

# History 209—Europe, 1945 to the Present

Prof. Greg Shaya

## STUDY GUIDE EXAM #3

### Directions:

The exam will take place at the beginning of class on Wednesday, April 15, 2026. Bring your laptops (and power if you need it). I will provide a link to the exam and you will complete your answers online. Make sure that you can use the Safe Exam Browser.

*For the exam:* Read all the directions! Watch the time carefully. You have thirty minutes for the exam (with a small grace period). 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 second short exam will cover the material from Wednesday, March 5 through Monday, April 13 (from my introduction to post-1968 through our discussion of *Goodbye Lenin!* and 1989).

I'll ask you a mix of questions. The exam will be one-part names and dates and details (do you know important 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 mins., 10 points)

Answer **all of the following questions** in a word or name or a phrase for each. (Choice of 12 questions; I'll grade out of ten; I'll only count correct answers).

*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 mins., 10 points)

Answer **two of the following questions** with a few sentences each. *Choice of four 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 mins., 20 points)

Answer **one of the following questions** in a few short paragraphs. Give concrete details from lecture, discussion, textbook, or films. *Choice of two questions.*

*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?

### **Possible Questions for Part 3**

What was the nature of dissent in Eastern Europe in the 1970s and '80s?  
How should we periodize the post-68 period – especially the 1970s and '80s?  
How did democracy return to Southern Europe in the 1970s and '80s?  
How did Great Britain navigate the 1980s?  
How should we understand the events of 1989?  
What forces made 1989 possible?  
How have the traumas of history (such as the Franco regime, or the GDR) been remembered in film and history?  
How were economics and politics connected in the 1970s and '80s?

### **Key Terms, Ideas, Names, Dates, Sources**

Chronologies for the 1970s  
End of the 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. Former Cardinal of Craków, elected to Papacy (October 1978). Visit to Poland (June 1979)  
Solidarity – Solidarnosc (Legalized 1980. Illegal 1981)

Gdansk – Lenin Shipyards  
Lech Walesa  
General 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 & Czeszka & 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 – fascist party of Spain

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

1978 Constitution

“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

Criticism of the Church and Francoist Spain

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's perspective

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)

"Revolution" (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, Christiane (Alex's mother), Ariane, Lara, Rainer

Alex's Father, Dennis, Sigmund Jähn

October 7, 1989-October 7, 1990

DDR/GDR (1949-1990)

Things change... sometimes 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