

Note: Course requires a single three-day weekend of travel.

Georgia Tech Europe, European Campus of the Georgia Institute of Technology

HTS 2037 – 20th Century Europe

(Europe at War and Peace, 1870 – 1970)

Spring 2025

Course Core Syllabus

Instructor

Dr. Timothy Stoneman
School of History and Sociology
tim.stoneman@hsoc.gatech.edu
Office 223, GTL Building

Time and Place

TBD - Meetings 2x/week

Course Attributes

HTS 2037 fulfills the Core Area E Social Science Requirement and the International Relations Requirement for the IP at Georgia Tech.

Course Prerequisites

None

Course Description

For the first time in several generations, Europe is at war again, now on its outside border in Ukraine. The war in Ukraine throws into the question the long-term viability of the postwar order established in Europe after 1945. HTS 2037 looks at the course of war and peace during the long twentieth century in western Europe from 1870 through 1970 through three principal lenses: technology, geopolitics, and ideology. In the sheer scale and technological complexity of its organized violence, the 20th century was the most destructive in the world's history. The late rise of Germany as a nation-state in 1871 produced a major geopolitical rivalry between France and Germany and culminated in the "German question," which dominated European diplomatic and military affairs through the outbreak of WWI. Finally, the ideological conflict between the competing visions of fascism, communism, and liberal democracy defined the first half of the 20th century in Europe, fueling a bitter thirty-year civil war. Taught at Georgia Tech-Europe's campus in Metz, HTS 2037 features the strategic fortified city and the surrounding region of Lorraine, bordering Germany, as critical fulcrums in the century's military conflicts – from precursor (Franco-Prussian War of 1870) to battlefield (Dornot crossing of the Moselle and Battle of Metz, 1944) and postlude (Robert Schuman Plan, 1950).

Note: The course will require a single three-day weekend of travel to historic battlefields, memorials and cemeteries, and museums. The weekend will take place in late January/early February. You will receive class credit hours for the field trips (four classes).

Course Objectives

Students will accomplish the following objectives:

- Students will describe relationships among languages, philosophies, cultures, literature, ethics, or the arts.*
- Students will demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence social behavior.*
- Students will develop a critical perspective on changes in the relationship between technology, culture and society over major periods of human history.
- Students will integrate aspects of their living experience while in Europe with their classroom study and develop self-awareness of their identity as travel consumers.
- Students will demonstrate proficiency in the process of articulating and organizing rhetorical arguments in written, oral, visual, and nonverbal modes, using concrete support and conventional language.*
- Students will be able to judge factual claims and theories on the basis of evidence.*
- Students will develop effective oral and written communication skills.

(* Language is taken directly from the General Education Mission Statement of Georgia Tech's Core Curriculum, available on the Registrar website.)

Course Materials

There are no required textbooks. All reading material will be provided through Canvas.

Course Units

Introduction
War I, 1870
War II, 1914-18
War III, 1939-45
Lasting peace (EU), 1951-73
Conclusion