people. And the people will demand independence

Speaks the language of Franz Fanon

What is missing here? Conflicts bw FLN and other Algerians, role of DeGaulle, the French public, international pressure

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Europe in news - Ukraine

Russian invasion in February of 2022 – after occupation of Crimea in 2014

Long history as part of Russian Empire, Republic in USSR

And independent identity - Holodomor of the 1930s

Europe in news – German elections

Friedrich Merz and Christian Democratic Union

What would follow death of Stalin? It's complicated!

Destalinization and the Soviet Bloc

- Death of Stalin, 1953

- Laurentia Beria – “New Course” – liberalization
- East German Protests, 1953. Walter Ulbricht “Constructing Socialism”
- Nikolai Kruschchev – pushes Beria out
- Khrushchev’s “Secret Speech” (February 1956)
- Tocqueville thesis on reform and revolution
- Poland
- Polish strikes 1956 – Poznan
- Polish Workers Party - Wladyslaw Gomulka (and the Polish Thaw)
- And 30 years of hard-line rule
- Hungary
- Imre Nagy
- Hungarian Revolution of 1956
- Soviet military invasion – arrest of Nagy – and appointment of Janos Kadar
- And 30 years of Goulash Socialism
- East Germany
- East Germany - 1949 - GDR (German Democratic Republic, DDR)
- SED – Socialist Unity Party
- Walter Ulbricht (Head of SED, then President of East Germany)
- Berlin Wall 1961 – Operation Rose
- Kennedy – “Ich bin ein Berliner”
- French / German cooperation
- Under watch of DeGaulle & Adenauer
- Friendship Treaty 1963
- Different ideas of European institutions
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- The Sixties
- European economic integration
- Chronology – a long way from early ‘60s to late ‘60s
- Youth Culture
- Subcultures - Mods & Rockers – moral panic over youth
- The Beatles, “I Want to Hold Your Hand” (Lennon/McCartney, 1964)
- Rolling Stones, “Let’s Spend the Night Together” (Jagger/Richards, 1967)

- The promise of liberation – in the context of economic prosperity
- Mick Jagger on generations
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- Cléo from 5 to 7* (1962)
- Dir. Agnès Varda
- French New Wave – a cinema of *auteurs* telling stories of real people – rejecting “Cinema of quality”
- 2 hrs. (90 mins.) from a woman’s life
- Visual style – every shot carefully composed (Varda a photographer) – the presence of mirrors and glass – in the background a world of consumerism in midst of *trentes glorieuses*
- Cléo’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?
- What does it mean to be a woman in the 1960s?
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- 1968 in Europe
- Paris – May ‘68
- Nanterre – Student Protest – Daniel Cohn-Bendit (*Dany the Red*) – Sorbonne Occupation – police violence – workers – 10 m. on strike
- Prime Minister Georges Pompidou – President Charles DeGaulle - National Elections in June
- 1968 in West Germany (Federal Republic of Germany, FRG or BRD)
- Student protests over Vietnam – Remilitarization – Fascism – attempted assassination of student leader, Rudi Dutschke
- ‘68ers
- 1968 in Italy
- Years of student protest
- Strikes in 1969 – “Hot Autumn”
- “Years of Lead” from 1960s to 1980s – terrorism
- 1968 in Czechoslovakia
- Prague Spring
- Short-lived era of political liberalization
- Jan to Aug 1968
- Alexander Dubcek – “Socialism with a human face” – liberalization – decentralization

August 1968 – Warsaw Pact invasion

1968 in GDR? Poland? Hungary?

See role of secret police, Stasi, for ex.

Common features of protest in W. Europe

- Baby boom after WWII
- Crisis in the universities – overcrowding – disputes over curriculum – top-down control
- International affairs – Cold War – Vietnam
- Inspired by revolutionaries in China, Cuba, beyond – Mao, Castro, Ho Chi Minh, Che, 19th c. anarchists

Poster art of Paris in May '68 – simple messages with simple graphics

Wider outcomes?

- Brezhnev Doctrine 1968
- West Germany – Willy Brandt - Ostpolitik
- Extreme left – turn to terrorism, RAF, Red Brigades
- Feminist movement

Postwar Czechoslovakia and the Prague Spring

- “People’s Democracy”
- “Prague Coup” (February 1948)
- Alexander Dubcek
- Who was Rudolf Slánsky (d. 1952)
- Dubcek Government Commission of Inquiry on Political Trials (1968)
- Communist Action Program (1968)
- Warsaw Pact Invasion (1968)

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 a pessimistic

one. The film – and the story from Kundera – sees no hope in politics

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

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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)

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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

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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)

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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)

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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. Timothy Garton 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

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

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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

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European Union today – 27 states, 446 m. features of intergovernmental AND a supranational org.

European Coal & Steel Community ECSC (1950)

Treaty of Rome 1957 – European Economic Community

Maastricht 1992 – European Union

Euro – a currency

Brexit – British exit from EU

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

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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

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Tony Judt – Europe as a Way of Life – the “European social model”

What defines Europe?

Cf. American Dream and European Dream

Fika – coffee break in Sweden

Challenges of Europe today:

- Immigration and integration
- economic crisis
- rise of far right parties & populist politics
- US-Europe relations
- Threats of Russia

And European achievement in wake of 1945

- Peace on a continent of war
- Welfare State
- Commitment to human rights