Defining Europe:
An Introduction to European Studies

FW2010/11: THURS 12:30-2:30 RS 137

Course Directors: MARKUS REISENLEITNER (217 Vanier College, mrln@yorku.ca)
(office hour: THURS 11.30–12.30, or by email appointment)
TANYA TAYLOR

Tutorial Leaders: TANYA TAYLOR THURS 2:30-4:30 MC109
TANYA TAYLOR THURS 4:30-6:30 FC110
INGA UNTIKS MON 12:30-2:30 CC109
KEITH O’REGAN WEDS 12:30-2:30 TEL0013
KEITH O’REGAN WEDS 2:30-4:30 MC112

Course Description
“In the last years there has been and still is much talk of Europe and European civilization, of anti-Europe and forces opposed to European civilization and so on. Appeals, articles in newspapers and magazines, discussions and polemics; in all, the word “Europe” has been tossed around with unusual frequency, for good reasons and for bad. But if we stop to analyze a little more closely what is meant by “Europe” we immediately become conscious of the enormous confusion which reigns in the minds of those who talk about it.”

The uncertainty about the meaning of Europe that the Italian historian Federico Chabod described in 1943 had existed for centuries. It continues to do so today, perhaps even more abundantly than ever. In this course we will explore the numerous ways in which Europeans have defined themselves, their society and their culture from the medieval period until the present. To do so we will read a wide range of texts produced by or about Europeans: poems, fiction, travel accounts, works of philosophy, film, history and cultural criticism, political propaganda and government documents.

Course learning objectives
1. Purpose of the course
This course will familiarize students with historical and cultural formations that have been used to define spaces of memory, belonging and identity formation as “European”. It will situate core texts of the European tradition in the social and historical contexts from which they originated, critically analyze their role in the formation of a European canon of learning, and explore what they have contributed to notions of a European identity and European values in Europe itself, and beyond.

2. Specific learning objectives
   • To situate core texts defining Europe in their social and historical contexts;
   • To understand how peoples in various times and places have expressed religious, political, philosophical, moral, and aesthetic ideas and values regarding Europe;
   • To understand the influence and consequences of these ideas and values at different times in other parts of the world.
Required readings  (available in the York Bookstore)

Course Kit


Recommended readings


Useful websites (esp. for maps of and news about Europe)

http://www.eurozine.com
http://www.euratlas.com/
http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/map_sites/hist_sites.html
Evaluation

The final grade will be based on the following items weighted as indicated:* 

1. Writing assignments: 45%
   • Diagnostic writing assignment 1: short essay (1000-1200 words) 
     (due the week of 18 Oct in the tutorial – 10%)
   • Writing assignment 2: topic proposal for research essay (1000-1200 words) 
     (due the week of 7 Feb in the tutorial – 15%)
   • Final research essay (2500 words) 
     (due the week of 01 March in the tutorial – 20%)

2. Examinations:
   • Midterm exam (in-class) 20%
   • Final exam (during the examination period in April): 20%

3. Contributions: 15%
   • Tutorial and lecture attendance, participation, student seminar

*Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grade distribution profiles.
Grading, Assignment Submission, Lateness Penalties and Missed Tests

**Grading:**  The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

(For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar [http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/pdfs/ug2004cal/calug04_5_acadinfo.pdf](http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/pdfs/ug2004cal/calug04_5_acadinfo.pdf))

Students may take a limited number of courses for degree credit on an ungraded (pass/fail) basis. For full information on this option see Alternative Grading Option in the Humanities section of the Undergraduate Calendar: [http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/calendars/2006-2007/Courses/humanities.htm](http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/calendars/2006-2007/Courses/humanities.htm)

**Assignment Submission:**  Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time. Accordingly, assignments for this course must be received on the due date specified for the assignment. Assignments are to be handed in to your tutorial leader on the date specified at the lecture.

**Lateness Penalty:**  Assignments received later than the due date will be penalized (1 grade point, e.g. A+ → A, for every 2 days the assignment is late). Exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., may be entertained by the Course Instructor but will require supporting documentation (e.g., a doctor’s letter).

**Missed Tests:**  Students with a documented reason for missing a course test, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation (e.g., doctor’s letter) may request accommodation from the Course Instructor and will be allowed to write a make-up test. Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

**IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS**

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Curriculum & Academic Standards webpage (see Reports, Initiatives, Documents) [http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate_cte_main_pages/ccas.htm](http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate_cte_main_pages/ccas.htm)

- York’s Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures/Academic Integrity Website
- Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants
- Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities
- Student Conduct Standards
- Religious Observance Accommodation

**Additional Information: HUMA 2195 on the Web.**

Moodle is a Learning Management System available at York. This course will make use of Moodle in a variety of ways. Please familiarize yourself with the system at [http://moodle10.yorku.ca](http://moodle10.yorku.ca).
Lecture schedule

Sept 16 (Lecture 1) Introduction: Laying Out the Problems


Sept 23 (Lecture 2) “Roots of Europe”: The Roman Empire and the Rise of Christianity


Sept 30 (Lecture 3) The Middle Ages I: The Invention of Christendom

Song of Roland (not in course-kit)


Oct 7 (Lecture 4) A Europe of Courts and Cathedrals: Gothic Architecture and Vernacular Poetry


Oct 14: READING WEEK
Oct 21 (Lecture 5) Humanism and the Italian Renaissance


Oct 28 (Lecture 6) Europe and the World I: The Age of “Discoveries”


Nov 4 (Lecture 7) Europe and the World II: Bringing the Colonies Home

Shakespeare, William. The Tempest (not in course-kit)

Nov 11 (Lecture 8) A Europe of Monarchies: Absolutism and the Baroque Spectacle of Power


Nov 18 (Lecture 9) The European Enlightenment


Nov 25 (Lecture 10) Revolutionary Romanticism

Hunt, Lynn, ed. The French Revolution and Human Rights: A Brief Documentary History (not in the course-kit)


Dec 2 (Lecture 11) Towards a Europe of Nation States: Nationalism and National Unification


Dec 09 In-class midterm test
Winter Semester

Jan 06 (Lecture 12) On the Fringes of Europe I: Greece and Spain


Jan 13 (Lecture 13) On the Fringes of Europe II: Russia


Jan 20 (Lecture 14) European Empires

Conrad, Joseph. *Heart Of Darkness*. (not in course-kit)


Jan 27 (Lecture 15) Avant-garde: the European City as Art


Feb 03 (Lecture 17) Europe in Ruins: The Great War and the Interwar Years


Feb 10 (Lecture 18) Film Screening: La Grande Illusion. 1937. Jean Renoir. 114 minutes.

Feb 17 (Lecture 19) Barbaric Europe: Fascism, Nazism, Anti-Semitism


Feb 24: Reading Week (no classes)

March 03 (Lecture 20) Divided Europe: The Post-War Years


March 10 (Lecture 21) EU-rope: From the Economic Community to the European Union and Eurovision


March 17 (Lecture 22) Multicultural Europe?


March 31: Exam preparation session