During World War II, the Nazi regime took racial ideology and racial violence to such extremes that European leaders felt compelled to publicly condemn racism after the war. But could the long history of racism really be banished from Europe, let alone Europe’s colonies, virtually overnight? What concrete efforts were made to turn this rhetoric into practice, by whom and for whom, and how did those efforts fare? This course takes these questions as a starting point to explore the tangled legacies of the Holocaust and colonialism on European understandings of race and efforts to combat racism in Europe since 1945. Key topics will include the experience of Jewish survivors and black American GIs in postwar West Germany; anticolonialism and the decolonization of the French and British empires; antiracist mobilizations by black and Muslim immigrants and their allies across the continent; European involvement in the global anti-Apartheid movement; “colorblind” state policies and anti-discrimination law; terrorism and Islamophobia in Europe since 9/11; and new patterns of antiracist activism as well as new forms of racist exclusion in the contemporary European Union.