

Immigration and Assimilation in Contemporary Europe

Spring 2016

University of Massachusetts-Lowell

Professor Patrick Young

Dugan 106

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office hours: Tuesdays 11-12:30, Thursdays 12-1:30, and by appointment

Course Description

This course will embark upon a critical and historical analysis of Europe's contemporary crisis of integration and multicultural coexistence. It does so by first considering the end of European empire after World War II, with particular attention both to the varied and sometimes violent ways in which European colonial territories separated themselves from direct European control, and to the complex and unresolved legacies of imperial history. The second unit of the course will focus upon the subsequent wave of non-European immigration to Europe, and upon the enduring social, political and cultural conflicts that accompanied it. The third and final unit will explore the ways in which immigrant/minority experience has been mediated in culture, using fiction, film, music, museum display and popular culture to explore the textures of individual and community life among those of immigrant descent within contemporary Europe. Beyond helping to illuminate Europe's current crisis, the course will provide comparative insight into recent American developments, and also into the broader dynamics of global restructuring in our time.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

After taking the course, students should be able to

- assess the long-term historical impact of European empire and its dissolution upon European and world history
- historically contextualize struggles over cultural difference, minority rights and identities in twentieth and twenty-first century Europe
- identify commonalities and differences in experiences of immigration and assimilation across national, class, gender and generational lines
- demonstrate facility in interpreting varied forms of historical and textual evidence, and in applying the analytical perspectives of multiple academic disciplines to historical and contemporary problems
- reflect critically and historically upon contemporary issues of European (and American) politics and social life

*This course satisfies the "Diversity and Cultural Awareness" (DCA) requirement for the Core Curriculum's Essential Learning Outcomes

Course Materials:

The following are the required books for the course. They are available at the campus bookstore, and should be acquired as soon as possible. Additional readings will be made available on the course website, or put on reserve at O'Leary Library. All visual resources for the class will also be housed on the course website.

Leo Lucassen, *The Immigrant Threat. The Integration of Old and New Immigrants in Western Europe since 1850*

Françoise Gaspard, *A Small City in France: A Socialist Mayor Confronts Neofascism* (Harvard, 1995)

Ian Buruma, *Murder in Amsterdam: The Death of Theo van Gogh and the Limits of Tolerance* (Penguin, 2006)

Mehdi Charef, *Tea in the Harem* (Serpent's Tail, 1989)

Course Requirements:

Written Work (80% of grade)

Unit One worksheet and essay (six pages)

Unit Two worksheet and essay (six to eight pages)

Unit Three presentation and final multimedia project (ten pages)

Written work is due on the date indicated below, unless arrangements are made with me in advance of the due date. The standard penalty for late work is one-half letter grade per day. Written work should also be submitted directly to me in hard copy format, unless I agree to electronic submission.

Students are advised to review the University's policy on academic integrity, especially as it relates to plagiarism and other instances of academic fraud:

<https://www.uml.edu/Catalog/Undergraduate/Policies/Academic-Policies/Academic-Integrity.aspx>

Class Participation (20% of grade)

This course has a discussion-based format, and requires active student participation. A formal requirement of that participation is that students assume responsibility for being a primary discussant for two classes of their choosing at some point over the course of the semester. In line with that duty, students are required to submit a one to two-page summary of the main points and/or argument of that day's reading in advance to me via email, along with any questions of their own they may wish to raise for discussion.

Class Schedule:

1/19 Course Introduction: Historicizing Europe's Troubled Present

Unit One: From Empire to 'Decolonization'

- 1/21 Visualizing Empire: The 1931 Colonial Exposition
Raymond Betts, Chapter 1 from *Decolonization*, course website
Steven Ungar, "The Colonial Exposition," from *Colonial Culture in France since the Revolution*, course website
view image file, "Exposition Coloniale, 1931," course website
- 1/26 Contesting Empire
Raymond Betts, Chapters 2 from *Decolonization*, course website
"Memories of Senegalese Soldiers," course website
Mohandes Gandhi, "Hind Swaraj," selections, course website
Nguyen Thai Hoc, "Letter to the French Chamber of Deputies" (1930)
Ho Chi Minh, "Declaration of Independence of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam," 1945
- 1/28 Decolonization: From India to Africa, 1947-1965
Raymond Betts, Chapter 3 from *Decolonization*, course website
"Great Britain Lets go of India: Debate in the House of Commons, March 4 and 5, 1947," course website
Harold MacMillan, "Wind of Change" Speech (1960), course website
United Nations General Assembly, Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (1960)," course website
Patrice Lumumba, "Speech at the Ceremony of the Declaration of the Congo's Independence (1960)," course website
- 2/2 Colonial Wars of Independence: Vietnam, Algeria, Kenya
William R. Polk, chapters from *Violent Politics: A History of Insurgency, Terrorism, and Guerilla War from the American Revolution to Iraq*, course website (choose two)
- 2/4 Debating Decolonization and Violence in the Algerian War
Frantz Fanon, "On Violence," from *Wretched of the Earth*, course website
Jean-Paul Sartre, preface to *Wretched of the Earth*, course website
Albert Camus, "The Guest," course website
***worksheet due**
- 2/9 Visualizing Decolonization: "The Battle of Algiers" (1965)
view "The Battle of Algiers," by Gillo Pontecorvo (1965)
Mouloud Feraoun, *Journal, 1955-1962*, excerpts, course website

