

HISTORY 208—Europe in the Age of Total War

Fall 2024

FINAL EXAM STUDY GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

Revised 12/2/2024

The final exam will take place on Thursday, December 12, 2024 in our usual classroom, starting at 4:00pm. Bring your laptop for the exam. You might also bring: your computer charger, water, and a snack.

This is a comprehensive exam covering the entire semester, a chance to consolidate what you've learned and to demonstrate your mastery of the course material.

I've written this as a two-hour exam. Some of you won't need all of that time. If you need longer, you have until 6:30pm to finish.

To prepare for the exam, work through this study guide – and look over the study guides from the three short exams. I strongly suggest you outline ideas for the short and long essay questions listed here. I suggest you work together in groups to talk through the elements – arguments and examples – of good answers.

You may use selected notes during the exam. These include: your class notebook (reading notes and class notes) and notes that you prepare for the final exam (a limit of two printed pages of outlines, themes, and key examples). These must be in hard copy unless you have special permission. You may not use the internet or books or the study guides.

Your goal in the exam is to show the mastery of *our* course. As you write your exam essays, you will want to focus on our materials, our presentations, our discussions, our themes.

FINAL EXAM

Directions for Exam

You may use selected notes during the exam. These include: your class notebook (reading notes and class notes) and notes that you prepare for the final exam (a limit of two printed pages of outlines, themes, and key examples). These must be in hard copy unless you have special permission. You may not use the internet or books or the study guides.

Don't repeat yourself across your essays. I will read your entire exam as a measure of your mastery of the course.

Good luck! Gks

PART ONE. SHORT ESSAYS on IMPORTANT PERIODS & DEFINING EVENTS

Write **two short essays**. Your essays should be about three or four paragraphs in length. Strong essays will: address the topic effectively, be well-organized and clearly written, include a clear argument, bring in concrete details (names, dates, examples, rough quotations) and provide strong analysis.

Suggested time: 30 mins. each

1. I will provide two questions from among the following themes (and you will pick one to write about):

- The Tools of Historical Analysis
- Tensions in the Belle Epoque or Wilhelmine Era

- The Crisis that Led to World War One
- World War One on the Battle Front
- World War One on the Home Front
- The Periodization of the 1920s
- The Rise of Fascism
- The Causes of the Depression
- The Soviet Union in the 1930s

2. I will provide two questions from among the following themes (and you will pick one to write about):

- The Nazi Seizure of Power
- Totalitarianism
- The Spanish Civil War
- The International Crisis of the Late 1930s
- The Second World War on the Battle Front
- Civilians During the Second World War
- The Holocaust
- Jay Winter, *Sites of Memory, Sites of Mourning*
- George Orwell, *Homage to Catalonia*
- The Legacies of this History in Europe Today

PART TWO. LONG ESSAY on the COURSE

Write **one essay**. Your essay should be about five to seven paragraphs in length. Strong essays will: address the topic effectively, be well-organized and clearly written, include a clear argument, bring in concrete examples (names, dates, details, rough quotations) and provide strong analysis.

Suggested time: 60 mins.

I will provide two long essay questions from which you can choose. These will focus on two of the following themes:

- Europe in 1900 versus Europe in 1945
- The causes of war in Europe, 1900-1945
- The impact of war in Europe, 1900-1945
- The struggle for democracy in Europe, 1900-1945
- The contrasts of western and eastern Europe, 1900-1945
- The role of ideologies in the Europe, 1900-1945 (liberalism, communism, fascism, and Nazism)
- The experience of European history, 1900-1945