

University of Florida
Department of History

EUH 3931 / EUS 3930: T4 (10.40 – 11. 30 am), R 4-5 (10.40 – 12.35)

The Rhine in European History

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Office hours: Tuesday 12 – 2 pm, Wednesday 11 am – 1 pm)

Course Description

Rivers are cradles of civilization. They are providers of fresh water and food, means of transportation, borders, sewers, sources of energy, and cooling agents for power plants. Follow the Rhine as it meanders through European history, as an inspiration for poets and composers, a source of regional and national identity, a creator of trade and industry, and a fragile ecological entity.

The course will present a comprehensive history of the Rhine as a defining geographic entity in Western European civilization. The approach is multi-disciplinary with four major focal points pertaining to political, cultural, economic and ecological themes. Students will be working with a large variety of sources, but the main academic objective is to construct a narrative that shows how different perspectives overlap and how the river is both materially and symbolically appropriated by adjacent polities.

Pending budgetary approval, the course will include a visit to the German sections of the Rhine between February 26 and March 6. The maximum number of participants is twelve. Students are expected to write a five page essay about their learning experience during the trip, due on March 20, 9pm.

Students will be introduced to the method of critical source analysis. They are required to write a final research paper (10 pages, double spaced), due on April 9, 9pm. This final paper should be outlined in a short abstract (1 page), containing a bibliography (10 titles or more) due on March 11, 9pm.

The paper should be a critical reflection on a topic we discussed in class, drawing on our reading and additional materials. I would like to see every student at least once during my office hours (or by appointment) to discuss the paper topic.

There will be a two-page source analysis assignment as a home written “Test”-paper with a “test”-grade due on January 31, 9pm.

Course Policies

Grading:

Final Exam: 30%

Four weeks before the final exam the instructor will hand out a study guide with a number of exam questions and tasks out of which one third will be chosen for the exam.

Final Paper: 30%

Participation: 25%

Trip Experience Essay: 15%

Participation requires regular reading responses via email consisting of at least two questions (which the instructor will specify in class) concerning the respective text assigned. The response should be e-mailed at 6pm the day before class.

Students who miss class more than three times unexcused will fail.

During class, phones, computers, and tablets have to be switched off and stored in bags/briefcases.

Plagiarism is not tolerated. Students who plagiarize in any of the writing assignments will fail the class. The instructor will inform the university about such behavior. The principles of academic honesty will be explained in class. Consult the university policies on rules of conduct here:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

Course Schedule

Tuesday, January 5: Introduction; policies, academic goals, expectations

Thursday, January 7: Lecture, *Rivers in History*, no readings

Tuesday, January 12: Hugh Elton, *Frontiers of the Roman Empire* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1996), pp. 1-9, 41-57

Thursday, January 14: Lecture, *How to deal with Sources*, no readings

Tuesday, January 19: Arnold Wolff, *Cologne Cathedral* (Potsdam: Vista Point, 1990)

Thursday, January 21: Heinrich Heine, *A Winter's Tale* (London: Angel Books, 1997); poem *Loreley* [material provided by instructor]

Tuesday, January 26: Margaret Pawley, *The Watch on the Rhine: The military occupation of the Rhineland* (London and New York: I. B. Tauris, 2007), pp. 1-99

Thursday, January 28: Paul Zurnieden, *Bonn: Portrait of the Federal Capital* (Bonn: Stollfuss, 1972)

Tuesday, February 2: Philip Kitcher / Richard Schacht, *Finding an Ending. Reflections on Wagner's Ring* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004), pp. 203-232

Thursday, February 4: Philip Kitcher / Richard Schacht, *Finding an Ending* [...], pp. 1-48

Tuesday, February, 9: Philip Kitcher / Richard Schacht, *Finding an Ending* [...], pp. 49-134

Thursday, February 11: Philip Kitcher / Richard Schacht, *Finding an Ending* [...], pp. 135-163

Tuesday, February 16: Philip Kitcher / Richard Schacht, *Finding an Ending* [...], pp. 164- 201

Thursday, February 18: Peter Hayes, *Industry and Ideology. I. G. Farben in the Nazi Era* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000), pp. 1-31

Tuesday, February 23: Peter Hayes, *Industry and Ideology* [...], pp. 32-124

Thursday, February 25: Peter Hayes, *Industry and Ideology* [...], pp. 125-174

Friday, February 26 – Sunday, March 6: Group Study Visit Frankfurt-Mainz-Bonn-Cologne-Düsseldorf

Tuesday, March 8: Lecture, *How to write a Paper*, no readings

Thursday, March 10: Peter Hayes, *Industry and Ideology* [...], pp. 175-318

Tuesday, March 15: Peter Hayes, *Industry and Ideology* [...], pp. 319-349

Thursday, March 17: Peter Hayes, *Industry and Ideology* [...], pp. 350-385

Tuesday, March 22: Marc Cioc, *The Rhine. An Eco-Biography 1815-2000* (Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 2002), pp. 3-20

Thursday, March 24: Marc Cioc, *The Rhine* [...], pp. 21-108

Tuesday, March 29: Marc Cioc, *The Rhine* [...], pp. 109-144

Thursday, March 31: Marc Cioc, *The Rhine* [...], pp. 145-207

Tuesday, April 5: Thomas Lekan, "A 'Noble Prospect'. Tourism, Heimat, and Conservation on the Rhine," *The Journal of Modern History*, Vol. 81, No. 4 (December 2009), pp. 824-858

Thursday, April 7: Song, *The Watch on the Rhine* [additional material]

Tuesday, April 12: Battlefield (PBS TV series), *Battle for the Rhine 1* [provided by instructor]

Thursday, April 14: Battlefield (PBS TV series), *Battle for the Rhine 2* [provided by instructor]

Tuesday, April 19: Conclusion