

Posc 345/Eust 345  
 Contemporary Europe  
 Fall 2011 Amherst College  
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## CONTEMPORARY EUROPE

Today's Europe is at a crossroads. The details of European politics, economics and social evolution embody a broader and deeper issue: is contemporary Europe in a phase of decline or renewal?

In the worst case, Europe's current fragility internally may indicate an exhausted civilization, a continent in irreversible decline, already an example of the classic rise and decline of civilizations. In the best case, Europe is immersed in a complicated phase of renewal in which deep problems will ultimately be resolved in a new burst of European dynamism.

Europe's influence in geopolitics and geo-economics represents a second question of decline and renewal. In the world order, Europe no longer counts as it once did. Its big powers are no longer at the center of the international system as they had been for centuries. The question is how much Europe still matters, and can matter, in dealing with problems of international peace, security and progress. At bottom, the answer has to do with whether the Europeans really want to matter.

Three books to purchase (Amherst Books) (1) Ronald Tiersky and Eric Jones, with Saskia Van Genugten, *Europe Today* 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (Amherst Books)

(2) Ronald Tiersky and John Van Oudenaren (eds.), *European Foreign Policies: Does Europe Still Matter?* (Amherst Books)

Multilith course packet, Political Science office, Clark House 103.

The course workload is three 5-6 page essays. The second paper involves student working groups on particular countries.

## Syllabus

Part One: Europe in the World Order

## 1. Introduction, Europe 2011.

## Reading:

Ronald Tiersky, Saskia van Genugten and Erik Jones, "Introduction: The European Outlook," Europe Today, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., (hereafter ET4).

## 2. The division of Europe in the Cold War: Yalta, February 1945

Documentary: "De Gaulle and France," part one (1 hour)

Diane Shaver Clemens, "The Yalta Agreements,"  
 Debate on "Yalta & the Fate of Poland," NYRB, 1984  
 Zbigniew Brzezinski, "The Future of Yalta"

## 3. 1989-1991: the birth of contemporary Europe. The collapse of Communism, end of the Cold War, Europe whole and free

Documentary: "The Fall of Communism"

## Reading:

New York Times, The Collapse of Communism, pp. 3-21, 75-95, 216-22, 245-50, 270-75, e-reserve

Mikhail Gorbachev, "The Wholeness of Europe" (M)

4. 21<sup>st</sup> century geopolitics: Does Europe still matter?

Robert Kagan, "Power and Weakness" (e-reserve)

Gideon Rachman, "Irrelevance, Europe's Logical Choice" (M)

## 5. Europe and the Iraq war 2003

Youtube: "MSNBC Brian Williams Reports – The Tony Blair Interview," (8:16)

## Reading:

Philip H. Gordon and Jeremy Shapiro, "Allies at War," chs. 5-6, (e-reserve)

Peter Riddell, “The Unfulfilled Prime Minister,” ch. 6 (e-reserve)

## 6. Europe, terrorism and counter-terrorism

### Youtube:

“Madrid bombings: 21 guilty,” 3/11/04 attacks, 10/31/09 verdicts (2:58)

“The Horrible Attentat in Madrid’s Subway,” (0:14); London bombings

### Reading:

Jeremy Shapiro and Benedicte Suzan, “The French Experience of Counter-terrorism”

Wyn Rees and Richard J. Aldrich, “European and U.S. Approaches to Counterterrorism,” Europe Today (ET3)

## Part Two: Individual countries and working groups

## 7. Britain

Youtube: “David Cameron vs. Ed Miliband debate on Murdoch phone hacking scandal,” 3 parts (Parliamentary question period, July 20, 2011)

### Reading:

John Van Oudenaren, “British Foreign Policy” (EFP)

Hasan Sunoor, “Britain: Redefining its global role”

Jonathan Hopkin, “Britain” (ET4)

## 8. France

Youtube: “Nicolas Sarkozy: French President’s Speech to the U.S. Congress” (39:31)(e-reserve). “Sarkozy’s ‘Small’ Problem,” 1:50

### Reading:

Gabriel Goodliffe, “France: the Sarkozy presidency in historical perspective,” ET4

Ronald Tiersky, “France: Nostalgia, Narcissism and Realism,” (EFP)

## 9. Germany

### Youtube:

“German Chancellor Angela Merkel: Nuclear Bomb in hands of Iran ‘not acceptable’ (4:41)

“10 Years as Party Chairwoman: Angela Merkel” (4:19)

### Reading:

Helga Welsh, “Germany: Two decades of passage from Bonn to Berlin” (ET4)

Helga Welsh, “German Foreign Policy” (EFP)

## 10. Scandinavian countries

### Youtube:

Norwegian prime minister, July 2011, “Jens Stoltenberg speech at Oslo cathedral two

days after terrorist massacre,” (6:16) (read: The Economist

magazine, “Norway after terrorism: flowers for freedom,” July 30, 2011

Swedish prime minister, Fredrik Reinfeldt, “Sweden: statement 2009 UN climate change summit,” (4:00)

### Reading:

Einhorn and Logue, "Scandinavia: Still the Middle Way?" (ET4)

Christine Ingebritsen, Scandinavia in World Politics, chs. 1,2,3,4,7 (e-reserve, library reserve)

## 11. Italy

### Youtube:

“Silvio Berlusconi: Euronews Footage,” (0:40) (e-reserve)

“President Obama Meets with Prime Minister Berlusconi,” (41:14) (e-reserve). Watch about 20 minutes.

