

EUS 2003: Europe from a Social Science Perspective
Center for European Studies, University of Florida
Fall 2015

Instructors

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Course Information

Meeting Times: MWF 3rd period (9:35-10:25am)
Classroom: FAB 105
Office Hours: F 10:30am-12:00pm or by appointment

Course Description

Europe as an idea and as an entity has and continues to have different meanings for different people at different times. Since the end of the Cold War however, the concept of Europe has transformed into a supranational entity, most recently portrayed through the lens of the European Union (EU). Members of the union value the same basic principles of democratic governance, human rights and the functioning of robust market economies. Pursuing, achieving, and consolidating their goals, however, has been far from a straightforward process, often typified by deep political and ideological divisions.

The main purpose of this course is for students to gain an insight into how Europeanism evolved, both in terms of a concept (the idea of Europe) and institutionally (the European Union). Although Europe has been at its most peaceful period since the establishment of the EEC, the effects of the recent debt crisis have casted a long shadow over its prospects of future stability and economic prosperity. The lessons learned from the ongoing crisis indicate that the idea of what the EU should ultimately be is far from agreed upon by member states. Issues of national sovereignty and economic solidarity are still areas of strong contestation with regards to the establishment of a more integrated political union.

The course begins by introducing the student to a brief history of Europe as well as the origins and evolution of the European idea. We will discuss the institutional manifestation of Europe (i.e. the EU), its aspirations, and fundamental limitations. This will be followed by an examination of the current state of Europe and the problems that it faces, such as its stark political and ideological cleavages, identity issues, the cultural divide, and its recent internal power struggles. We will conclude our semester with a discussion on the future of Europe and the prospects of further integration as opposed to the possibility of a complete dissolution.

Course Objectives

This course is intended to provide students with the ability to:

- Understand the meaning of the European idea;
- Assess the institutional strengths and weaknesses of the European Union;
- Evaluate the current state of European affairs;
- Generate and substantiate arguments regarding the future of Europe.

Grade Weights

Class Participation	20%
Short Essays	20% (10% each)
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%

Course Requirements

I) Class Participation

You are expected to attend all class meetings and be prepared for an in-depth discussion of the assigned course material. A portion of your final grade will be based on your participation. Note that your physical presence in the classroom (attendance) is not a substitute for active participation. Your grade will reflect both the quality of your contributions and your willingness to engage in the discussion. When participating you are expected not only to demonstrate a firm grasp of the assigned material, but also to challenge your peers and the instructor by emphasizing potential shortcomings in the readings and by asking critical questions. If you feel uncomfortable speaking in the class, make sure to compensate for that by discussing the readings with the instructor either during office hours or via email.

Attendance will be checked regularly. You are allowed to a maximum of two (2) unexcused absences for the duration of the course, so spend them wisely. Each additional unexcused absence will be penalized with 2% of your overall course grade. Absences due to illness are excused only when accompanied by a doctor's note. If you know you are going to miss a session for a reason that justifies your absence, inform the instructor via email beforehand.

II) Short Essays

During the course of the semester you are required to write two short review essays (about 4-6 pages, double-spaced) on two topics of your choice out of those introduced in the course. We will assign topics during our second meeting. The review essays will be due at midnight before the day each topic is to be discussed in class.

The review essays should discuss and analyze the reading assigned to a specific topic. A great review essay is not a summary of the material; on the contrary, you are expected to summarize as little as possible so that you will have enough space left for a thorough critical evaluation of the arguments and evidence present in the reading. What is more, you are expected to go a step further and offer your own perspective on the caveats of the assigned literature by emphasizing aspects that were - intentionally or unintentionally - ignored by the author(s) or formulate a justifiable opinion on the assigned material.

II) Exams

The midterm exam will take place on October 9, 2015, while the final exam will be administered on December 9, 2015 (both will commence at 9:35am in FAB 105). Students will be presented with five prompts, of which they will have to choose and write about two. Both exams are cumulative, meaning that you are expected to apply everything you have learned up to that point in the semester in answering the questions. There is no length limit or requirement in regards to your answers; you should provide as big or small an answer you wish, as long as it adequately addresses the question at hand. You are required, however, to bring a blank bluebook. Please note that in case you miss the exam, you will be allowed to take a make-up if and only if there is a significant reason for your absence, accompanied by appropriate documentation.