- 2/11 (Not) Remembering Empire and Decolonization: Recent Controversies
read dossier of articles on one of the following (on course website):
torture memory in Algerian and Kenyan wars
2005 French Law on Colonialism
opening of Quai Branly museum in Paris (2006)

2/16 **Monday Class Schedule; no class**

Unit Two: The Politics of Immigration and Assimilation

- 2/18 Historicizing Immigration in Europe, 19th-20th Centuries
Lucassen, *The Immigrant Threat*, introduction and Chapter 1, 2, or 3
(choose one)
***Unit One Paper Due**
- 2/23 Empire “Comes Home”? British Immigration after 1945
Lucassen, *The Immigrant Threat*, Chapter 5
Claudia Jones: “The Caribbean Community in Britain,” course website
- 2/25 German and French Immigration after 1945
Lucassen, *The Immigrant Threat*, Chapters 6 and 7
- 3/1 The New Politics of Immigration: From Enoch Powell to the Front National, 1968-1983
Françoise Gaspard, *A Small City in France*, 1-99
Enoch Powell: “Bringing the Immigration Issue to the Center of Politics,” course website
BBC Documentary, “Rivers of Blood”, Part II of the “White” series, 2008
- 3/3 The Radical Right in Europe
Françoise Gaspard, *A Small City in France*, 101-177
“The New Right,” readings of Jean-Marie Le Pen, Jörg Haider, Ingo Hasselbach, course website
***worksheet due**
- 3/8 Tolerance and Intolerance in the Netherlands
Ian Buruma, *Murder in Amsterdam*, 1-140
- 3/10 Tolerance and Intolerance in the Netherlands
Ian Buruma, *Murder in Amsterdam*, 141-262
***worksheet due**
- *spring break**
- 3/22 Of Headscarves and Cultural Politics
Joan Scott, *Politics of the Veil* chapters, course website

Guy Coq, “Scarves and Symbols,” course website

- 3/24 Of Headscarves and Cultural Politics
Fadela Amara, “Obscurantism, the Key to Regression,” from *Breaking the Silence: Women’s Voices from the Ghetto*, course website
Ruth Mandel, “Veiling Modernities,” from *Cosmopolitan Anxieties: Turkish Challenges to Citizenship and Belonging in Germany*, course website
***worksheet due**
- 3/29 Islam, Islamic Revival, Islamophobia
“Islam in Europe: Failure of Assimilation and the Threat of Terrorism,” course website
Edward Said, “The Clash of Ignorance,” course website
Alec Hargreaves, “French Muslims and the Middle East,” course website

Unit Three: Multi-Cultural Europe? Experiences and Representations

- 3/31 Immigrant Lives: Issues of Work, Housing and Community
***Unit Two Paper due**
- 4/5 Life in the *Banlieues*: Two Takes
Mehdi Charef, *Tea in the Harem*, 7-90
“La Haine/Hate” by Mathieu Kassovitz (1995)
- 4/7 Life in the *Banlieues*: Two Takes
Mehdi Charef, *Tea in the Harem*, 91-157
“La Haine/Hate” by Mathieu Kassovitz (1995)
***worksheet due**
- 4/12 Multiculturalism in Recent European Cinema
***in-class presentations**
- 4/14 Multiculturalism in Recent European Cinema
***in-class presentations**
- 4/19 Contact, Conflicts and Convergences in Popular Culture
***in-class presentations**
- 4/21 Contact, Conflicts and Convergences in Popular Culture
***in-class presentations**
- 4/26 Displaying, Commemorating Immigration: Trans-Atlantic Comparisons
Nancy Green, “The Immigration History Museum,” course website
- 4/28 Course Recap: Present and Future Considerations

