DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR: IR 2015 MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY & POLITICS

US CREDITS: 3/0/3

(Spring 2018)

UK LEVEL: 4
UK CREDITS: 15

PREREQUISITES: None

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:
An introduction to the Political, Social and Economic History of Modern Europe (from the Treaty of Westphalia - 1648 - to contemporary times). A thematic approach emphasising the political developments and changes.

RATIONALE:
This course is designed for any student interested in the Political, Social and Economic History of Modern Europe. The course will trace the evolution of the modern European state system and will focus on political, economic and social developments such as: the fall of absolutism, the development of capitalism, industrialization, science and technology, the advent of democracy, nationalism, communism, fascism as well as racism, imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, conflict, cooperation, the development of international arbitration, European Integration.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
As a result of taking this course, the student should be able to:
1. Outline the origins, evolution and contemporary dynamics of the modern European political map.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of key events, personalities and processes that shaped modern European History and Politics, with emphasis on post-1945 European Integration.
3. Identify the major ideological and socio-cultural transformations that have shaped and continue to shape modern European History and Politics.
4. Demonstrate understanding of the impact/influence that modern European political, economic, social, cultural and scientific/technological developments have had on neighboring regions and the world as a whole.

METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:
In congruence with the teaching and learning strategy of the college, the following tools are used:
- Classes consist of lectures and interactive learning (class discussions on contemporary or past events, as well as case studies assigned by the instructor).
- Office hours: Students are encouraged to make full use of the office hours of their instructor, where they can discuss the course material.
- Use of a Blackboard site, where instructors can post lecture notes, assignment instructions, timely announcements, and additional resources.
- Use of library facilities: Students are encouraged to make use of the library facilities for their case study assignments as well as for preparation for the final.

ASSESSMENT:
Summative:
1st Assessment: Portfolio of assessments on a case study (1,500 to 1,800 words)
Portfolio components:
- Annotated Bibliography: 10%
- Visual summary: 10%
- Term paper: 40%

2nd Assessment: Written examination essay-type questions (2 hours): 40%

Formative:
- Essay type in class/take home assignment: 0%

The formative essay type exam aims to prepare students for the 2nd summative assessment.
The 1st summative assessment tests Learning Outcomes 1, 2 and 3.
The 2nd summative assessment tests Learning Outcomes 3 and 4.

INDICATIVE READING:

REQUIRED READING:

RECOMMENDED READING:
Richard Sakwa and Anne Stevens, Contemporary Europe, Palgrave Macmillan 2012.
Merry E., Wiesner-Hanks, Early Modern Europe 1450-1789,
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<tr>
<td><strong>INDICATIVE MATERIAL:</strong> (e.g. audiovisual, digital material, etc.)</td>
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<td>REQUIRED MATERIAL: N/A</td>
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<td><strong>RECOMMENDED MATERIAL:</strong> N/A</td>
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<td><strong>COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:</strong> Verbal skills using academic / professional English.</td>
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<td><strong>SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:</strong> Word processing</td>
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| **WWW RESOURCES:** [https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/mod/modsbook.asp](https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/mod/modsbook.asp)  
[https://guides.library.yale.edu/c.php?g=296299&p=1974329](https://guides.library.yale.edu/c.php?g=296299&p=1974329)  
[http://primary-sources.eui.eu/portal/european-library](http://primary-sources.eui.eu/portal/european-library)  
[https://www.europeana.eu/portal/en](https://www.europeana.eu/portal/en) |
| **INDICATIVE CONTENT:** |
| PART I: Introduction  
A. The Renaissance and Reformation Legacy  
   a. The Religious Wars and the Westphalian State System  
   b. State Sovereignty and Absolutism  
B. The Enlightenment transformation  
   a. The erosion of absolute monarchy  
   b. The rise of the Middle Classes: calls for political representation  
   c. Economic and Political Liberalism  
   d. Focus on science and technology |
| PART II: 19th century Europe  
A. The shockwaves of the French Revolution  
B. Napoleonic Wars  
C. Nationalism, Liberalism, Marxism and midcentury revolts and conflicts  
D. European exceptionalism, racism and anti-Semitism |
| PART III: The age of war (~1900-1945)  
A. European Imperialism and Imperial antagonism  
B. Extreme Nationalism, Irredentism and the break-up of old Empires  
C. Balkan Wars and the Great War  
D. An uneasy peace: The Versailles Treaty, the League of Nations and the triumph of nationalism.  
E. Economic calamity, political upheaval and the rise of Communism, Fascism and Nazism.  
F. Total War and the Holocaust.  
G. The advent of the Nuclear Age.  
| PART IV: The Cold War (1945-1989)  
A. The Yalta agreement: A divided Europe, a divided World.  

B. The development of the United Nations and NATO as well as of subsequent international organizations for cooperation.
C. Western Europe moves into closer economic and political cooperation EEC, EU
D. U.S.S.R. dominates Eastern Europe
E. Technological and scientific advances

PART V: The Fall of the Berlin Wall and after (1990-present)
A. The U.S.S.R collapses and the Russian Federation emerges
B. Relapse of nationalism and irredentism in Eastern Europe and the Balkans.
C. European enlargement program
D. 9/11, international Islamic terrorism and its impact on European politics and society
E. Ongoing conflicts in the Middle East as well as extreme poverty in surrounding regions and their impact on Europe (migratory waves etc.)
F. 2008 Global Economic Crisis
G. The digital revolution
H. Where is Europe heading to? More integration, more fragmentation or a combination of the two?