

Syllabus of Record

Program: CET Florence

Course Code / Title: FL/HIST 340 What is Europe? History, Societies, Representations

Contact Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: History / Sociology, Anthropology, Cultural Studies

Language of Instruction: English

Prerequisites / Requirements: None

Description

What is Europe and where does it end? What represents Europe's core and what constitutes its periphery? What has been the role of war in the history of the continent and what is today? Moving from these and other questions, the course discusses the different ways in which Europe has been conceptualized and represented through time and the dilemma faced now as in the past. The aim of the course is to encourage critical thinking and an approach to Europe that emphasizes its complex, changing and often contradictory nature.

Content warning:

At times, this course intentionally invites students to engage with readings and content that are controversial. Students might find this disturbing. The intention is not to endorse perspectives but rigorously engage with them. If certain material is emotionally challenging, students can discuss it with the faculty before or after class. Students may also leave the classroom without academic penalty, if the discussion becomes too emotionally challenging. Students are, however, responsible for all missed material, and so should arrange to get notes from another student or see the faculty member individually.

Objectives

Through their participation in this course, students will:

- Gain a thorough understanding of the key events, ideas and processes that have shaped contemporary Europe.
- Critically analyze the ways Europe has been conceptualized and represented.
- Engage with the main scholarly debates related to nature of the EU.
- Develop a critical understanding of the influence that Europe's past exercises on current cultural and political phenomena.
- Debate different notions of Europe, its nature and history.
- Demonstrate research and communication skills (written and spoken).

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Requirements

Active participation is essential in this course. Students are expected to attend each class and field study course component as outlined in the CET Attendance Policy. Students are expected to read all assigned materials before the relevant class session and come prepared to participate thoughtfully in class discussions. Reading assignments are generally 20-30 pages per class session. All assignments must be submitted via Canvas unless otherwise noted.

Graded assignments include:

- **Participation:** Students are expected to contribute actively to class discussions, by connecting concepts and terminology from the readings, lectures, and presentations with their own comments and observations. Participation will also include taking part in debates in which students will critically discuss alternative interpretations of key concepts and events.
- **Homework:** 3 short response papers to select readings and 2 reflection journal entries (approximately 500 words each).
- **Quizzes:** 3 short quizzes (essay format) to test students' comprehension of readings.
- **In-class collaborative presentation:** The final project for this class involves the preparation and delivery of an in-class collaborative presentation (around 30-minutes long for each group) on any topic concerning Europe and the European Union. In the presentation each student should speak for approximately 10 minutes and needs to refer to at least one work that is not listed in the syllabus for this class.

Grading

The final grade is determined as follows:

Participation (<i>see rubric below</i>)	20%
Homework (5 at 5%)	25%
Quizzes (3 at 10%)	30%
In-class collaborative presentation	25%

Class Participation Grading Rubric

	A – 90-100% Exemplary	B – 80-89% Proficient	C – 70-79% Developing	D – 60-69% Unacceptable	F – 0-59% Missing
Frequency of class participation	Actively contributes 2+ times per meeting	Actively contributes at least 1 time per meeting	Actively contributes at least half of the time during term	Actively contributes less than half of the time during term	Does not contribute

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Quality of class participation*	Contribution is always thoughtful, accurate, and constructive, frequently interacting with peers	Contribution is mostly thoughtful, accurate, and constructive, usually interacting with peers	Contribution is somewhat thoughtful, accurate, and constructive, sometimes interacting with peers	Contribution is rarely thoughtful, accurate, and constructive, rarely interacting with peers	Does not contribute or interact with peers
Level of class preparation	Always fully prepared and on task	Mostly prepared and on task	Somewhat prepared and on task	Rarely prepared and on task	Consistently unprepared and not on task

Readings / Resources

Bernini, Stefania, and Jan Zielonka, "A Europe of Reunification." In *The Cambridge History of the European Union*, vol.1, edited by Mathieu Segers and Steven Van Hecke. Cambridge University Press, 2024, pp.135-162.

