

Introduction to European Studies



Maps: left: map of the European Union after the last round of enlargement in 2007; right: British empire in 1886

Learning goals and rationale

In the past one hundred years, Europe has shifted from being the center of a world system based upon colonial empires to a new found unity through the European Union (EU). During this time, the continent has been a laboratory of territorial and institutional transformations and innovations: it experienced large border shifts in two world wars, experienced different political systems (fascism, communism, democracy), pioneered the formation of modern nation-states, and it is now exploring innovative forms of governance through the EU.

This course is an introductory-level political and economic geography of Europe. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- define geography
- analyze political economic issues using the tools of political and economic geography: scale, territoriality, governmentality, value chains, production networks, clusters
- know the main features of the European space
- analyze Europeanization using geographical tools
- follow and discuss news items about Europe and will be able to place events in geographic context.
- produce a geographically informed research project on European issues

Instructor	Office	Phone	e-mail	Office Hours
Dr. Christian Sellar	Lott 106	915-6613	csellar@olemiss.edu	By appointment

Readings:

Murphy, A. Jordan-Bychkov, T. Bychkova Jordan, B. (2009) *The European Culture Area: A Systematic Geography, Fifth Edition*, Lanham (MD) Rowman and Littlefield.
 Delanty, G. Rumford, C. (2005) *Rethinking Europe: social theory and the implications of Europeanization*, London, Routledge.

Additional readings available on Blackboard

Course format, requirements, grading system:

The weekly assignments should be completed as indicated in the syllabus or by the instructors. Evidence of preparation will be gauged by:

Map quiz 10% of the final grade

Mid term and final exam: in the form of *response papers* (see instructions at the end of the syllabus). Mid term + final will be worth 40% of the grade.

Research paper (see instructions at the end of the syllabus): 10 pages policy analysis, divided in four steps. 40% of the final grade.

News related presentations (graded powerpoints): 10% of the grade.

Extra credits for attending the films and writing a response paper.

Week	Dates	Topic
Section 1: geography of Europe		
1	1/24-26	<p style="text-align: center;">What is geography? What is Europe?</p> <p>Lewis, Wigen <i>The Myth of Continents</i>, Los Angeles, U. of California Press, 1997. Chapter 1. The Architecture of Continents, pp. 21-46; Chapter 3, The Cultural Constructs of East and West, Orient and Occident.</p> <p>Michael Biggs. Putting the state on the map: Cartography, Territory, and European State Formation. <i>Comparative Studies in Society and History</i>, 41(2) April 1999: 374-405.</p>
2	1/31-2/2	<p style="text-align: center;">Europe's physical geography and demography</p> <p>Murphy, A. Jordan-Bychkov, T. Bychkova Jordan, B. (2009), Ch 1-2-3</p>
3	2/7-9	<p style="text-align: center;">Europe's social and cultural geography (languages, religions and societies)</p> <p>Murphy, A. Jordan-Bychkov, T. Bychkova Jordan, B. (2009), Ch 4-5-11</p>
4	2/14-16	<p style="text-align: center;">Europe's economic geography</p> <p>Murphy, A. Jordan-Bychkov, T. Bychkova Jordan, B. (2009), Ch 7-8-9</p>
5	2/21-23	<p style="text-align: center;">Europe's urban and political geography</p> <p>Murphy, A. Jordan-Bychkov, T. Bychkova Jordan, B. (2009), C. 6-12</p>
Section 2: Europeanization and its implications		
6	2/28-3/2	<p style="text-align: center;">20th Century political experiments: fascism, communism, and integration</p> <p>Griffin, R. (1991) the nature of fascism, London Routledge Ch 3 Italian fascism</p> <p>Mussolini, (1932) <i>The Doctrine of Fascism</i> http://www.constitution.org/tyr/mussolini.htm</p> <p>Verdery, K. (1993) "What was Socialism and Why Did it Fall?" first chapter of the book by the same name (just read the first 20 pages of this).</p>
7	3/7-9	<p style="text-align: center;">Europeanization as an historical trend</p> <p>Nugent, N. <i>The Government and Politics of the European Union</i> 6h Edition, Durham, NC, Duke University Press, 2006 "Part 1 – Historical evolution" pp. 5-78</p> <p>Delanty, G. Rumford, C. (2005) Ch 1 and 2</p>
	3/14-16	SPRING BREAK

