

CET Syllabus of Record



Program: CET Florence
Course Title: FL279
Course Code: European Identity and Culture
Total Hours: 45
Recommended Credits: 3
Suggested Cross Listings: History, Political Science, Economics
Language of Instruction: English
Prerequisites/Requirements: None

Description

Debates about European Union identity have intensified in the context of EU enlargement. This course investigates two fundamental questions: what is Europe and who are Europeans now? Despite the fact that the motto “unity in diversity” is generally seen as best describing the aim of the EU, opinions differ as to how the motto should be understood: does a European identity exist? How did it develop? What is the role played by geographical conditions, economy, religion, tradition, culture and politics? What can unite people in Europe, and what can split people in Europe? The course covers the theories of individual, group and national identity formation; the debate over new and old Europe; and cultural practices of Europe.

Objectives

During this course, students substantially improve their knowledge in the field and specifically learn about:

- The basic theoretical tools to comprehend the concept of European Identity
- The relevant historical data relating to the development of the EU (1945 – 1993)
- The relevant cultural aspects relating to different member states analyzed in a comparative approach
- The challenges of religious integration among the EU member states
- The role of social, cultural and economic capital in the political and civic development of the EU supranational identity.

Course Requirements

The course comprises mainly lectures and some discussion. Individual study of readings is required on a weekly basis. Students are expected to read assignments carefully before class and take detailed notes during lectures. Readings average approximately 30 pages per session. Classes also include interactive assignments and discussions in which students are expected to actively participate.

Students complete an oral presentation on a topic of their choice and confirmed by the instructor. Presentations should not exceed 25 minutes. Students may choose their preferred format, but multimedia presentations are most welcome. Upon completion, students transform the presentation into a paper of about 2,000 words. The paper should include clear references to at least two secondary academic sources. Criticism and personal opinions are particularly encouraged.

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There is a midterm and final exam, each consisting of two parts, short answer questions and essays. The final exam covers the materials from the second half of the term only.

Methods of Evaluation

The final grade is determined as follows:

Class attendance and participation	10%
Paper	15%
Oral presentation	15%
Midterm exam	30%
Final exam	30%

Primary Texts

Readings are selected from the following resources:

- Chimisso, Cristina (2003). Exploring European Identities. The Open University.
Pittaway, Mark (2003). Globalization and Europe. The Open University.
Pittaway, Mark (2003). The Fluid Borders of Europe. The Open University.
Gowland, David, Basil O'Neill, Richard Dunphy (2000). The European mosaic: Contemporary Politics, Economics, and Culture. Longman.
EU Commission Documents (2002) Intercultural Dialogue. Brussels, 20-21 March.
EU Commission Documents (2004) Dialogue between Peoples and Cultures: Actors in the Dialogue. Brussels, 24- 25 May
Castells, Manuel. 1997. The Power of Identity.
Boer, Pim den. 1995. The History of the Idea of Europe. London: Routledge and The Open University
Rutherford, Jonathan (ed.) 1990. Identity: community, culture, difference. London: Lawrence Wishart.
Touraine, Alain. 2000. Can We Live Together?: Equality and Difference. Transl. D. Macey.
Fulbrook, Mary (Ed.). 1993. National Histories and European History.
Hastings, Adrian. The Construction of Nationhood: Ethnicity, Religion, and Nationalism. 1997
Boer, Pim den. 1995. The History of the Idea of Europe. London: Routledge and The Open University
Berguland, S., Aarebrot, F. H., Vogt, H., Karasimeonov, G., Challenges to Democracy. Eastern Europe Ten Years after the Collapse of Communism,
Bideleux, R. Jeffries, I. A History of Eastern Europe: Crisis and Change, Routledge, London and New York, 1998
Crampton, R.J. Eastern Europe in the Twentieth Century, Routledge, London and New York, 1997
Hatt, S., Gardener, F. (Ed.) Europe, Policies and People, Palgrave, 2002

Outline of Course Content

Note: Fall/Spring students cover approximately 1 topic every two weeks. During the summer, when class periods are longer, students cover approximately 1 topic per week.

TOPIC 1: Introduction to the course: what is Europe?

Conceptions of identity

The EU in the puzzle of Europe

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TOPIC 2: The Idea of Europe
European philosophers on Europe
The debate on common European culture

TOPIC 3: European Languages
Language as a "marker" for identity
Multilingualism in Europe

TOPIC 4: Religious and Political Puzzle of Europe
Religion and European identities
EU on multiculturalism of Europe

TOPIC 5: Changing Europe
EU borders and issues of migration, national minorities and regionalism

TOPIC 6: Changing Europe
EU enlargement

TOPIC 7: Globalization and Europe; Europe and the Others
Images of the EU outside its frontiers
EU and the USA

TOPIC 8: EU and Identity?
Symbols and mythology
Future and new identity for the EU