

## **Europe Today**

EURO 301

Fall 2010

**MWF 11:30 – 12:20pm**  
**Thomson Hall 101**

**University of Washington**  
**Sabine Lang**  
**208 Thomson Hall**  
**Office hours: Wed 10:30 –**  
**11:30am & by appointment**  
**salang@u.washington.edu**

### **TEACHING ASSISTANT**

#### **Elizabeth Zherka**

Thomson 35-F (the entrance is on the Eastern side of the building)

Office hours: Wed 9-11am & by appointment

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### **PEER FACILITATORS**

**Gillian Frackelton** at gillianfrackelton@gmail.com

**Aylan Lee** at aylan\_1@hotmail.com

**Chris Schulz** at cpschulz@gmail.com

### **TA SECTIONS**

EURO 301 AB T 2:30-3:20pm

EURO 301 AC TH 9:30-10:20am

EURO 301 AD TH 8:30-9:20am

EURO 301 AE T 3:30-4:20pm

### **PEER FACILITATOR SECTIONS**

EURO 301 AB TH 2:30-3:20pm – PAB B109

EURO 301 AC T 9:30-10:20am – MOR 230

EURO 301 AD T 8:30-9:20am – MUE 154

EURO 301 AE TH 3:30-4:20pm – LOW 118

**COURSE WEBSITE** at <http://courses.washington.edu/euro301>

### **DESCRIPTION**

This course will introduce you to the cultural, political and economic challenges that Europe faces today. We will explore aspects of history, politics, the economy, and society and social life, in order to grasp the exciting dynamics of this continent since WWII, its integration path, and the challenges it faces in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Relying on the expertise of University of Washington faculty from several disciplines, the course will also introduce you to different methods and approaches to studying Europe.

**Weekly guest lectures** by invited faculty and outside experts therefore are a core part

of Euro 301. Moreover, with this multidisciplinary approach we would like to encourage specialization in European Studies.

Special emphasis will be placed on the politics of European integration. We will ask: How does the EU work? Is the EU a model for multilevel governance beyond state borders? How does Europe handle migration? Is there a European identity?

## ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

- **Participation.** Class **participation** means first **active** and, second, **productive involvement** in lecture, TA and Peer Facilitator sections, projects and discussions. Third, you will be asked to present a **country quiz** to the class on a specific country. Fourth, throughout the quarter a number of short “**filing card responses**” will be solicited from you in lecture and section. You need to hand in 5 responses. Each response less will result in a subtraction of 0.1 from your participation grade. Class participation accounts for **20%** of your grade.

You can **bolster your participation grade with extra-credit** by attending course related lectures. Signing up on an attendance sheet for events that I will announce in lecture will result in a 0.1 increase in your participation grade.

- **Weekly News Entries.** This is a course that deals with Europe *today*, and I would like you to be informed about what is happening in Europe at present. It is expected that you will regularly read a European newspaper or weekly published text (such as *The Economist*, the *Guardian*, *Financial Times* or, depending on your language skills, a foreign language newspaper such as *Sueddeutsche Zeitung*, *El Pais* or *Le Monde*). A local or regional published news source from a European country of your choice is also acceptable. Choose a political, economic, social, or cultural topic in that week's paper and discuss how it informs your understanding of Europe, and how it reflects on the challenges that Europe faces. However local or small an issue you choose, we need to see you connecting it to the larger picture of Europe. Apply knowledge you acquire during the lectures and cite directly from the article you chose for that week. Limit yourself to discussing ONE topic, even though you may use more than one article on that topic from that week. Your Weekly News Entry is due in your Peer Facilitator sections. Entries should be about **300 words** long, typed, with 1.5 spacing, size 12 font, 1 inch margins, your name and section in the header, and with a copy of the article attached. Your first Entry is due in your Peer Facilitator section in **Week 2**. You will complete a total of 8 **Entries**. The Weekly News Entries comprise **20%** of your grade. The 8 Entries will be graded individually each week by your Peer Facilitator and the average of the 8 Entries taken to form your final Weekly News Entries score at the end of the quarter.
- **Quizzes.** Two quizzes will be given in lecture. The first quiz will be testing geographical knowledge as well as readings and lecture content; the second quiz will consist of short answer identification questions as well as short essay questions.

