### Course Title: WORLD WARS AND EUROPEAN LANGUAGES

**Term/Semester/Year:** Spring 2010

**Course Catalog Number:** LANG3344

**Instructor:** Dr. Arta L. Boutcher

**Course Description:** In this course we will analyze the language and style of noted authors who have reflected on World War I and II in their writings. The emphasis will be placed on the resistance movement, on the American involvement in the two wars, and other topics such as nationalism, politics and economics, the Spanish Civil war, the Final solution, philosophers of Existential thought, prisoners and heroes, holocaust poetry, and the aftermath of the two World Wars.

**Prerequisites (If any):** None.

**Goals and Objectives:** The main goal is for students to have a better understanding of the historic events that led to the two World Wars, the Resistance movement against the Nazis, and the writings of European authors who have contributed to the Resistance movement.

**Course Topics:**
- World War I: causes, development and effects and how it was represented in the writings of Boris Pasternak, Ernest Hemingway, Albert Camus, and Simone Weil.
- World War II: causes, development, and effects and how it was represented in the writings of Eugene Ionesco, Günter Grass, Elie Wiesel, and Jean-Paul Sartre.
- Poets of the Holocaust will include Blaise Cendrars, Paul Celan, Primo Levi, Benjamin Fondane, René Char, and Paul Eluard among others.
- Artists and performers who have made a difference: Josephine Baker and Edith Piaf.
- The aftermath of the two World Wars as represented by the Ann Frank Museum in Amsterdam and the Holocaust Museum in Washington DC.

**Text:**
- *Doctor Zhivago* by Boris Pasternak
- *Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway
- *The Plague* by Albert Camus
- *Gravity and Grace* by Simone Weil
- *The Rhinoceros* by Eugène Ionesco
- *Cat and Mouse* by Günter Grass
Night by Elie Wiesel
Being and Nothingness by Jean Paul Sartre
Students will sample a couple of significant chapters from the books listed above as well as various documentaries and excerpts from major films such as “La Grande Illusion” by Jean Renoir and “Au revoir les enfants” by Louis Malle.