Bottici, Chiara, and Benoît Challand. *Imagining Europe: myth, memory, and identity*. Cambridge University Press, 2013.

Bregoli, Francesca, and David B. Ruderman (eds.). *Connecting histories: Jews and Their Others in Early Modern Europe*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2019.

Delanty, Gerard. "Multiple Europes, Multiple Modernities: Conceptualising the Plurality of Europe." *Comparative European Politics*, vol.14, no.4, 2016, pp.398-416

Jones, Erik, and Masha Hedberg. *Europe Today. A Twenty-first Century Introduction*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2023.

Judt, Tony. "The Past is Another Country: Myth and Memory in Postwar Europe." in *Memory and Power in Post-War Europe: Studies in the Presence of the Past*, edited by Jan-Werner Muller. Cambridge University Press, 2002, pp.157-183.

Hau vom, Mathias, et. al. "The consequences of nationalism: a scholarly exchange," *Nations and Nationalism*, vol.29, no.3, 2023, pp.810-830.

Mazower, Mark. *Dark Continent. Europe's Twentieth Century*. A.A. Knopf, 1998.

Mudde, Cas. "Populism in Europe: An Illiberal Democratic Response to Undemocratic Liberalism." *Government and Opposition*, vol.56, no. 4, 2021, pp.577-597.

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Pagden, Anthony. *The Pursuit of Europe*. Oxford University Press, 2022.

Pagden, Anthony. *The Idea of Europe: from Antiquity to the Present*. Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Tazzioli, Martina. *The Making of Migration: the Biopolitics of Mobility at Europe's Borders*. Sage, 2019.

Triandafyllidou, Anna and Ruby Gropas. *What is Europe?* 2nd ed. Routledge, 2022.

Trimikliniotis, Nicos. *Migration and the Refugee Dissensus in Europe : Borders, Security and Austerity*. Routledge, 2018.

Winter, Jay (ed.) *War beyond words: Languages of Remembrance from the Great War to the Present*. Cambridge University Press, 2017.

Content

Topic 1 - What is Europe and where is Europe?

- Geographical, political and cultural definitions
- Does Europe have borders?
- Myths and narratives from Ancient Greece to contemporary representations

Topic 2 – Europe and the EU

- What is the EU?
- Main steps towards integration
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *A Lasting Peace through the Federation of Europe* (1756)
- The Ventotene manifesto
- The Maastricht treaty

Topic 3 – Europe of nations

- What is a nation?
- Nationalism in the history of Europe
- National culture and European culture
- Ernest Renan *What is a nation*
- Benedict Anderson *Imagined communities*

Topic 4 – Europe and war

- WW1 and the Dark Continent
- WW2 and the process of integration
- Anti-fascism and visions of integration
- Draft Declaration of the Geneve Conference of Resistance Fighters, Geneve, 1944.

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Topic 5 – Europe and its others

- Montesquieu, *The Persian Letters* (1721)
- Orientalism
- EUrope and its geographical others

Topic 6 – North-South, East-West

- Catholic and protestant Europe
- The “South” as a notion
- The Iron Curtain and its legacy
- Representations of differences in European cultures

Topic 7 – Colonial legacies

- Colonialism and imperialism as European legacies
- Post-coloniality and the EU

Topic 8 – The ghosts of the past: fascism and communism

- Fascism and communism in European history
- Giovanni Gentile and Benito Mussolini, ‘The doctrine of Fascism’, 1932.
- Fascist legacies today

Topic 9 – Fortress Europe

- Migration in contemporary Europe

Topic 10 – Europe contested and reinvented

- Populism
- Euroscepticism
- Proposals for renewal

Field study and experiential learning components may include:

- Historical Archives of the European Union
- European University Institute
- Guest lectures

Syllabus of Record is subject to minor changes in Term-specific Syllabus at faculty's discretion.