Combined quizzes will account for **30%** of your grade (**first quiz: 10%, second quiz: 20%**). Quiz 1 will be on Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. Quiz 2 will be on Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup>.

- **Take-home Exam.** There will be a **take-home exam** handed out to you in lecture on **Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**, which will involve answering two out of three essay questions. The take-home exam is due **Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, at the beginning of lecture**. Each essay should be two to three pages, typed, 1.5 spacing, size 12 font, 1 inch margins, with your name and section in the header. The take-home exam will account for **30%** of your grade.
- **Course Grading Summary.**  
Participation= 20%  
Weekly News Entries= 20%  
Quizzes= 30%  
Take-home Exam= 30%

### ***Important Course Policies***

Please note that late assignments will NOT be accepted, and make-up assignments will NOT be given except in cases of **documented** emergency, or with the express **advance permission** of the instructor. In the absence of these provisions, late or missing assignments will receive a grade of "0".

### ***Required Reading (Available at the University Bookstore)***

Michelle Cini/Nieves Perez-Solorzano Borrigan (2010). European Union Politics. Oxford University Press.  
Stephen Kotkin (2001). Armageddon Averted, The Soviet Collapse 1970 – 2000. Oxford University Press.  
Steven Hill (2010). Europe's Promise. University of California Press.  
Christian Joppke (2010). Veil. Polity Press.

**Articles** that are not accessible on the web are available in a course reader at Rams Copy Center, 4144 University Way at 42<sup>nd</sup>. Others you can access via the UW electronic journal database.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### WEEK 1: Introduction: Why study Europe?

September 29 & October 1

#### **Readings:**

- *Tiersky, Introduction, pp. 1-17.*
- *McCormick, ch. 2, pp. 27 – 51.*

### WEEK 2: Situating Europe

From its inception, the idea of Europe seemed to be born out of hubris: Who would think about unifying such vastly different peoples? What lay at the center of the idea of Europe?

European history in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century exposes political and social instability, war, national chauvinism and the Holocaust. Germany's failed democracy and its turn towards National Socialism are at the core of these developments. By the sixties, seemingly insurmountable divisions run through Europe: Eastern bloc countries compete with Western states for political and cultural hegemony; liberal democracies compete with authoritarian socialist regimes; free market capitalism competes with planned economies. What were the causes for the development of these different regime types? How did they change the face of Europe in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century? How, more specifically, did the countries that most epitomize the split within Europe, namely East and West Germany, deal with division and co-existence? And how did relations between the US and Europe evolve?

#### **Readings:**

- *Markovits/Reich, Introduction and ch. 1, pp. 1 – 42 (course reader).*
- *Mark Mazower (1998), "Democracy Transformed: Western Europe 1950 – 1975" in: Dark Continent. Europe's Twentieth Century, New York: Vintage, pp. 286 – 326 (course reader).*

October 4: Post-War Europe

October 6: Europe and the U.S– Guest lecture: Prof. Sergio Fabbrini, Professor of Political Science and International Relations and Director of the School of Government at the LUISS University in Rome.

October 8: Quiz # 1

### **WEEK 3: 1989 – Europe’s Rebirth**

1989 marks a central watershed of 20<sup>th</sup> century Europe: After Mikhail Gorbachev’s accession to power and his attempt to reform communism via perestroika and glasnost, the East European satellite states began to exercise more autonomy while trying to avoid complete implosion. Hungary opened up its borders to the West, Poland and Czechoslovakia started reforms. On November 9, 1989, the Berlin Wall came down. What caused these developments and what were their immediate effects? Is Gorbachev a heroic or a tragic figure of European transformation, and where is Russia heading today? How did the Germans cope with unification and its aftermath?

#### ***Readings:***

- *Kotkin, with emphasis on ch. 1, 2 & 6.*
- *Judt ch. XVIII “The Power of the Powerless”, pp. 559-584 (course reader).*

October 11: The Revolutions of 1989

October 13: Soviet Disintegration and Managed Democracy – Guest Lecture: Prof. Glennys Young (Jackson School, UW).