8	3/21-23	Europeanization of identities and cultures Delanty, G. Rumford, C. (2005) Ch 3-4-5
9	3/28-30	Europeanization: political-geographical implications Delanty, G. Rumford, C. (2005) Ch 6-7-8
10	4/4	Europeanization: economic-geographical implications Van Vilsteren, Wever (2005) Borders and economic behaviour in Europe: a geographical approach Assen, Royal Van Gorkum, Ch 3 Italian districts Smith, A. Pickles, J. Bucek, M. Begg, R. Roukova, P. (2008) Reconfiguring “post-socialist” regions: cross-border networks and regional competition in the Slovak and Ukrainian clothing industry, <i>Global Networks</i> , 8, 281-307.
	4/6	THIS CLASS SESSION IS ESSENTIAL, DO NOT BE ABSENT Class work session on Team Projects Instructions Guidelines on Team Powerpoints Traps to avoid in doing research and in preparing the Powerpoints Dos and don'ts of presentation How to find good readings for the class on your topic Post these readings one week before due for discussion Set up a team appointment
		<i>Section 3: follow the news on Europe</i>
11	4/11-13	PROFESSOR AWAY AT A CONFERENCE
12	4/18-20	Student led presentations
13	4/25-27	Student led presentations
14	5/2-4	Student led presentations
15		

Film Schedule

Time/Date/Place	Film
7:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 16 Croft 107	Come and See Soviet Union, 1985 (140 minutes) Directed by Elem Klimov
7:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 1 Croft 107	One, Two, Three USA, 1961 (109 minutes) Directed by Billy Wilder
7:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 22 Croft 107	Battle of Algiers France/Italy 1967 (125 minutes) Directed by Gillo Pontecorvo
7:00 p.m. Croft 107	The Lives of Others Germany 2006 (138 minutes) Directed by Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck
7:00 p.m. Croft 107	No Man's Land Croatia 2001 (98 minutes) Directed by Danis Tanovic

The maximum number of film points is five. One point per film for attending and writing a paper of passing quality; film papers will be graded on a pass/fail basis.

Paper Dates

Section no.	Assignment handed out	Due date
1	Mon 1/31	Mon 2/14
2	Mon 2/28	Mon 3/7
3	Mon 3/28	Mon 4/4
4		Mon 4/18

Exam dates
Map quiz:2/7
Mid term 2/23
Final, tba

RESPONSE PAPERS

All the short papers assigned in class must be written as response papers. They must NOT summarize the main points of the article/s read during the previous weeks, but must develop a point or set of points or themes that struck you, upon reading the assigned material, or listening to class discussions, as interesting, surprising, or puzzling; or which led you to think differently about the issue in question. In each instance you must not only say that statement X or point Y was interesting, or surprising, but explain exactly why it was interesting, or surprising. Or what it was about the point in the article that led you to think in a new or different way about the issue under discussion. For the reflection paper to work, it is important that your discussion be concrete and grounded, and not abstract, vague, or overly general. To avoid abstractness please be as specific as possible about the point you are making, and illustrate it, and ground it within concrete examples. The papers must not exceed three double-spaced pages.

GUIDELINES FOR A RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Developed by Dr. Christian Sellar for INST 205

Inspired by Dr. David Rutherford's PPL 210

AIMS:

this research paper has three aims:

- 1) to improve writing skills
- 2) to learn how to write a thesis prospectus
- 3) to acquire substantial knowledge about Europe

In order to maximize aim #1, you will write each step twice, incorporating my feedback in the second draft (second draft to be attached to the next step)

WHAT?

Students will write a proposal for conducting research on a self-selected topic of interest concerning Europe. The major focus of the proposal will be conducting a thorough review of the literature on the topic. The proposal must present a rationale for the research and a clear research purpose that are both grounded in the literature. Then the proposal will describe research that has already been conducted on the topic, once again providing references to articles, reports, books, etc. Finally, the proposal will provide a short section that discusses a possible research design and method(s) that would be useful for accomplishing the research purpose. The proposal must be ten pages in length and must reference at least twenty-five high-quality sources. Additional details will be provided as the semester progresses.

More specific guidelines

- When considering a topic, chose one that is of interest to you, that you want to know more about, and/or that you are considering as good thesis topic.
- You must propose an empirical research project. This means that the proposed project will entail the gathering of original, primary data.

HOW?

The research proposal will contain three major sections that are listed and described below. Each section must be identified with a section heading (the section titles can be the ones used here or others that are more specific to your project). Each section will be drafted twice (second draft attached to the following section)

SECTION 1: Introduction and Rationale. This will be a relatively short and concise section (1 page).

- Develop a descriptive title for the project/paper.
- Present the topic and develop reader interest.
- State a problem associated with the topic that needs to be researched and provide a rationale for why this problem needs to be studied.
- State the purpose of the research.
- State the specific research question(s) you would like to answer.

SECTION 2: Literature Review. This is the heart of this term paper, and will be the longest section (4 to 6 pages). The literature review should adequately address the following points.

