Purposes of the Course. Aggression by Nazi Germany against Poland prolonged a period of intense international and ideological conflicts, which had begun with the outbreak of the First World War. This period came to an end only with the collapse of the other great tyranny in Europe that did so much to cause human unhappiness during the modern era, the Soviet Union. Students in this course will encounter some modern monsters and their henchmen: not only Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin but also others who supported their regimes. They will also learn both about their victims and about men and women who resisted them, from Winston Churchill to Vaclav Havel. Clashes between and among “isms” (Nazism, communism, socialism, liberalism, etc.) will be of central importance in our investigations. We shall also, however, consider developments such as decolonization, west European integration, and student protests, all of which need to be viewed within the context of the two great struggles that afflicted not only Europe but also much of the rest of the world during the half century that ended only about two decades ago. Written and visual primary sources will be used throughout, for the purpose of conveying a feeling for what life was like in this tumultuous period.

Assigned Reading. The textbook for the course is Felix Gilbert and David Clay Large, *The End of the European Era, 1890 to the Present*. Below, the first sets of page numbers for this book refer to the 6th edition, the second set to the 7th edition. Other books that should also be purchased are Marvin Perry and others, eds., *Sources of Twentieth-Century Europe* and Omer Bartov, *Hitler’s Army: Soldiers, Nazis, and War in the Third Reich*. Other assigned readings are available via electronic reserve at Robeson Library.

Papers. Each student is required to write a brief paper (2-3 pages) on two or more primary documents (due on Feb. 11). A second such paper may be submitted too, on April 24. A higher grade on it will replace a grade on the paper due on Feb. 11. Each student is also required to write either two other papers (3-4 pages; due March 27 and May 6) or a longer paper (6-8 pages; due May 2). These papers are to take the form of analyses of books selected by students. For additional instructions about papers, see the Sakai page for the course.

Examinations. There will be a mid-term examination on February 21 and a final examination, for each of which study questions will be distributed in advance.

Grades. Grades will be determined as follows: document analysis = 10%; mid-term-time exam = 15%; reviews of books = 30%; final examination = 30%; attendance = 15%. (Students will receive 3 points for each of the first 20 classes they attend and 5 points for each class thereafter. For purposes of calculating this grade, there is no distinction between excused and unexcused absences. If students show up, they get credit. If they are absent, they do not.

Office Hours. I shall be in my office for brief periods before and after class meetings and most of the rest of the time on Wednesday afternoons. If you wish to see me at some other time, please contact me by email.

**Part One: Backgrounds to Conflict, 1919-1939**
Basic Reading: Gilbert and Large, *The End*, pp. 271-75, 290-310 (or pp. 267-271, 285-305)

Jan. 23: Introduction to the Course: Themes and Approaches.


**Part Two: The Course of Conflict, 1939-1945**

Basic Reading: Gilbert and Large, *The End*, pp. 311-46 (or pp. 306-342)


Feb. 6: Hitler’s Soldiers and Other Killers. Reading: Perry, ed., *Sources*, pp. 219-226; finish Bartov, *Hitler’s Army*.

Feb. 11: Collaboration and Resistance in Occupied areas. Reading: Perry, ed., *Sources*, pp. 233-246. **First paper due.**


**Part Three: Cold War, to The Early 1950s**

Basic Reading: Gilbert and Large, *The End*, pp. 349-71 (or pp. 345-366)


Feb. 25: **Examination**


March 4: George Orwell and Other Critics of Totalitarianism. Reading: Orwell, *1984* (selections); Friedrich and Brzezinski, “The General Characteristics of Totalitarian Dictatorship.”

**Part Four: Repression, Reconstruction, and Retreat, 1945-1968**

Basic reading: Gilbert and Large, *The End*, pp. 372-447 (or pp. 367-440)


April 1: Western Economies and Societies: From Bust to Boom. Reading: Richard Pells, “American Culture Abroad.”


Part Five. Unrest, Reform, and the Turn to the Right in the West, 1968-1990
Basic Reading: Gilbert and Large, The End, pp. 447-516 (or pp. 440-505)

April 8: Voices on the Left and One of Their Critics: Beauvoir, Cohn-Bendit, Fischer, and Ellul. Reading: Perry, ed., Sources, pp. 351-363, 492-496.


Basic Reading: Gilbert and Large, The End, pp. 517-561 (or pp. 506-544)

April 17: From Brezhnev to Gorbachev. Reading: Perry, ed., Sources, pp. 410-415.

April 22: From the Rise of Solidarity to the Fall of Ceaucescu. Reading: Perry, ed., Sources, pp. 346-349, 415-421, 424-433; Eley, “Gorbachev, the End of Communism, and the 1989 Revolutions.”

April 24: The Unification of Germany. Due date for optional document analysis.

**Part Seven. Postscript and Review**
Basic reading: Gilbert and Large, The End, pp. 562-619 (or pp. 545-613; optional)

May 1: The Post Cold-War Decades.

May 6: Review of the Course and Preview of the Final Examination. **Final paper due.**