Course Policies

I) Professional Conduct

Always be courteous and polite towards your peers and the instructor, addressing them with respect and in a professional manner. Although you are entitled to your own views and opinions, the use of offensive/derogatory language will not be tolerated.

The use of laptops/tablets is allowed during our meetings only if they are used to take notes or review readings. If I detect that you are using your device in any other capacity (i.e. emails, facebook, twitter etc.) you will be asked to leave the classroom and no attendance points will be awarded to you for that meeting. Repeat offenders will experience a significant reduction of their overall course grade.

The use of cellphones (talking/texting) is absolutely prohibited during our meetings. Professional etiquette dictates that your cellphone is silent and out of reach when in class. If it rings and I hear it, you will be asked to set it on silent. If it rings again you will be asked to leave the classroom.

II) Academic Integrity

As a University of Florida student you are expected to abide by the UF Student Conduct & Honor Code. This means that you have pledged to avoid giving or receiving unauthorized aid when performing an academic task. Possible violations of the Honor Code include - but are not limited to - plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, and misrepresentation.

I employ a zero tolerance policy in regards to academic dishonesty. If you cheat you will get an F for the course, while I reserve the right to initiate further disciplinary action against you depending on the severity of your offense. If you are unsure whether a specific action constitutes a violation of the Honor Code make sure to ask the instructor or review the Academic Honesty guidelines at: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/index.php/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>.

IV) Disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

V) Counseling

Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking career and academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance. These resources include:

- University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal and career counseling;
- Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling.

Course Materials

There are only two required texts for this course, available for free as ebooks from the UF Library. All supplementary assigned material will be available online, under e-resources on Canvas, unless noted otherwise.

- Magone, Jose M. (2015). *Routledge Handbook of European Politics*. Routledge. (Abbrev.: Routledge).
- Rumford, Chris (2009). *The Sage Handbook of European Studies*. Sage. (Abbrev.: Sage).

Important Note: This syllabus may be amended as appropriate as the course progresses.

Class Schedule

SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

Week 1 (August 24-28): Introduction

- M. Syllabus distribution - No readings.
- W. A Brief History of Europe.
 - i. “European society and culture since 1914.” Britannica Online Encyclopedia (Canvas Files).
- F. Intro to the EU.
 - i. pp. 1-10 in Fontaine, Pascal (2014). “The European Union Explained.” European Commission (Canvas Files).

Week 2 (August 31-September 4): Historical Background

- M. Europe Rebuilds.
 - i. Chapter 2 in Sage.
- W. Europe Unites.
 - i. Chapter 5 in Routledge.
- F. Post-Communist Europe.
 - i. Chapter 6 in Routledge.

Week 3 (September 7-11): The European Union

- M. **No Class - Labor Day.**
- W. A Union of Individuals.
 - i. Chapter 10 in Routledge.
- F. EU Structures and Institutions.
 - i. Chapter 11 in Routledge.

Week 4 (September 14-18): The Political Economy of the EU

- M. The Single Market.
 - i. Chapter 40 in Routledge.
- W. The Monetary Union.
 - i. Chapter 41 in Routledge.
- F. The Evolution of the CAP.
 - i. Chapter 15 in Sage.

SECTION II: POLITICS

Week 5 (September 21-25): Europeanization

- M. National Interests.
 - i. Chapter 7 in Sage.
- W. Competing Visions.
 - i. Chapter 11 in Sage.
- F. How Big?
 - i. Chapter 12 in Sage.

Week 6 (September 28-October 2): Parties and Party Systems

- M. Western Europe.
 - i. Chapter 28 in Routledge.
- W. Eastern Europe.
 - i. Chapter 29 in Routledge.
- F. Electoral Systems.
 - i. Chapter 30 in Routledge.

Week 7 (October 5 - 9): Public Administration

- M. Patterns.
 - i. Chapter 34 in Routledge.
- W. Corruption.
 - i. Chapter 36 in Routledge.
- F. **Midterm Exam.**

Week 8 (October 12-16): Social Protections

- M. The Welfare State.
 - i. Chapter 35 in Routledge.
- W. Reforms in Eastern Europe.
 - i. Chapter 24 in Sage.
- F. The Impact of the Crisis.
 - i. Diamond, Patrick and Guy Lodge (2013). "Welfare States after the Crisis: Changing Public Attitudes." Policy Network Paper (available at: <http://www.policy-network.net/publications/4320/European-Welfare-States-after-the-Crisis>).

