GET CREDIT FOR POL 244 OR HMN 214 (HMN 214 SATISFIES DIVISION II LITERATURE REQUIREMENT)

William Faulkner’s remark “The past is never dead. It’s not even past” will ring true during our travels in Europe as we explore history’s constructed and contested meanings and their impact on current politics. Buildings, monuments, museums will be as much our classrooms as cafés, parks, and train compartments. We will analyze a broad range of topics related to the rise and fall of fascism and communism; issues of memorialization; the role of the Other; and European identity.

We will approach these topics through literary texts, scholarly analysis, and site visits. Questions that will concern us are, among others: What can we learn about history and politics through the medium of literature? What are the strengths and weaknesses of novels as compared to scholarly texts? What are the main issues in commemorating a country’s past? How does the past influence contemporary politics?

CITIES WE WILL VISIT: ROME, FLORENCE, VENICE, VIENNA, PRAGUE, BERLIN, AMSTERDAM, BRUSSELS, PARIS, BARCELONA

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