

Political Science 45
Contemporary Europe
Fall 2010 Amherst College
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CONTEMPORARY EUROPE

Europe has long been called the “old continent” in relation to the new world of the United States. Europe today is both remarkably new and tenaciously old. The European Union is the world’s leading example of regional integration beyond the nation-state. The EU is far from perfect. But it is unique in the extent to which the national sovereignties of twenty-seven countries have been merged into integrated institutions while preserving the ultimate primacy of the nation-state and national identities. Europe today is a kind of regional response to the competition involved in globalization. Yet Europe today can also be seen as a continent in decline, a decaying civilization being submerged by unsustainable levels of national debt, a long-term demographic decline and no longer affordable welfare states created during past decades of general prosperity. Is Europe in the death throes of irresistible decline or is it in the birth throes of a new European renewal? Does Europe still count in the world geo-strategic order? Are the Europeans prepared to make the effort and pay the price of a new dynamism?

The course workload is three 6 page essays and a few shorter papers. The second paper is on a specific country, part of a student working group that will make a class presentation. The course is a combination of lecture and discussion. Class participation is particularly valued.

Books to purchase at Amherst Books:

- 1) Ronald Tiersky and John Van Oudenaren (eds.), *European Foreign Policy: Does Europe Still Matter?*
- 2) Ronald Tiersky and Erik Jones (eds.), *Europe Today*, 3rd. ed. (also available on e-reserve)

OPTIONAL – SEE BELOW

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

All the readings for the class can be accessed on the class web page under the E-Reserve tab at the following web address:

<https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/courses/1011F/POSC/POSC-45-1011F/ereserves> . You will need to log in using your Amherst username and password. There is also a multilith (M) course packet that can be purchased at an additional cost. This is a hard-bound book containing most of the readings for the class that are on E-Reserve. To purchase this you need to place an order at the following web address:

https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/political_science/multilith_orderform . If purchased, you will be sent an e-mail when your Multilith is ready to be picked up at the Political Science office, Clark House 103. This Multilith is not required to be purchased for the class but doing so is highly recommended. There will be multiple readings for the class and several films to view. All the readings for the class are listed in the syllabus and are coded as to where to find them; Multilith (M), Purchased book (P), E-Reserves (E), and Library Reserve (L).

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Syllabus

Part One: Europe in the World Order

1. Introduction: Europe 2010

Maps of Europe (M) (E)

Ronald Tiersky, introductions to *European Foreign Policy: Does Europe Still Matter and Europe Today*, 3rd ed. (P)

2. The collapse of Communism and the reunification of Europe, 1989-91

Documentary: "The Fall of Communism"

Reading:

New York Times, *The Collapse of Communism*, pp. 3-21, 75-95, 216-22, 245-50, 270-75 (M) (E) (L)

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

3. Europe in the geostrategic order

Robert Kagan, "Power and Weakness" (M) (E)

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

Recommended: Philip Stephens, "Europe and the U.S." (Does Europe...) (P)

4. Europe and the Iraq war 2002-2003

(Note: ALL YOUTUBES IN THE SYLLABUS ARE E-RESERVE)

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

Reading:

Philip H. Gordon and Jeremy Shapiro, "Allies at War," (E) (L) only
 Peter Riddell, "The Unfulfilled Prime Minister," ch. 6 (M) (E) (L)

5. Europe, the Middle East, Afghanistan and Iran

Reading:

Natalie Tocci and Benedetta Voltolini, "Europe, the Mediterranean and the Middle East," (Does Europe..." (P)

Edward Said, "Zionism from the Point of View of its Victims," 114-119, 126-131 (M) (E) (L)

Joseph and Ari Carmi, "The War of Western Europe against Israel," 72-128 (M) (E) (L)

Economist Magazine, "To Israel with Hate—and Guilt" (M) (E)

6. Europe, terrorism and counter-terrorism

Youtube:

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

"The Horrible Attentat in Madrid's Subway," (0:14) (E)

London bombings

Reading:

Wyn Rees and Richard J. Aldrich, "European and U.S. Approaches to Counterterrorism," in Europe Today (P)

Jonathan Laurence & Justin Vaisse, "Terrorism and the French Response" (M) (E)

Part Two: Individual countries and working groups

7. Britain

Youtube:

"Queen's Speech Debate – Harriet Harmon Humiliates David Cameron 2010" (9:51) (E)

"Nick Clegg on Coalition Government" (3:03) (E)

Reading:

Selected newspaper articles on the new Conservative/Liberal Democrat
British government (M) (E)

John Van Oudenaren, "British Foreign Policy" (Does Europe...) (P)

Hasan Sunoor, "Britain: Redefining its global role" (M) (E)

Jonathan Hopkin, "Britain" (Europe Today) (P)

8. France

Youtube:

"Nicolas Sarkozy: French President's Speech to the U.S. Congress"
(39:31)(E)

"Sarkozy's Small Problem" (1:50) (E)

Reading:

Ronald Tiersky, French Foreign Policy (Does Europe...) (P)

Ronald Tiersky and Nicolas de Boisgrollier, "France: Hopes and Fears of a
New Generation," (Europe Today) (P)

9. Germany

Youtube:

