COURSE DETAIL

THE SPECTRE OF REVOLUTION: RESISTANCE AND PROTEST IN POST-WAR EUROPE 1953-1989

Country
Germany

Host Institution
Free University of Berlin

Program(s)
European Studies

UCEAP Course Level
Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)
History European Studies

UCEAP Course Number
105

UCEAP Course Suffix

UCEAP Official Title
THE SPECTRE OF REVOLUTION: RESISTANCE AND PROTEST IN POST-WAR EUROPE 1953-1989

UCEAP Transcript Title
PROTEST EU 1953-89

UCEAP Quarter Units
4.50

UCEAP Semester Units
3.00

Course Description

This course examines the emergence of mainly youth-led resistance and protest movements in post-World War II Europe on both sides of the Iron Curtain, and attempts to understand their origins, their meaning and their effect on the societies in which they occurred. American counterculture in the 1960s is often associated with rock’n’roll music, drug-taking, dropping out, and the Anti-Vietnam protest movement. In Europe the associations are more complex and include revitalization of European feminist movements as well as countercultures in places like West Germany and Italy that are remembered for planting bombs and joining underground terror cells in the name of the New Left, or more extreme iterations of the New Left. On the other side of the Iron Curtain, in places like Hungary, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, and the Soviet Union, anti-government protesters faced a very different, more dangerous existential struggle against authoritarian regimes that utilized torture and detention without trial to mute or prevent social uprisings. This course accounts for the nature and intensity of post-war European protest movements by examining the historical context of the traumatic impact of recently defeated fascism on the continent, and the division of Europe into spheres of interest reflecting the Cold War world. It examines the post-war socio-economic developments that led to the massive expansion of higher education in Western Europe, promoting a generational divide which saw a radicalized younger generation turn on their parents and other members of the older (Nazi) generation or the so called system, sometimes in rage and violence, as in the examples of the Red Army Faction in Germany and the Red Brigades in Italy. This is compared to examples in Eastern Europe, where resistance movements against Communist regimes, such as in Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and East Germany, were met with deadly force and violent oppression. The course keeps as its particular focus East Germany (GDR) and West Germany (FRG), but the course also encounters the student-led uprisings against Sovietized Communism in Hungary in 1956 and during the 1968 Prague Spring, as well as the curious case of the Soviet Hippies. Throughout the course, the city of

Berlin serves as a backdrop: as a place of often very radical anti-government movements in West Berlin, compared with the muted and hidden resistance to authority over the Berlin Wall in East Berlin. The course also examines how resistance in Western Europe often meant solidarity with anti-colonial movements in the Middle East, Africa, and South America. It also discusses the rise of new political movements as the Green Party.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
FU-BEST 3

Host Institution Course Title
“THE SPECTRE OF REVOLUTION”: RESISTANCE AND PROTEST IN POST-WAR EUROPE 1953-1989

Host Institution Course Details

Host Institution Campus
Free Univ. Berlin

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
FU-BEST

Course Last Reviewed

Print