

Brescia University College – Department of History  
University of Western Ontario

**History 1403E (530)**

**Twentieth Century Totalitarianism:  
Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy and the Soviet Union**

**Wes Gustavson**

**2011-2012**

Lectures: Wed 6:30-8:30 BR-303

Tutorial: Wed 8:30-9:30, BR-303

Office: BR 301D

Office Hours: Tues 2:00-3:00 (or by appointment)

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**Course Description:**

The historian Eric Hobsbawm christened the 20<sup>th</sup> century as “the age of extremes”. It was an era celebrated for some of humanity’s greatest achievements and one darkened by war, political repression, ethnic cleansing and genocide. This course will take a comparative and thematic approach to one of the ‘extremes’ Hobsbawm referred to – the rise of totalitarian regimes in Germany, Italy and the Soviet Union.

**Course Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Identify and relate to one another the people and ideas which have aided and/or impeded the rise of dictatorial power in modern Europe.
2. Undertake independent library research, write a well-constructed essay and correctly cite the sources used.
3. Effectively discuss and communicate ideas in a tutorial setting.
4. Think critically about the meaning of totalitarianism and whether it accurately describes the dictatorships we traditionally describe as totalitarian.

**Course Structure:**

History 1403E is organized in a lecture-tutorial format. The bulk of the course material will come from the lectures. In addition, an electronic message board and scheduled tutorials will allow students to critically analyze primary historical documents and to discuss the course themes in-depth.

**Required Texts:** \*\* copies are available at the UWO Bookstore and ON RESERVE at the Beryl Ivey Library \*\*

Bruce F. Pauley, *Hitler, Stalin and Mussolini: Totalitarianism in the Twentieth Century* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition)

Robert O. Paxton and Julie Hessler, *Europe in the Twentieth Century* (5<sup>th</sup> edition)

Alexander Solzhenitsyn, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (novel)

**Recommended Text:**

Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History* (6<sup>th</sup> edition)

**Grade Scheme:**

Midterm	10%	2 November 2011
Essay Proposal*	10%	(due 15 November 2011)
Research Essay*	35%	(due 13 March 2012)
Novel Assignment	5%	(due 7 February 2012)
Tutorials	10%	
Final Exam	30%	

**\*Note: Students are required to write one major research essay, divided into two stages. A guideline for writing a formal proposal and a research essay is available on WebCT/OWL. This two-step process is designed to give you constructive feedback as you work toward completion of the final draft.**

Please note that a penalty of five (5) marks will be assessed for essays submitted the first day after the deadline. A penalty of one (1) mark will be assessed for each subsequent day, including weekends. Computer breakdowns will not be considered grounds for an academic accommodation.

**Note on Tutorials**

Tutorials are typically in-class discussion sessions. However, the size of History 1403E does not lend itself easily to this format so a few changes are in order.

Students will be divided into two groups (A and B) and again into subgroups (A1, B1, etc). A list of the groups is available on WebCT/OWL. Each week one group will have an in-class discussion and the other group will conduct an online discussion. For example, on 21 September 2010, Group A will be in-class and Group B will be online. The following week Group B will be in-class and Group A will be online and so on and so on. The entire class (both groups) will meet, however, for films and guest speakers.

To access the online discussion simply open the **Discussions** folder on the course WebCT page; only those students scheduled to participate in that week's discussion will find a link to it. The online discussion will be available for a period of five days (beginning Wednesday and ending on Sunday) and you will be able to post during that period. After five days the discussion will be locked and you will not be able to add additional posts although you will be able to access and review the discussion.

You must post a minimum of two substantive posts per discussion. By substantive I mean that your posts should reflect that you have read and engaged with the material. Simply posting your agreement with another post etc is not enough. There is no limit to how many posts you may make but keep in mind that quality matters more than quantity. Do not be discouraged if you are not familiar with the issues and events under discussion as you are not being graded on prior knowledge but an intelligent consideration of the readings.

Your starting point should be the questions that accompany the tutorial readings. However, you are not limited to these questions and I fully expect discussions to encompass other aspects of the course. However, remember to stay on topic. The message board is for debating ideas and concepts and is not the place to ask someone if you can borrow their notes for the class you missed. I will periodically check in on the discussion and may pose additional questions from time to time.

Finally, please note that these discussions must be conducted within the grounds of appropriate classroom behaviour. Inappropriate language and/or personal attacks will not be tolerated. In short, please respect the views of your fellow students.