1. Detail the importance of the study and provide an overview of the topic. In general, begin with the research problem that was presented in the introduction, and then, present literature to describe and elaborate on the problem. Sources for this section may include empirical research articles but could also include news articles, opinion/editorial pieces, and overview summaries.
2. Discuss prior studies of this topic. The objective is to briefly summarize research that has already been conducted on the topic. This often includes research that has looked at numerous aspects of the topic, not just the specific aspect with which you are interested. Nevertheless, each source discussed should have some bearing on the specific aspect of the topic you want to study, and you should tie each source into the aspect that you want to study. The overall goal is to gain a thorough idea of what is already known about the topic.
3. Examine in detail studies that best address the aspect of the topic that you are interested in. The objective is to take a detailed look at empirical research that address the topic you are interested in so that you can see how the researchers went about studying the topic. You must include at least one but preferably two such studies. Summarize each study using the following points.
 - i. What was the purpose of the study?
 - ii. What methods were employed in the study? Use the three-part framework presented in the textbook that includes: (1) worldview (postpositivist, social constructivist, etc.), (2) strategies (quantitative, qualitative, mixed), and (3) methods (utilize existing data, gather original data through survey, ethnography, etc.)
 - iii. What kind of data did the study gather or use?
 - iv. What kind of analysis did the study conduct?
 - v. What were the results/findings of the study?

SECTION 3: Research Design. This is the final section of the paper, and it is relatively short (2 or 3 pages). This section contains two primary aspects:

1. Propose a way to study the topic. State the worldview, strategies, and methods to employ, the type(s) of data to be gathered, and the type(s) of analysis that you would conduct, and then include reasons for the each of these choices that you make.
2. Reflect on the research problem, purpose, and questions. State how you believe the study you propose would address the problem, accomplish the purpose, and answer the questions.

SECTION 4: final draft and powerpoint presentation. Please prepare a 15' presentation and powerpoint. Be prepared to take questions from the audience.

Paper formatting:

- Use 12 point font, double spaced.
- Use a concise font such as Times, Times New Roman, Arial Narrow, etc.
- Provide one inch margins on all four sides (top, bottom, left, right).
- Place a heading at the top left of the first page that contains your name, the course number, and the date.
- Place a title, centered on the first page below the heading. Skip two lines before beginning the text of the paper.

- Staple the paper at the top left corner.
- Include section headings, left justified, bold font, with blank lines above and below.
- Referencing system. Use either endnotes or parenthetical author/date. DO NOT use footnotes.

WHERE?

(Alas, where to find information). The following websites on European news and policy issues will be helpful in identifying a research topic.

Useful statistical sites:

- The Population Data Sheet at http://www.prb.org/pdf09/09wpds_eng.pdf
- European Demographic Data at <http://www.prb.org/Regions/Europe.aspx>
- European Demographic Data Sheet: <http://www.oeaw.ac.at/vid/datasheet/index.html>
- The CIA factbook another source of statistics: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>
- EU site EUROSTATS <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/eurostat/home>

Sites that will help you understand the European Union

- The European Union: A Guide for Americans
http://www.eurunion.org/eu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=34&Itemid=43
- EU Home page http://europa.eu/index_en.htm
- Key Points about EU http://europa.eu/abc/index_en.htm
- Short History of EU http://europa.eu/abc/history/index_en.htm
- BBC overview of the European Union http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/country_profiles/3498746.stm
- Treaty of Lisbon:
 - Overview http://europa.eu/lisbon_treaty/index_en.htm
 - More detail: http://europa.eu/lisbon_treaty/glance/index_en.htm
 - Full text: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOHtml.do?uri=OJ:C:2007:306:SOM:EN:HTML>

European News sites

- The Guardian <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/eu>
- Central Europe Online: <http://www.einnews.com/centraleurope/>
- Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty: <http://www.rferl.org/>
- The Economist: Europe: <http://economist.com/world/europe/>
- The Economist Country Briefings: <http://www.economist.com/countries/>
 - e.g., France: <http://www.economist.com/countries/France/>
 - Germany: <http://economist.com/countries/Germany/index.cfm>
 - Italy: <http://www.economist.com/countries/Italy/>
 - Bulgaria: <http://www.economist.com/countries/Bulgaria/>
 - Spain: <http://www.economist.com/countries/Spain/>
- World newspapers – Europe <http://www.world-newspapers.com/europe.html>

Websites reporting EU policies:

- <http://www.euractiv.com/en/Fixed/communication/advertising.htm>
- Official website of the European Commission: http://ec.europa.eu/policies/index_en.htm
- Booklets explaining the policies of the EU, by the European Commission:
http://ec.europa.eu/publications/booklets/index_en.htm

Websites of think tanks/policy research:

- Center for European Policy <http://www.ceps.be/index3.php#>
- European Research papers Archive <http://eiop.or.at/erpa/>
- European Policy Centre <http://www.epc.eu/home.asp>
- European Policy Research Centre <http://www.eprc.strath.ac.uk/eprc/>
- Institute for European Environmental Policy <http://www.ieep.eu/>
- Trans European Policy Studies Association <http://www.tepsa.be/index.asp>
- European Policy institutes network <http://www.epin.org/new/index.php>

