Welcome to a new discussion thread on H-Teach: History in the Making.

For those of us who teach history, most of our courses obviously focus on what has already happened, although we often show our students how the past is relevant to the present. But sometimes, events in the present are so pressing and monumental that we need to discuss them too. The purpose of this post is to generate a discussion on one current event -- the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Below, I've shared some thoughts about how I will discuss this event in one of my college history classes. I invite other members of H-Teach to join this discussion. Simply post a reply to this thread, and all comments will be connected to this original discussion. Feel free to comment directly on my post as well as add your own comments about what you are doing in your classes. Questions about the topic are also welcome. If you have come across any great resources, please share them. While I'm sharing my experience for a history class, submissions from all Humanities and Social Science fields are welcome. Also, if you're associated with a library, a museum, or other educational venue, please share your work and experiences too. Finally, there is no need to replicate my format below; this discussion thread is certainly a work-in-progress. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

I am currently teaching an honors section of the modern Western Civilization survey, which is an overview of European history since 1500. I have history majors and non-majors in the class as well as freshman, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. I did tell my students last Friday (February 25) that we will be discussing the invasion later in the semester. I am waiting until later for two reasons. First, there is some background information in other lectures that we have not gotten yet to that will be relevant to this topic (WWI, Russian Revolution, Great Depression, WWII, Cold War, collapse of communism in Europe). Second, waiting until later will...
give me more time to learn about and process what is happening.

My plan is to cover the topic in two ways. First, I am going to add a new lecture near the end of the semester. My current lecture on the collapse of communism in Europe ends with a note about Russia's resurgence. My new lecture will build on the end of my existing lecture. Second, I have two current events discussions in this class; the students typically choose the topics for both discussions based on reviewing current events in Europe via European news sources, but I am going to have the current conflict be the topic of the second discussion. This discussion will take place the class after the new lecture. My students have been very chatty during previous discussions. Last Friday, they appeared to be very interested when I mentioned that we are going to cover the invasion later this semester, so I except a lively discussion.

That's my plan. I'm open to suggestions, and I look forward to see how this discussion develops.