"German Chancellor Angela Merkel: Nuclear Bomb in hands of Iran
'not acceptable'" (4:41) (E)

"10 Years as Party Chairwoman: Angela Merkel" (4:19) (E)

Reading:

Helga Welsh, "German Foreign Policy" (Does Europe...)" (P)

Helga Welsh, "Unified Germany" (Europe Today) (P)

10. Italy

Youtube:

"Silvio Berlusconi: Euronews Footage," (0:40) (E)

"President Obama Meets with Prime Minister Berlusconi," (41:14) (E)

Reading:

Mark Gilbert, "Italian Foreign Policy," (Does Europe...) (P)

Mark Gilbert, "Italy: A Troubled Democracy," (Europe Today) (P)

11. Scandinavia

Youtube:

Swedish prime minister, "Fredrik Reinfeldt at Postkodlatteriets Climate Event," in English (1:57) (E)

Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg, "Dear Nelson Mandela," (0:58) (E)

Reading:

Einhorn and Logue, "Scandinavia: Still the Middle Way?" (Europe Today) (P)

Christine Ingebritsen, Scandinavia in World Politics, chs. 1,2,3,4,7 (M) (E) (L)

12. The former Communist countries in the EU

Youtube: Interview with former Czech president, "Frost Over the World – Vaclav Havel – 26 Sept 08" (13:48) (E)

Reading:

Wikipedia, "Vaclav Havel" (M) (E)

Krzysztof Bobinski, "New Member States' Foreign Policies" (Does Europe...) (P)

Graham Bowley, "The New Member States," (Europe Today)(P)

13. Russia

Youtube:

Dimitri Medvedev, "Medvedev's Inauguration Ceremony," (9:57) (E)

"Medvedev Interviewed by ABC's Stephanopoulos" (26:45) (E)

Vladimir Putin, "Full Version of Putin Speech (2014 Winter Olympics)," Putin speaks in English (6:26) (E)

"CNN: Full Interview of Putin 28.08.2008 Part1/3," English subtitles (E)

Reading:

Ronald Tiersky and John Van Oudenaren, "Europe and Russia," (Does Europe ...) (P)

Bruce Parrott, "Russia: European or Not?" (Europe Today) (P)

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

14. The “idea of Europe”

Youtube:

“Happy Birthday Europe” (2:55) (E)

“The European Union, part 1” (4:39) (E)

Reading:

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

John Van Oudenairen, “The European Union: From Community to Constitution?” (Europe Today) (P)

15. The EU: organizing principles and the ultimate goal

Youtube:

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

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

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

“The State of the European Union, by Joschka Fischer” (9:40) (E)

Reading:

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

Margaret Thatcher, “The Babel Express,” 727-54, 759-63 (M) (E) (L)

16. The Single Market, European Monetary System and the euro

Youtube:

“euronews – interview – Jean-Claude Trichet,” Sept. 24, 2008 (8:45) (E)

“interview – Trichet defends ECB’s bold politics,” July 5, 2009 (E)

Reading:

Erik Jones, “The European Union and Economic Governance” (Europe Today) (P)

Recommended: Wikipedia, “The Euro” (M) (E)

17. Europe and the global financial crisis

Erik Jones, “Globalization & Interdependence” (M) (E)

Erik Jones, “Merkel’s Folly” (M) (E)

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, 2nd ed. (M) (E)

19. EU enlargement and the ultimate boundaries of “Europe”

Youtube:

Turkish prime minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s speech, January 19, 2009. (8:08) (E)

Readings:

Turkish prime minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s speech, January 19, 2009 – full text (M) (E)

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

Economist, “In the Nick of Time,” May 31 2008, (M) (E)

Wikipedia, “Accession of Turkey to the European Union” (M) (E)

20. Minorities, Immigration, Tolerance

Film: “Bread and Chocolate” (1973, 1:50)

21. Muslim minorities in Britain and France

Denise Tsai, “Dark Strangers in Our Midst,” Amherst College Honors Thesis (2007) (M) (E)

Eszter Vincze, “Second-Generation Integration and the Transformation of Nationality Law in France (Amherst College independent study, fall 2010) (M) (E)

22. Islam and Europe: a clash of civilizations or just alarmism?

Christopher Caldwell, *Reflections on the Revolution in Europe*, ch. 3; pp. 148-158; and chs. 11-12 (M) (E) (L)

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

Economist Magazine, “Call time on progress” (M) (E)

Eric Einhorn and John Logue, “Can welfare states be sustained in a global economy: Lessons from Scandinavia” (M) (E)

Timothy B. Smith, “The Protected People,” *France in Crisis*, ch. 6 (M) (E)

24. Young people and the creation of a European identity

Youtube: “euronews – Europeans – Europe’s young people are our future” (8:00) (E)

Film: “The Spanish Apartment”

25. European identity: are the Europeans “Europeans”?

Vaclav Havel, “The Meaning of European Integration” (M) (E)

Joseph J.J. Weiler, “To Be a European Citizen: Eros and Civilization” (M) (E)

Larry Siedentop, *Democracy in Europe*, pp. 1-34 (M) (E)

26. Conclusion: the outlook for Europe

Charles Grant, “Is Europe Doomed to Fail as a Power?” (M) (E)

Mark Gilbert, “Narrating the Process” (M) (E)
