

The Twentieth Century

# Europe in Three Wars

*Syllabus 2022*



summerschool  
UTRECHT



Universiteit Utrecht

# The 20<sup>th</sup> Century: Europe in Three Wars

## Materials

Mark Mazower, *Dark Continent. Europe's Twentieth Century* (London 1997) & Academic Articles

## Period

1 August – 12 August 2022

## Credits

4.0 ECTS + Certificate of Attendance

## Faculty

**Louisa Niesen, MA**

Course Coordinator

[l.c.niesen@uu.nl](mailto:l.c.niesen@uu.nl)

**Dr. Jochen Hung**

Coordinator Summer School

[j.b.hung@uu.nl](mailto:j.b.hung@uu.nl)

## Utrecht Summer School

<http://www.utrechtsummerschool.nl>

[summerschool@uu.nl](mailto:summerschool@uu.nl)

+31 (0)30 253 44 00

# The 20<sup>th</sup> Century: Europe in Three Wars

## Contents

Introduction	4
Academic Program	5
The (Guest) Lecturers	9
The Excursions	10
Attendance, Assessments and Grading	11
Computer Facilities	13
Map of Inner City University Buildings	14
Summer School Social Programme	16

# The 20<sup>th</sup> Century: Europe in Three Wars

## Introduction

**When asked about the twentieth century, most people's first association are either Hitler or the Second World War. But during the twentieth century, Europe not just experienced one, but three horrific wars: the First and Second World War and the Cold War that followed in their wake. Often, the first half of the twentieth century has therefore been labeled "The Era of Violence", and perhaps rightly so. But this century might as well be regarded as an age of rebuilding, transatlantic collaboration, and global connections, thus making the twentieth century much more diverse.**

This course will introduce you to a variety of questions relating to the First and Second World Wars: Why did these wars occur and what caused them to happen? What were the consequences on a human and political level? How did international society deal with it? What circumstances caused the Cold War to follow in its aftermath? You will study questions pertaining directly to these three wars, but you will also gain insight into major changes that took place in other areas of society. These changes included the way people lived, new political ideas and ideologies, key economic developments and profound progress in science and technology. The twentieth century may have seen more technological and scientific progress than all the other centuries combined since the dawn of civilization. You will receive lectures on a variety of historic topics; spanning not only the histories of the three wars, but also topics such as international cooperation and multilateralism, which resulted in international organizations such as the United Nations, the relation of the United States to Europe, decolonization and the fall of communism. You will also be taken on a number of excursions, for example to the post-1918 refuge of the German Kaiser-in-exile Wilhelm II, to the Jewish Cultural Quarter in Amsterdam, and to the European Parliament in Brussels.

# Academic Program 1 – 12 August 2022

## Week 1

Monday, 1 August – The First World War

**10.00-10.30**                      **Welcome and Introduction to the Course**

Lecturer:            Louisa Niesen

Location:            tba

**10.30-12.00**                      **Lecture 1: Darkness Falls – 1914 and the Closing of a Century**

Lecturer:            tba

Location:            tba

**13.00-15.00**                      **Seminar 1: The Many Fronts of World War I**

Lecturer:            Louisa Niesen

Location:            tba

Tuesday, 2 August – The First World War

**FULL DAY EXCURSION TO SOEST AND DOORN**

- Nationaal Militair Museum, Soest
- Museum Huis Doorn, Doorn

Wednesday, 3 August – The Interwar Period: Peace and Totalitarianism

**10.00-12.00**                      **Seminar 2: Dancing on the Volcano – The Weimar Republic**

Lecturer:            Louisa Niesen

Location:            tba

**13.00-15.00**                      **Lecture 2: USSR: Red Utopia and Red Terror**

Lecturer:            Dr. Marc Jansen

Location:            tba

Thursday, 4 August – The Second World War

**10.00-12.00                    Seminar 3: Ordinary Men? The Violence of World War II**

Lecturer:    Louisa Niesen  
Location:    tba

**13.00-15.00                    Lecture 3: Holocaust and Genocide**

Lecturer:    tba  
Location:    tba

Friday, 5 August – The Second World War

**FULL DAY EXCURSION TO AMSTERDAM**

- War & Resistance Museum
- Jewish Cultural Quarter & Jewish Historical Museum
- Holocaust Namemonument

Saturday 6 August – Sunday 7 August

Self-study and free time

## Week 2

Monday, 8 August – The Cold War

**10.00-12.00            Lecture 4: The Cold War: European Division and Integration**

Lecturers:    Alessandra Schimmel & Dr. Jorrit  
                         Steehouder  
Location:        tba

**13.00-15.00            Seminar 4: Berlin – Heart of the Cold War**

Lecturers:    Louisa Niesen  
Location:        tba

Tuesday, 9 August – European integration

**FULL DAY EXCURSION TO BRUSSELS**

- House of European History
- Parliamentarium

Do not forget to bring your passport on this excursion!