### **Note on Attendance Policy and Grading**

Attendance at Tutorials will be taken each week, and students will be graded on the basis of regular attendance or posting, and on the quality and consistency of their posts and their participation in discussions and exercises. Please note that tutorials are worth 10% of the final course grade and missed tutorials and discussions cannot be made up. If you have extenuating or medical circumstances, you should advise me immediately and provide the appropriate

documentation referring to the day of the missed tutorial. Legitimate absences will be dealt with by re-weighting the term work grade accordingly.

Class participation marks are based on the quality of your contributions. Each class is marked out of **ten** and is evaluated as follows:

- Students who do not attend or who do not participate in the online discussion will receive a mark of **zero**.
- Students in attendance who do not participate in the discussion will receive a mark of **four**.
- All other marks are based on my evaluation of the *quality* of your participation. Here are some general guidelines I follow when assigning participation grades.
- A student who receives an **A/A+ (8.5 out of 10 or higher)** for participation in discussion is one who comes to class with insightful reflections about the readings in mind: this student will sometimes bring a list of questions he or she wants the class to discuss, and is prepared to steer the class discussion in one direction or another.
- A student who receives an **A- (in the range of 8 to 8.4 out of 10)** for participation is one who demonstrates an excellent grasp of the material. An A-participant engages other students about ideas, asks questions about the material, and consistently elevates the level of discussion.
- A student who receives a **B+/B/B- (7 to 7.9/10)** for participation does not always come to class with questions about the readings in mind and is from time to time not fully prepared. The B participant often waits passively for others to raise interesting or relevant issues. Some B participants, while respectful of others, do not listen attentively to other participants or relate their comments to the flow of the discussion.
- A student who receives a **C+/C/C- (6 to 6.9/10)** for participation speaks from time to time and reveals an adequate grasp of the material, though is rarely willing to contribute more than straightforward comments in response to direct lines of questioning.
- A student who fails to attend tutorials and is not adequately prepared and/or rarely speaks about relevant matters risks the grade of **D or F (grades below 5/10)**.

### **Important Information: Please Read Carefully**

#### **Essay Regulations and Plagiarism Policy**

Please read carefully the Policy on Cheating & Academic Misconduct attached to the syllabus.

#### **Medical and non-Medical Academic Accommodation**

If you have extenuating or medical circumstances that will prevent you from writing a test or exam or that will cause you to miss a tutorial or an assignment due date you should advise the instructor immediately. A make-up exam may be

written and an extension for an assignment may be granted but only after an adequate justification is provided. If documentation is required for either medical or non-medical academic accommodation, then such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the student's home Faculty Dean's Office (Brescia students at Brescia, main campus students at main campus etc) and **not to the instructor**. Once the petition and supporting documents have been received and assessed, appropriate academic accommodation shall be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor. Missed tutorials cannot be made up and any absence for legitimate reasons will be dealt with by re-weighting the term work grade accordingly. For further information please see the [Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness at:   
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf)

For work representing less than 10% of the overall grade, if a student is unable to meet a deadline etc. for reasons beyond his/her control, they should discuss the matter with the instructor in advance and give adequate justification.

### **Classroom Etiquette**

As a courtesy to your fellow students and to your instructor, please arrive on time for class as late arrivals disrupt other students and the flow of lectures and discussions. Do not leave class before it ends and be sure to notify me before class if this cannot be avoided. Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, mp3 players and other electronic devices before entering the classroom. In addition, please refrain from reading newspapers, eating, texting, or having conversations during lectures. It is also forbidden to tape or electronically record lectures and/or discussions without the explicit consent of the instructor or the students affected. The use of notebook computers is acceptable provided it does not disturb the class. Inappropriate use of notebooks during lectures and tutorials creates a significant disruption and their use may be limited or banned if students are found to be using notebooks for purposes not directly related to the class. For safety reasons, students are also strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords. No electronic devices are permitted during tests and examinations.

Finally, while students are encouraged to debate and discuss the course issues and themes in class and on the electronic message board, these discussions must be conducted within the grounds of appropriate classroom behaviour. Inappropriate disruptions, disregard for speakers, and/or personal attacks will not be tolerated. In short, please respect the views of your fellow students.