SECTION III: CHALLENGES

Week 9 (October 19-23): Security and Foreign Policy

- M. Geopolitical Considerations.
 - i. Chapter 17 in Sage.
- W. Historical Perspectives of European Foreign Policy.
 - i. Chapter 48 in Routledge.
- F. The Future of CSFP.
 - i. Chapter 49 in Routledge.

Week 10 (October 26-30): Culture and Religion

- M. Multiculturalism.
 - i. Chapter 22 in Sage.
- W. Secularism.
 - i. Chapter 23 in Sage.
- F. Islam.
 - i. Chapter 34 in Sage.

Week 11 (November 2-6): Immigration and Migration

- M. Immigration.
 - i. Chapter 44 in Routledge.
- W. Migration.
 - i. Chapter 19 in Sage.
- F. **No Class - Homecoming.**

Week 12 (November 9-13): Nationalism and Identity

- M. Nationalism.
 - i. Chapter 18 in Sage.
- W. **No Class - Veterans Day.**
- F. **No Class - PSS Conference.**

Week 13 (November 16-20): Different Visions and Meanings of Europe

- M. Postmodernism.
 - i. Chapter 32 in Sage.
- W. Cosmopolitanism I.
 - i. Chapter 33 in Sage.
- F. Cosmopolitanism II.
 - i. Chapter 35 in Sage.

SECTION IV: THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

Week 14 (November 23-27): A New Cold War?

- M. Russia and Other Threats.
 - i. TBD
- W. **No Class - Thanksgiving.**
- F. **No Class - Thanksgiving.**

Week 15 (November 30-December 4): Erosion from Within

- M. The Debt Crisis.
 - i. "The Financial Crisis of 2008." Britannica Online Encyclopedia. (e-resources).
 - ii. "The Eurozone Debt Crisis." Britannica Online Encyclopedia. (e-resources).
 - iii. "Causes of the eurozone crisis: a summary." British House of Commons (2/21/2014). (e-resources).
- W. Euroscepticism, Xenophobia, Racism.
 - i. "Fear of a Black Europe: Racism Rises on the Old Continent." CNBC (5/27/2013). Available at: <http://www.cnbc.com/id/100767652>
 - ii. "Professor's solution to refugee crisis: 'Shoot all that black scum'." DW (5/15/2015).
 - iii. "Racism and Recession in Europe." FPIF (6/10/2010).
 - iv. "Racism in Europe at its worst since the 1980s." Euronews (6/5/2014).
 - v. ECRI (2012). "Annual Report on ECRI's Activities."
 - vi. "Economic crisis fuelling racism in Europe, report warns." EuObserver (5/27/2010).
 - vii. "New report exposes huge rise in racist crime in Europe." Newsweek (5/6/2015).
 - viii. Optional: Lamberts, Miet, Arend Ode and Bertine Witkamp (2014). "Racism and Discrimination in Employment in Europe." ENAR Shadow Report.
- F. Political Extremism.
 - i. "The European Union and the Challenge of Extremism and Populism." EHF, EU (October 2013).
 - ii. "Who are the nationalist Finns Party?" BBC (5/11/15).
 - iii. "Pro-gay and anti-Islam: rise of the Dutch far-Right." Roar Magazine (2/8/2015).

- iv. "A Field Guide To Europe's Radical Right Political Parties." Huffington Post (2/12/2015).
- v. "Populism in Europe: a primer." Open Democracy (5/12/2015).
- vi. "The Guardian view of Europe's populists: left or right, they are united by a worrying xenophobia." The Guardian (2/1/2015).
- vii. "Europe's Right and Left on March to Populism." The New York Times (5/23/2014)

Week 16 (December 7-9): Exam Preparation

- M. Wrap-up and Exam Preparation.
- W. Final Exam. Bring a bluebook.

Grading Scale

- A =93.00+
- A- =90.00-92.99
- B+ =87.00-89.99
- B =83.00-86.99
- B- =80.00-82.99
- C+ =77.00-79.99
- C =73.00-76.99
- C- =70.00-72.99
- D+ =67.00-69.99
- D =63.00-66.99
- D- =60.00-62.99
- E =59.99 and below

For information of UF grading policy see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.asp>