Wednesday, 10 August – Post-Cold Warfare

**10:00-12:00            Lecture 5: After 1989 – European Warfare Reconsidered**

Lecturer:        Francesca Hooft  
Location:        tba

**13:00-15:00            Seminar 5: Conclusion  
                         Self-study, working on essays**

Lecturer:        Louisa Niesen  
Location:        tba

Thursday, 11 August – Exam

**12:00**                      **Hand in essays (by email)**

**13:00-15:00**              **Final Exam**

Location:            tba

Literature:        All literature, lectures, seminars, and excursions

Friday, 12 August – Certificates

**10:30-12:00**              **Presentation of Certificates**

Location:            tba

Note: Moving-out day: deposit keys at the Presentation of Certificates

## Overview Academic Programme 1 – 12 August 2022

Week 1	Monday, 1 August	Tuesday, 2 August	Wednesday, 3 August	Thursday, 4 August	Friday, 5 August	Saturday & Sunday, 6 & 7 August
10 -12	Welcome and Introduction to the Course  Lecture 1	Full Day Excursion Soest & Doorn	Seminar 2	Seminar 3	Full Day Excursion Amsterdam	Free Time
13-15	Seminar 1		Lecture 2	Lecture 3		

Week 2	Monday, 8 August	Tuesday, 9 August	Wednesday, 10 August	Thursday, 11 August	Friday, 12 August
10 -12	Lecture 4	Full Day Excursion Brussels	Lecture 5	Hand in Essays	Presentation of Certificates
13-15	Seminar 4		Seminar 5  Self-Study, Working on Essays, Preparing for Exam	Exam	

# The 20<sup>th</sup> Century: Europe in Three Wars

## The (guest) lecturers (selection)

**Francesca Hooft** is lecturer and PhD candidate in History at Utrecht University and the Dutch Institute for Military History (NIMH) in the Hague. She studies the deployment of Dutch medical personnel in military operations in the post-Cold War era. Her focus is on the collision of the medical and military professional standards and identities in practice.

**Dr. Marc Jansen** is a retired assistant professor at the European Studies Department of the University of Amsterdam. His specialty is Russian and (post-)Soviet history and policy, and he has lived in Moscow for several years. He is (co-)author of several books, including a study of a show trial in 1922 under Lenin and a biography of Stalinist Secret Service chief Nikolai Ezhov.

**Alessandra Schimmel** is a PhD candidate within the NWO-funded research project 'Consumers on the March: Civic Activism and Political Representation in Europe, 1960s-1990s'. In her research, she focuses on the organised consumer movement in Europe, asking how the representation of consumers and the consumer interest has developed in the European Community. Broader research interests include the history of European integration, citizen activism and civil society participation in Europe, and environmental history.

**Dr. Jorrit Stehouder** focuses on the longer trajectories of European integration, particularly the changing views of European order between 1919 and 1950. He defended his PhD thesis on the role of ideas, emotions and transnational networks in the institutional start-up of European economic integration in January 2022.

# The 20<sup>th</sup> Century: Europe in Three Wars

## The excursions

### Huis Doorn and Nationaal Militair Museum Soest – 2 August

This excursion to the leafy environs of Utrecht will take us to some of the key sites relating to the history of the First World War in the Netherlands. We will visit the state-of-the-art **National Military Museum**, situated on the former air base at Soesterberg. Its collection spans the entirety of Dutch military history, stretching from the early modern period up to the Cold War. Besides marveling at the many tanks and fighter planes on display in Soest, we will continue our excursion by going to **Huis Doorn**. This elegant country house was the residence of the last German Emperor, Wilhelm II, who fled to the neutral Netherlands after Germany's defeat in the First World War. A guided tour at this museum will tell us all about the international position of the Netherlands as well as Wilhelm's personal history, who lived on this estate until his passing in 1941.

