

Course Syllabus: History 3305: The History of Modern Europe 1870-Present

Spring 2026: Dr. Mark Saad Saka/Sul Ross International

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Course Objectives

The objective of this course is to examine modern European history from 1870 to the present. Beginning with the Franco-Prussian War of the early 1870s through the age of industrialization, imperialism, militarism and the outbreak of the First World War, the Bolshevik Revolution, the rise of Totalitarianism and World War Two through the Holocaust, decolonization, the Cold War, and the rise of a European Community, this course will help you understand the forces that have shaped the modern world.

Required Readings

To Hell and Back: Europe 1914-1949 by Ian Kershaw , Penguin Books 2016, ISBN # 978-0143109921

The Global Age: Europe 1950-2017 by Ian Kershaw, Penguin Books 2019 ISBN # 978-0735224001

Night by Elie Weisel, Hill and Wang Press, 2006 Revised Edition ISBN 978-0374500016

Course Requirements

There a number of requirements for the successful completion of this course including:

1. Obtain the books and attend class

2. There will be ten writing assignments, each worth one hundred points each. The assignment can be found in Blackboard and all assignments must be turned in through Blackboard.
3. The structure for the assignments and outline can be found under this course found in Blackboard.
4. Smile and enjoy the course, this course will force you to ask meaningful and critical questions on the nature of humanity, war and mass murder, the Holocaust, decolonization and freedom, totalitarianism and the soul of mankind, as well as the quest for human dignity and sacrifice.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- The history student will demonstrate historical research skills in a logically organized, written paper that is mechanically correct and supported by relevant documentation of historical content.
- The history student will demonstrate the ability to write about topics in historiography and how those topics are interpreted.
- The history student will demonstrate knowledge of American History, World History, and Non-American History.

Marketable Skills of a History Major

- Students can identify useful resources from a pool of data.
- Students can select and organize data in a relevant manner.
- Students can make written presentations to various audiences.
- Students can utilize data to persuade various audiences.

- Students can utilize data to generate and strengthen ideas.
- Students can decipher stances adopted by various individuals.
- Students can meet deadlines in a successful manner.

Course Policies:

Contacting the Instructor: The instructor's email is the preferred method of contact. Msaka@sulross.edu.

Please contact me only through the Sul-Ross email as I do not respond to private email such as yahoo, gmail, Hotmail, etc. This is for yours and my security.

I do, however, have a backup email, mark.saka1@yahoo.com. This is a backup in the event of a malware attack or if for some other reason the system goes down. I rarely check it as I want you to only use my yahoo account for emergencies. I check my Sul Ross email regularly. Please stay in contact if you are ill or cannot make class for a legitimate reason.

Academic Integrity: Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be punctual, prepared and focused; meaningful and pertinent participation is appreciated. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to:

- Turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or for another course and/or professor.
- Turning in another persons' work as one's own.
- Copying from professional works or internet sites without citations.
- Collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden.

Classroom Climate of Respect:

1. Please be respectful and considerate of other student's positions or opinions.
2. No profanity
3. Express your ideas openly and with an open mind.

ADA Statement

SRSU Disability Services, SRSU is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans Disability Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Kathy Biddick at (830) 279—3003. The address is 2623 Garner Field Road, Uvalde Texas 78801.

Kbiddick@sulross.edu

SRSU Distance Education Statement: Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based or distance education courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website. Directions for filing a student complain are located in the student handbook.