October 15: Library Research Session with University Librarian Emily Keller

### **WEEK 4: The European Union**

“UPO” is what former commission president Jacques Delors called the European Union – an Unknown Political Object. Indeed, there is no precedent in history to grasp the complexity of the European integration project. Why was the European Union created? Why would nation states and their governments willingly give up considerable power to a supranational entity as undefined as the EU? How does the power arrangement between intergovernmental entities such as the Council of Ministers, EU based institutions such as the Commission and the elected European Parliament work? Is the European Union primarily an economic or a political integration project, and how might that have changed?

#### ***Readings:***

- *Cini ch. 2 & 3 pp. 15-47.*
- *Cini ch. 5 – 7, pp. 71-122.*
- *Cini ch.13, pp. 209-224.*

October 18: The History of the European Union – Guest lecture: Phil Shekleton, Associate Director of the Center for West European Studies, UW.

October 20: What is the EU? – Theoretical Perspectives

October 22: EU policies

## **WEEK 5: The Political Economy of Integration and the Euro**

Economic cooperation and integration have been two principles at the core of the European Community. Yet free movement of capital, goods, services and labor were slow to be realized after their pronouncement in the Treaty of Rome. The advent of the European monetary union in 1999, and the introduction of the Euro in January 2002, mark cornerstones in the economic integration process. What were the costs and benefits of establishing the monetary union? How does the German economy, once the driving force of European business and the largest net contributor to the EU, fare in the present era of economic integration? And how has the crisis of 2009/10 affected the project of European integration?

### ***Readings:***

- *Cini ch. 16, 20 and 21, pp. 158-174, 324-257.*

October 25: The Economic Integration Process - Guest lecture: Prof. Michelle Turnovsky, Dept. of Economics, UW.

October 27: National Economies and Integration

October 29: The Crisis of 2009/10: Downfall of the EU?

## **WEEK 6: Enlargement South-East: The New EU 27**

The accession of ten new member states in May 2004 is the largest and boldest accession that the EU has so far undertaken. In 2007, Bulgaria and Romania joined. Many of the CEE and Southern European countries that now are EU members were ruled by communist regimes just 15 years ago. Their democratic cultures and civic institutions being in development, accession to the EU means that the politics in Brussels have a strong political and economic impact on these countries. What were the different motives behind this accession? Who wins and who loses?

### ***Readings:***

- *Cini ch. 26, pp. 418-436.*
- *Ray Taras (2004), Poland: Breaking Multiple Barriers" in Tiersky 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Ch. 14, pp. 455 – 485 (course reader).*

November 1: The Long Road from Europe to Europe: East Central Europe in Modern Times – Guest Lecture Prof. James Felak, Dept. of History, UW.

November 3: Deepening or Widening? The Future of EU Enlargements

November 5: Guest lecture: Ambassador Darryl N. Johnson (US ambassador to Lithuania from 1991-1994 and stationed in Warsaw during 1989).

## **WEEK 7: The Nordic States**

'The Scandinavian Way' historically marks a set of values and policies that are geared towards political and social equality, sustainability and peaceful conflict resolution. Euro-skepticism is part of the fabric of political debates in Scandinavia – Scandinavians are 'reluctant Europeans'. Today, Norway has not joined the EU, and Denmark and Sweden have rejected the Euro. Iceland is reluctantly on its path to becoming an EU member after its near-collapse in 2009. What are the reasons for this skepticism, and what does Scandinavia nevertheless bring to the European Union? Can small states have an impact in Brussels? One area where they clearly do is gender policies. How does the European Union fare on reducing gender inequality and on integrating women into the political processes of member states?

### **Readings:**

- *Einhorn/Logue in Tiersky (2007), ch. 5, pp. 161-207.*
- *Christine Ingebritsen (2006), "Norm Entrepreneurs: Scandinavia's Role in World Politics", ch. 9 in Small States in International Relations, Seattle 2006, pp. 273-285 (course reader).*
- *Allison Woodward/Agnes Hubert (2010), Reconfiguring State Feminism in the EU (distributed electronically).*

November 8: The Nordic States in Europe – Guest lecture by Prof. Christine Ingebritsen, Dept. of Scandinavian Studies, UW.