### Amsterdam, Second World War – 8 August

Our excursion to Amsterdam brings us to Amsterdam's Jewish Cultural Quarter and the Jewish Historical Museum which is located in a monumental synagogue. We will furthermore visit the recently unveiled Holocaust Namenmonument, designed by the Polish-American architect Daniël Libeskind. 76 years after the Second World War, the names of more than 102,000 Dutch victims of the Holocaust are collected here.

### Brussels, European Integration – 13 August

This excursion will bring us to the 'capital of Europe' and the institutions of the European Union. We will visit the House of European History, where you will be informed about the European integration process and its historical backgrounds. We are furthermore expected at the visitor's centre of the European Parliament, where we will get an impression of the workings of this legislative body.

Please note that at the various locations you'll have to present your **passport** to get access.

# Attendance, Assessment and Grading

## Attendance

Note that full attendance is expected in all lectures, seminar sessions, and excursions. Students who are absent beyond their fault (illness, accident, etc.) should submit a medical certificate to Louisa Niesen as soon as possible. Make-up assignments are expected for all unexcused absences. Ten percentage points will be subtracted for all uncompensated absences. Students who fail more than two make-up assignments will be dropped from this course.

## Assessment

Your grade for this course will be based on two different assignments:

Essay	40 %
Exam	60 %

### *Essay*

In order to successfully complete this course you will have to write a short essay (500 words max.) on a historical object that you encountered during one of our excursions. You will have to link your museum piece of choice to the broader themes and literature of the course, explaining why you have selected it and clarifying why you think it can represent the history of twentieth-century Europe. The essay will therefore have to consist of:

- a (brief) description of the object of choice, explaining what it is, describing its notable features and mentioning where you encountered it;
- an analysis of the object's historical importance, clarifying which periods and historical events it relates to with help of the course literature and lectures;
- an explanation of why you think this particular object represents the history of twentieth-century Europe and its three wars.

The essay should show that you are capable of critical reflection on the themes discussed during this course and should demonstrate how these lectures and excursions develop your understanding of the European twentieth century. You can also include pictures of the object that you made during excursions.

- The essay should be handed in just before the final exam on Thursday 11 August at noon at the latest. You can mail it to the course coordinator: [l.c.niesen@uu.nl](mailto:l.c.niesen@uu.nl)

### *Exam*

The course ends with a final examination of all the course material (lectures, seminars and literature) on Thursday 11 August.

## Grading

Your grades will be numerical grades according to the Dutch grading system. Dutch grades range from 0 (very bad) to 10 (excellent). At Utrecht University, a 5.5 is the lowest passing grade, though note that this might be different at other (Dutch) institutions. Also note that grade inflation has not affected the Dutch grading system as much as it has some American institutions. Grades of 9 and higher are rarely given, the most common grades are between 6 and 8. The Utrecht University student registration system (Osiris) that will produce your transcript will round off all grades to whole numerals for 5 and lower, and half numbers for 5.5 and higher. Hence, ... 4 — 5 — 5.5 — 6 — 6.5 — 7 — 7.5, etc. On course work and examinations, however, it is customary to receive a grade that has not been rounded off. Pluses and minuses are sometimes used, and count for one-fourth of a point, for instance: 8- = 7,75. Meaning of numerical grades:

9.00-10.00	Excellent
8.00-8.99	Very good
7.50-7.99	Good
7.00-7.49	Very satisfactory
6.50-6.99	Satisfactory
6.00-6.49	Sufficient
5.50-5.99	Acceptable; minimum pass
5.00-5.49	Insufficient; fail
4.00-4.99	Unsatisfactory
3.00-3.99	Very unsatisfactory
2.00-2.99	Bad
0.00-1.99	Very bad

\* Note that conversion of grades that you have received in the Netherlands to grades at your home institution is the responsibility of your home institution, not Utrecht University. This chart should be used as an indication; no rights can be drawn from it.

\* Any case of plagiarism will be reported to the home institution and results in a course failure, meaning 1.00 as final grade for this course.

# The 20<sup>th</sup> Century: Europe in Three Wars

## Computer Facilities

During the course, you can use several of Utrecht University's computer and printing facilities. You have received your computer login code (SOLIS ID) from the Summer School administration. If this is not the case, send them an e-mail at [summerschool@uu.nl](mailto:summerschool@uu.nl) or contact them by phone: +31 (0)302534400.