### Reading:

Gianfranco Baldini, “Italy: Politics in the Age of Berlusconi” ET4

Mark Gilbert, “Italian Foreign Policy,” (EFP)

## 12. Central/East European post-Communist countries

Youtube: Interview with former Czech president, “Frost Over the World – Vaclav Havel – 26 Sept 08” (13:48) (e-reserve)

Reading:

Wikipedia, “Vaclav Havel”

Krzysztof Bobinski, “Poland and Eastern Europe: Historical Narratives and the Return to Europe,” (EFP)

Ben Stanley, “Poland 20 years later: the long arm of transition,” ET4

Graham Bowley, “The new central and eastern European member states in 2004,” *Europe Today*, 3<sup>rd</sup>. ed.

## 13. Russia

Youtube:

Dimitri Medvedev, “Medvedev’s Inauguration Ceremony (2008),” (9:57)

“Medvedev Interviewed by ABC’s Stephanopoulos” (26:45)

Vladimir Putin, “Putin, Blueberry Hill”, Putin sings in English

“CNN: Full Interview of Putin 28.08.2008 Part1/3,” English subtitles

Reading:

Ronald Tiersky and John Van Oudenaren, “Europe and Russia,” (EFP)

Bruce Parrott, “Russia: European or Not?” (ET4)

## Part Three: European Integration and the European Union (EU)

### 14. The “idea of Europe”

Youtube:

EU summit meetings photo ops (students find)

“Happy Birthday Europe” (2:55)

“The European Union, part 1” (4:39)

Reading:

Victor Hugo, “The United States of Europe” (1849) (M)

John Van Oudenairen, “European Integration: Progress and Uncertainty,”  
ET4

### 15. European Integration: “Gaullist” and “federalist” principles

Youtube:

“De Gaulle et l’Europe,” 1963, (0:58), in French

“Margaret Thatcher on Socialism,” (2:34)

“BBC: Margaret Thatcher on Mikhail Gorbachev” (0:38)

Reading:

Joschka Fischer, “From Confederacy to Federation: Thoughts on the Finality of European Integration” (M)

Margaret Thatcher, "The Babel Express," 727-54, 759-63 (library reserve)

### 16. Economics I: EU economics and varieties of capitalism

Reading:

Benedicta Marzinotto, “Economic governance and varieties of capitalism,”  
ET4

Wikipedia, “The Euro” (M)

### 17. Economics II: Europe and the global financial crisis

Reading: Erik Jones, “Europe and the global economic crisis,” ET4

### 18. The European Court of Justice (ECJ) and the supremacy of European law

Karen Alter, “The Making of a Supranational Rule of Law” (Europe Today, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (M)

### 19. EU enlargement and the Greater Middle East: Turkey, Israeli/Palestinian conflict, Iran

Youtube:

Turkish prime minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s speech, January 19, 2009.  
(both e-reserve video of speech (19:00) and full text in multilith)

Reading:

John Van Oudenaren, "EU Enlargement: The Return to Europe" (ET)

Economist, "In the Nick of Time," May 31 2008, (M)  
 Wikipedia, "Accession of Turkey to the European Union" (M)  
 Natalie Tocci and Benedetta Voltolini, "Europe, the Mediterranean and the Middle East," in EFP, pp. 115-131 only  
 Recommended:  
 Edward Said, "Zionism from the Point of View of its Victims," 114-119, 126-131  
 Joseph and Ari Carmi, "The War of Western Europe against Israel," 72-128  
 Economist Magazine, "To Israel with Hate—and Guilt" (M)

## 20. Islam and Europe

Wikipedia, "Islam in Europe"  
 Christopher Caldwell, Reflections on the Revolution in Europe, intro, ch. 3; pp. 148-158; and chs. 11-12 (library reserve)  
 The Economist, July 30, 2011, pp. 21-23  
 Rec: Jonathan W. Moses, "Migration in Europe," ET4

## 21. European quality of life: future of the welfare state and the European Social Model

Economist Magazine, "Call time on progress" (M)  
 Eric Einhorn and John Logue, "Can welfare states be sustained in a global economy: Lessons from Scandinavia" (M)  
 Timothy B. Smith, "The Protected People," France in Crisis, ch. 6 (M)

## 22. Europe's geopolitical weight, 2012: does Europe count after all?

Philip Stephens, "Europe and the U.S." (EFP)  
 Europe and the "Arab Awakening" (reading to be announced)  
 Wikipedia, "European Union Neighborhood Policy"

## 23. European identity: are the Europeans "Europeans"?

Vaclav Havel, "The Meaning of European Integration" (M)  
 Joseph J.J. Weiler, "To Be a European Citizen: Eros and Civilization" (M)  
 Larry Siedentop, Democracy in Europe, pp. 1-34 (M)  
 Rec. film: "The Spanish Apartment"

24. Conclusion: the outlook for Europe

Charles Grant, "Is Europe Doomed to Fail as a Power?" (M)

Mark Gilbert, "Narrating the Process" (M)



STUDENT INFORMATION FOR CONTEMPORARY EUROPE, POSC 345/EUST 345

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1. NAME, YEAR, COLLEGE (AMHERST OR OTHER) AND EMAIL ADDRESS:

2. MAJOR:

3. PREVIOUS COURSES RELATED TO:

a. Europe:

b. International Relations:

4. Travel in Europe: