

Instructor: Joshua First
Office: Bishop Hall 319
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am-12pm;
Virtual Office Hours: MWF 3-4pm and by appointment
(<http://todaysmeet.com/INST205fall2012>)
Mailbox: History Department, Bishop Hall 340
Email: jfirst@olemiss.edu

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES 205: INTRODUCTION TO EUROPEAN STUDIES

Meeting Time and Place

Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00-2:15pm
Croft 204

Course Description

This interdisciplinary course introduces Croft students to major themes in the study of European history, politics, economics, society and culture. While INST205 will explore the continent's history since 1789 during the first half of the course, we will spend the rest of the semester investigating Europe's new position in the world since the fall of communism, the expansion of the European Union and the implications of the 2008 Financial Crisis in Europe. During this period, Europe emerged from its Cold War divisions to become a continent of increasingly diverse populations, on the one hand, and politically, socially and culturally united, on the other. We will explore what it meant and means to be "European," core social and cultural values in Europe, and the ideas and ideologies that formed the political nexus of "European Civilization" in the past and in our times. By the end of the semester, you will have the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the complexities of Modern Europe.

Required Books

Anatole France, *The Gods Will Have Blood* (1912)
Heinrich Böll, *The Lost Honor of Katherine Blum* (1974) – not ordered by the bookstore
Slavenka Drakulic, *Café Europa: Life After Communism* (1996)
Tony Judt and Timothy Snyder, *Thinking the Twentieth Century* (2012)

Required Films (TBA)

We will be watching five films over the course of the semester, which will be scheduled in the evening. You are expected to attend these screenings. If other academic-related events interfere, you are responsible for making other arrangements with the professor. Schedule TBA.

Jean-Luc Godard, *Weekend* (France, 1967)
Andrzej Wajda, *Danton* (Poland, 1983)
Elem Klimov, *Come and See* (USSR, 1985)
Gillo Pontecorvo, *The Battle of Algiers* (Italy, 1964)
Michael Apted, *Seven Up!* (UK, 1964), and *56 Up* (UK, 2012)

Course Policies

- You must read this entire syllabus. If you do not understand everything on this syllabus, I expect you to ask questions.
- You must participate actively in discussion. You should also become comfortable asking questions in class, and restrict email to questions and concerns of a more individual nature.
- Attendance for each scheduled meeting is mandatory. Your absence will result in a lower grade for the semester. Note, however, that attendance alone does not guarantee you a good participation grade. If you miss class, you are responsible for the consequences.
- You are responsible for all readings listed on the calendar. You must also bring your readings to class during our discussions of them.
- Plagiarism will not be tolerated, and you will receive a “0” for any assignment for which you are caught cheating. For each and every case of plagiarism or other academic dishonesty, I will initiate an academic discipline case with the university, which could result in course failure, academic probation, or expulsion from the university. If you have any questions regarding the nature of academic dishonesty, I will be happy to answer them and clarify any misunderstandings.
- You must proofread all of your written work, even the informal film journals. Sloppy writing will result in a lower grade for the assignment.
- You must act in a respectful and honest manner toward your fellow students and your professor, and you should expect the same in return. I do, however, encourage intellectual debate in the class, and expect you to be passionate about what you believe.
- As a general rule, grades are not negotiable. I will spend considerable time reading and offering comments on your work. If you would like to discuss further why you received the grade that you did, you are encouraged to do so. If, however, you believe that I graded your work incorrectly, unfairly or inconsistently, you have the right to an appeal according to university policy.
- You should avoid using your cell phone in class. I realize that accidents happen, but please remember to turn your phone off upon entering the classroom. I will not tolerate, however, either answering a phone call or texting in class. You will be asked to leave if such an incident occurs.
- If you require special considerations based on a disability, you must inform me of them immediately.
- Absences related to extracurricular activities (athletics, ROTC, etc.) are still absences and subject to the standard rules regarding attendance. (Please do not show me your forms or convey messages from your coach. If you foresee a problem, then I would advise you to find an alternative course.)

Assignments

Quizzes

There will be four quizzes during the first half of the semester, which address the course readings. You will be required to demonstrate not only that you completed the readings, but also that you considered the analytical questions addressed therein. Quizzes will consist of short answer

questions. They should take you no longer than 15 minutes each, and you may use your books and notes to help you. Discussion questions, from which the quizzes will be drawn, will be posted on Blackboard several days before the quiz.

Reading Journal

After the mid-term, you will write weekly journal entries (approx. 1-2 page) responding to the readings. You may focus on the study questions (one of them, a few of them, or all of them) that I will submit to Blackboard, or you may address other issues that you found interesting or provocative in the readings. While I intend these assignments to be loose in structure, so that you can address the issues that you want without having to come up with a formal thesis, good writing is essential every time. You will submit your entries to the Blackboard discussion forum under the appropriate week, either as an attachment or inline text. If you submit it as inline text, make sure you also have the paper saved in a separate document, as you may lose your work due to a connection problem. These journals are due on Thursdays before noon.

Short Papers

You will write three short papers (4 pages each) during the semester on the major readings of the course (France's *The Gods Will Have Blood*, Böll's *Katherina Blum*, and Drakulic's *Café Europa*).

Mid-Term

The in-class mid-term will cover lectures and course readings.

Final Essay

You will write a final essay (6 pages) answering two questions on Judt and Snyder's *Thinking the Twentieth Century*.

Grade Breakdown

Quizzes:	10%
Reading Journal	10%
Short Papers:	40%
In-Class Exam:	10%
Final Essay:	10%
Participation / Current Events:	20%

Grading Criteria (in hierarchical order) for Your Papers

1. Clear **thesis** statement and introduction
2. Clear **organization**, sentence structure, transitions
3. Use of relevant **evidence** (both the quantity AND quality of the evidence are essential)
4. **Clearly** developed arguments that support the thesis
5. Proper **form** and **style** (this includes the mechanics of grammar, punctuation, spelling, etc.)

An "A" paper shows excellent command of all five aspects with few distracting errors in style.

A "B" paper satisfies points 1-4, but the form and style will sometimes distract the reader's attention.

A "C" paper meets the requirements of points 1-3, but its organization and style leave the reader confused about the intent and/or direction of the argument.

A "D" paper is a "C" that does not use enough evidence (or relies on inappropriate or incorrect evidence (i.e., factual errors)) to support the thesis.

An "F" paper is seriously flawed and lacks a developed argument.

For each paper, I will distribute a grading rubric with the assignment, and my comments will address each of these five points.

Grading Criteria for Class Participation

“A” – active participation

“B” – sporadic, but valuable, participation

“C” – inactive participation

“D” – refusal to participate

“F” – more than 3 absences during the semester

A full evaluation of your participation is available at any point during the semester. You are encouraged to ask about this.

Discussion of Current Events

A major portion of class discussion concerns current events. As such, you will be required to keep abreast of news in Europe. During the first week of class, you will choose a group of European countries to follow during the first half of the semester. After the mid-term, you will choose a different group of countries. The available groups include:

- Spain and Portugal
- France and Belgium
- Italy and Switzerland
- Germany, Austria and the Netherlands
- United Kingdom and Ireland
- Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland
- Poland, Czech Republic and Slovakia
- Hungary, Romania, Albania and Bulgaria
- Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Slovenia and Macedonia
- Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova
- Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia
- Greece, Turkey and Cyprus
- Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan
- The European Union

You will subscribe to online news about your chosen group of countries using an RSS reader (Google Reader is the simplest to use). I will demonstrate how this works during the first week of class. As important news develops in your country group, I will call on you to report on this to the rest of the class.

Organization of the course (precise calendar forthcoming)

- I. Introduction: The conditions of European “modernity” (Why Europe?)
 - a. Transformation of the Economy – toward an urban society
 - b. Notions of class – distinctions
 - c. Democratization of Europe – Participation and consumption
- II. Ideas and Ideologies
 - a. Liberalism
 - b. Marxism
 - c. Nationalism
- III. European Cultures of War
 - a. Soldiers, Machines and Methods
 - b. War and the European Landscape
 - c. War Memories and Nation-States
- IV. Movements of Peoples
 - a. The Logic of European Imperialism
 - b. Exporting Modernity
 - c. Post-Colonialism – Race, Ethnicity and Religion in Contemporary Europe
- V. 1968 and 1989 – The Nature of Modern Protest Movements
 - a. May 68 in Paris
 - b. The Prague Spring
 - c. Poland – 1980 and 1989
- VI. Union and Dis-Union
 - a. The Post-War Settlement – Inclusion and Exclusion
 - b. The Road Toward European Union
 - c. Institutions and Practices of the EU
 - d. 2008 and the Politics of Euroskepticism