November 10: What the Scandinavian States bring to Europe: Women's Policies in the EU

November 12: Social Capitalism and Social Democracy

## **WEEK 8: Is There a European Culture?**

What does Europe 'promise' its citizens? What are the basic values and norms that the house of Europe is being built on? And why do Europe and the U.S. differ, i.e. in the conflicts about the death penalty, genetically modified food, the Kyoto protocol or the International Criminal Court? Are these arenas of European-US contestation more than short lived disagreements, and do they really reflect on a specific European citizenship and culture?

### **Readings:**

- *Steven Hill (2010) Europe's Promise, UC Press, emphasis on part one to four.*

November 15: Quiz # 2

November 17: The Reluctant Superpower

November 19: Debating Europe's Promise

## **WEEK 9: European Migrants – Migrants to Europe**

Immigration is one of the most debated policy arenas in the European Union. Some commentators see the “Fortress Europe” on the rise with heavily secured outer borders and relatively free movement within the EU member states. Others point to the European legacy: Europeans, they argue, have a special responsibility for granting asylum and remaining an open continent. Moreover, migration within the EU has come to the forefront with the accession of new member states in 2004 and anxieties regarding intensive labor migration. What are the politics of European immigration today? How are migrants living in Europe?

### ***Readings:***

- Muenz, Rainer (2007), “Migration, Labor Markets, and Integration of Migrants: An Overview for Europe”, *HWWI Research papers No. 3*, (distributed electronically).
- Ash Amin (2004), “Multi-Ethnicity and the Idea of Europe”, in: *Theory, Culture & Society*, Vol. 21, No./ 2, pp. 1 – 24 (access via Proquest – Electronic Resources Database).
- Steven Hill (2010), *Europe’s Promise*, UC Press, ch. 16 and 17, pp. 301-338.

November 22: Migration within and Immigration to Europe

November 24: Will Turkey join the EU? Guest lecture: Prof. Resat Kasaba, Middle Eastern Studies and Director of the Jackson School.

November 26: Thanksgiving Holiday. No school.

## **WEEK 10: European Identity: Religion, Citizenship, and the Constitution**

European supranational institutions were originally designed in response to the two World Wars: They were to form institutional arrangements that in turn would foster common identities among Europeans and thus avoid the traps of nationalisms and belligerent conflict. Half a century later, do we see a European identity in the making? What role does religion play for this identity and how does the increasing Muslim population alter conceptions of Europe? Do people support the democratic institutions of the EU? And how does the failure to gain popular acceptance for the European Constitution in France and the Netherlands affect the project of European integration?

### ***Readings:***

- Joppke, Veil.
- William Pfaff (2005,) “What’s Left of the Union?” in: *The New York Review of Books*, Vol. 52, No. 12 (course reader).

November 29: Possibilities of a European Identity – Guest lecture: Prof. James Caporaso, Dept. of Political Science, UW.



December 1: Europe and Islam: The Veil

Wednesday, December 1: Take home exam will be passed out.

December 3: European Identity and the Constitution plus: General discussion and preparation for take home exam.

### **WEEK 11: Old Europe – New Europe and Transatlantic Relations**

Transatlantic relations, some would argue, today are at a historic low. Germany's and France's refusal to support the US war in Iraq, simmering conflicts over the International Criminal Court, the signing of the Kyoto Treaty and genetically modified food contribute to these irritations. U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has confronted harsh criticism after juxtaposing the "Old Europe" of Germany and France to the "New Europe" of countries like Poland and the Czech Republic. How deep do these transatlantic rifts run? Are Americans from Mars and Europeans from Venus, as Robert Kagan argues?

#### ***Readings:***

- *Robert Kagan, "Power and Weakness", in: Policy Review, June 2002 (at <http://www.hoover.org/publications/policyreview/3460246.html>)*
- *Joschka Fischer (2000), "From Confederacy to Federation. Thoughts on the Finality of European Integration", lecture given at Humboldt University Berlin, (at [http://www.jeanmonnetprogram.org/papers/00/joschka\\_fischer\\_en.rtf](http://www.jeanmonnetprogram.org/papers/00/joschka_fischer_en.rtf))*

December 6: Film "Does Europe Hate Us?" by Thomas Friedman (2006).

December 8: Where is Europe heading? Euro-optimists versus Euro-skeptics?

Wednesday, Dec. 8: Take home exam due in class

December 10: Conclusions – Outlook – Course Evaluation