You are recommended to use one of the main computer rooms of the Faculty of Humanities in Kromme Nieuwegracht 80 (KNG 80). The computer rooms are opened from Mondays through Fridays from 08.00h to 19.00h. The computer rooms are closed on Saturdays and Sundays.

Another option is to use the computers at the University Library (UB) Innercity (Drift 27). The library is open from Monday through Fridays from 08.00h to 18.00h. It is closed on Saturdays and Sundays. Again, use your login code (SOLIS ID) to log in at any of the library computers. You can also use the computers on the standing desks to search catalogues without having to log in. However, you cannot work on these computers and there are no printing facilities.

# The 20<sup>th</sup> Century: Europe in Three Wars

## Inner City University Buildings

Drift 25 – Faculty of Humanities - 3512 BR Utrecht

**Entrance at nr. 27!**



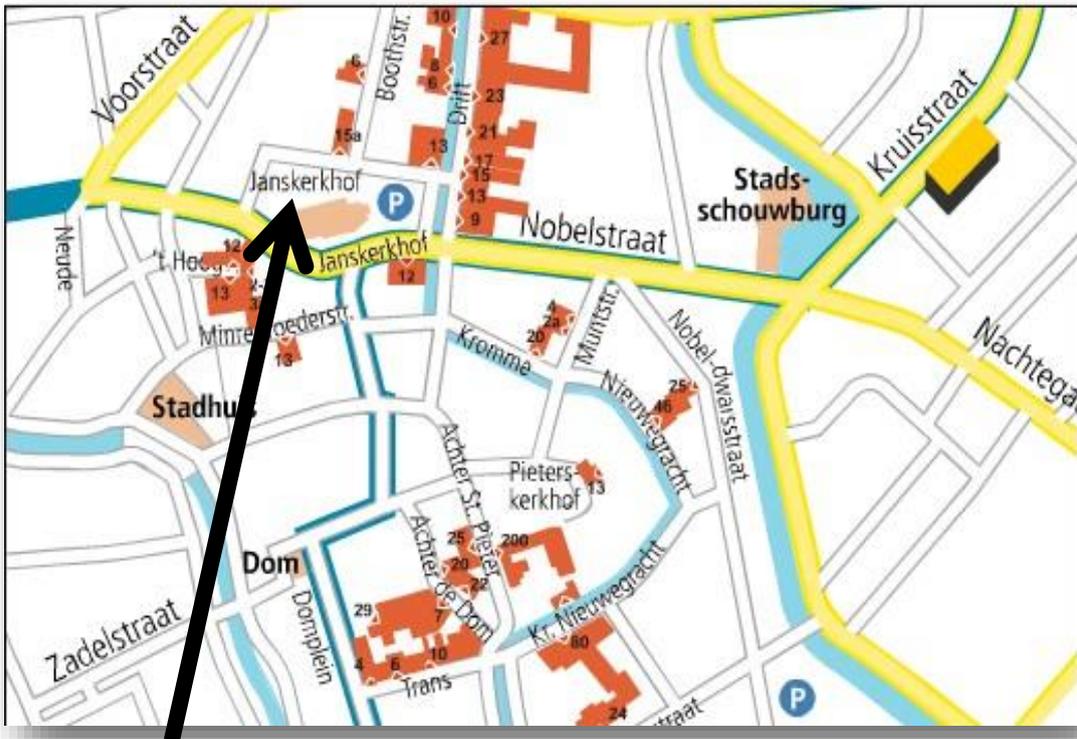
Drift 27 – University Library City Centre – 3512 BR Utrecht



Kromme Nieuwegracht 80 – Faculty of Humanities - 3512 HM Utrecht



Janskerkhof 30 – Utrecht Summer School – 3512 BN Utrecht



**Building Summer School**

Map buildings University City Centre:

<http://www.uu.nl/EN/contactanddirections/maps/Pages/Map-City-Centre.aspx>

# The 20<sup>th</sup> Century: Europe in Three Wars

## Summer School Social Programme

Utrecht Summer School not only offers you a fine selection of interesting courses in all kinds of disciplines, it also aims at giving the participants an unforgettable stay. Therefore, we invite all students during the months July and August to an attractive social programme, including excursions, sport activities and social gatherings. The activities will provide the perfect setting for you to get to know your classmates better and to meet international students from other Summer School courses!

Information on the Summer School Social Programme can be found on the website [https://www.utrechtsummerschool.nl/social\\_programme](https://www.utrechtsummerschool.nl/social_programme)