## Lecture/Tutorial Schedule

### 2011

Sept 14

Introduction to History 1403E/What is Totalitarianism?  
- Pauley, Chapter 1

Sept 21

Undercurrents and Anxieties: Europe at the opening  
of the Twentieth Century  
- Paxton and Hessler, Chapter 1

Tutorial: What is Totalitarianism? - **Group A in-class;  
Group B online discussion**

Sept 28

The Terrible "isms" I: Socialism and Nationalism  
- Paxton and Hessler, Chapter 1

Tutorial: Socialism and Nationalism: **Group B in-class;  
Group A online discussion**

Oct 5

The Terrible "isms" II: Racism, Imperialism and Anti-  
Semitism  
- Paxton and Hessler, Chapter 1

Tutorial: Library Tutorial: **Groups A&B in class**

Oct 12

The First World War: Causes and Conduct  
- Paxton and Hessler, Chapter 2 and 3

Tutorial: The Origins of the First World War: **Group A in-  
class; Group B online discussion**

Oct 19

Consequences of Total War: Mobilization and Mass Death  
- Paxton and Hessler, Chapter 4

Tutorial: *All Quiet on the Western Front*; **Groups A&B in  
class**

Oct 26

The Bolshevik Revolution  
- Paxton and Hessler, Chapter 5

Tutorial: **Paper Writing Tutorial: Groups A&B in-class**

Nov 2

Lenin and the rise of the Totalitarian State  
- Pauley, pp. 11-20  
- Paxton and Hessler, Chapter 5, pp. 227-230

## **Term Test – 2 November**

Nov 9

The Red Tsar: Stalin and Stalinism

- Pauley, pp. 45-51, 68-79
- Paxton, pp. 230-232, 288-291

Tutorial: Video: *The Red God*; **Groups A&B in-class**

## **Essay Proposal and Bibliography Due – 15 Nov**

Nov 16

Versailles and the Paris Peace Settlement

- Paxton and Hessler, Chapter 6

Tutorial: Versailles and the Paris Peace Settlement: **Group B in-class; Group A online discussion**

Nov 23

Revolution from the Right: The Rise of Fascism

- Pauley, pp. 20-29
- Paxton and Hessler, pp.179-187, 194-199

Tutorial: Rise of Fascism: **Group A in-class; Group B online discussion**

Nov 30

Mussolini's Italy

- Pauley, pp. 51-57, 79-83
- Paxton and Hessler, 225-227, 276-277

Tutorial: Video: *Mussolini: Italy's Nightmare*; **Groups A&B in-class**

Dec 7

The Unwanted Republic: Weimar and the Failure of Democracy

- Pauley, pp. 34-39
- Paxton and Hessler, Ch.8.

Tutorial: Why did Weimar Fail? **Group B in-class: Group A online discussion**

**End of First Term – Classes Resume on Monday 9 January 2010**

**2012**

Jan 11

Hitler and the Rise of National Socialism

- Pauley, pp. 39-44, 57-67
- Paxton and Hessler, Ch.10

Tutorial: Hitler: **Group A in-class; Group B online discussion**

Jan 18

The Thousand Year Reich: The Nazis in Power

- Pauley, pp. 83-89

Tutorial: Nazis in Power: **Group B in-class; Group A online discussion**

Jan 25

Propaganda under the Dictators

- Pauley, Chapter 5
- Paxton and Hessler, pp.235-240

Tutorial: Video: Propaganda: **Group A in-class; Group B online discussion**

Feb 1

Culture, Education and Society in the Age of the Dictators

- Pauley, Chapter 6
- Paxton and Hessler, 240-257

Tutorial: Video: *Degenerate Art*: **Groups A&B in class**

**Novel Assignment Due – 7 Feb**

Feb 8

Totalitarian Terror

- Pauley, Chapter 7
- Paxton and Hessler, pp.291-293

Tutorial: Novel Discussion: **Groups A&B in-class**

Feb 15

Little Dictators/Appeasement and Aggression

- Pauley, Chapter 8
- Paxton and Hessler, review Ch.8, Chapters 11-12

Tutorial: Video: *The Nazis: Warning from History – The Wrong War*, **Groups A&B**

**Feb 20 – Feb 24**

**Conference Week – No Classes**



## BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

### 1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

If supporting documentation is from a family physician, Hospital Urgent Care Centre or Emergency Department, or a walk-in clinic a UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required**. To download an SMC go to <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> and follow the link under "Medical Documentation". Documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial visit. If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** considered adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2011/pg117.html>.

### 2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, [www.registrar.uwo.ca](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca), for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

### 3. ABSENCES

**Short Absences:** If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

**Extended Absences:** If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

### 4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent

assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

### **Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

### **Computer-marked Tests/exams:**

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

## **5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS**

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

## **6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES**

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

## **7. SUPPORT SERVICES**

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at [http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar\\_services/index.html](http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar_services/index.html).

The University of Western Ontario Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>

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Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.