

Europe Since 1945

HIS 251

Satisfies: GLO [DEC: I]

Thematic Categories:

Empires, Violence & Global Connections; Law, Politics & Social Justice

MWF 2:40-3:35

(Synchronous Online)

Professor Lawrence Frohman

This course will examine the history of Europe--both West and East--from the end of World War II to the present. The course will be organized around three big questions: How did stable social orders coalesce on both halves of the continent in the first postwar decades to resolve--if only temporarily--the conflicts that had shaped European history since the French revolution and that had torn it apart between 1914 and 1945? How did this synthesis come apart between the late 1960s and 1989? What were the consequences of these changes, and what forces have shaped the history of Eastern and Western Europe since the fall of communism? We will approach the topic by looking at the competing visions of modernity and citizenship that shaped the broad contours of the history of the period in East and West and use this analytic framework to approach the many problem complexes that together make up the fabric of European history during this period. In particular, we will look at such topics as the Cold War and Cold War culture; decolonization, Europe's changing role in the wider world, and the meaning of continental integration; consumerism, the affluent society and its discontents; the dilemmas of democratization, 1968, and terrorism; the crisis of Fordism; stagnation in the East and the collapse of communism; feminism, environmentalism, and the changing parameters of democracy; and immigration, the politics of identity, and the resurgence of nationalism since the 1990s.