

**Idea of Europe Spring 2018**  
**European Studies 360:392/History 510:401**  
**Mon./Wed. 6:10-7:30 p.m.**  
**Scott Hall 207**

**DRAFT**

**Prof. Belinda Davis**  
**Ofc. hrs. XX & by appt.**  
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**Europe.** The West. The “civilized,” or “free,” or “advanced” world. Such phrases have little to do with geography. They represent values and ideals--ideals often contradictory, and always in tension with lived realities. They have been used to distinguish what is “European” from what is not—and to divide as well as unite those living on the (sub-)continent. But what *is* Europe? Who is a European? How have such notions been useful, and in what ways less so? This course will examine enduring and changing answers to these questions proposed in the last centuries, focusing on their relevance for today’s Europe and its place in the world—and on how this matters to us.

**Learning goals** for this course include the ability to assess assumptions and analyze ideas and arguments in our sources; to employ critical reasoning; and to understand different notions of cultural, social, economic, and political organization, drawing on methodologies from a variety of different disciplines. Students should be able to demonstrate these abilities and express their views in written and oral form. Class assignments (including discussion participation) help to assess your ability to evaluate documents, place them in broader context, and draw conclusions concerning their collective significance—and their contradictions. Our materials and discussions should regularly provoke challenges to received ideas about the meaning of “Europe,” and it is expected students will demonstrate evidence of thinking deeply about such received ideas.

**Course Requirements** This course is a seminar: each class session will be based nearly entirely on our discussion and analysis of assigned texts (as well as images, etc., that we will examine together in class). To be successful in this course, you will need to complete each week’s readings before coming to class and be prepared to participate actively, thoughtfully, and regularly in discussion. This is what will make the course work for everyone in it. Evaluation is therefore heavily based on participation (30%), as well as on two 4-5 pp. essays (20% each) and a final take-home essay exam (30%). Questions for the essays will be posted at least one week in advance on our course website, under “Assignments”; for the final, at least two weeks in advance. Each week I will introduce the readings for the following week’s discussion. Please bring each week’s readings with you to class, as we will refer to them closely.

Because this course is based on student participation, more than four absences may be grounds for a lower final grade. Please be prepared to arrive on time and to stay until the end of class; late arrivals or early departures may be counted as absences. You should not plan to take the course if you have other commitments that will necessitate late arrival or early departure. We will have a common break in the middle of class. Please plan to submit the essays and final exam on the dates indicated below. Unexcused late submission of assignments is grounds for lowering the grade on the assignment. If you need to request a late submission of any assignment, you must contact me as far in advance as possible to ask about it; I will consider such exceptions on a per-case basis. Faculty are encouraged to turn cases of plagiarism over to the relevant dean; first-time known offenses usually result in suspension for a semester. If you

have any question about what constitutes plagiarism, see <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>, and/or consult me.

**Required Texts** include

Baron de Montesquieu, *Persian Letters* (NY: Penguin, 2004) 9780140442816 \$13.00

Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Winter Notes on Summer Impressions* (Evanston: Northwestern UP, 1997) 9780810115187 \$14.95

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* (NY: Signet, 2008) 9780451531032 \$4.95

Slavenka Drakulic, *Cafe Europa: Life After Communism* (NY: Penguin, 1999) 978-0140277722 \$15.00

Ian Buruma, *Murder in Amsterdam* (NY: Penguin, 2006) 9780143112365 \$16.00

These books are available for purchase at the Rutgers University Bookstore. They are also on reserve at Alexander Library. Required readings other than those above are available online at our course website, accessible via <https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal/>, under “Resources.”

**January 17 Introduction: What Makes Europe Europe?**

**Week of January 22 Europe as “The West”**

Baron de Montesquieu, *Persian Letters*: Letters 1-19; 37; 55-66; 73-106; 112, 117-8, 131-2, 147-150

Web: Tertaeus/Solon; Petrarch; Raising/Siege of Vienna; Varnhagen; Novalis; Schliemann

**Week of January 29 Europe: “Universal Values” and the Paradoxes thereof**

Web: National Assembly; Olympe de Gouges; Jews of Paris; Advocates of Abolition; Al Jabarbt; Francis Place; Labour Party Platform 1945

**Week of February 5 East and West within Europe?**

Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Winter Notes on Summer Impressions*

Web: Czartoryski; Catherine II; Churchill/Stalin; Scouteris

**Week of February 12 A Europe of Nations: More Perfect Unions?**

Web: Obradovic; Mickiewicz; Watch on the Rhine; Wartime Christmas; The Catalan Debate

**Week of February 19 Colonization: Civilization and Barbarity; Exoticism of the Other**

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

Web: That Sober & Wholesome Drink; Virey; Chamberlain; Butler

**Week of February 26 First Paper DUE**

**Decline of the West?**

Web: Zweig; Spengler; Eliot; Freud; Massis; Marinetti

**Week of March 5 Europe: A New Project**

Web: Coudenhove-Kalergi; League of Nations Covenant; Stopes; Lukacs; Mayakovsky; Rathaus; Kayser; Mussolini

\*\*\*\*\***SPRING BREAK--Enjoy!**\*\*\*\*\*

**Week of March 19 War, a “Zero Hour,” and a “Second World”**

Web: Chamberlain; Pittsburgh Gazette; Dmowski; UNRA(?) Report; Schuman; Nkrumah; Novikov; Servan-Schreiber; OPTIONAL European Welfare State

**Week of March 26 A “United States of Europe”: What Kind of Unity?**

Web: Churchill/Stalin, North Atlantic Treaty, Jean Monnet, LoC on Comecon, etc.; Milan Kundera; Rudi Dutschke; Petra Kelly; Abena Adomako; Public Opinion in the Era

**Week of April 2 2nd Paper DUE**

**FILM Jerzy Skolimowski, *Moonlighting* (1982)**

**Week of April 9 A New Europe—Yet Again**

Slavenka Drakulic, *Cafe Europa*

Web: Filipovic; Struharova; *Der Spiegel*; Davydov; Maastricht; Zetterling

**Week of April 16 “Eurabia”?**

Ian Buruma, *Death in Amsterdam*, excerpts

Web: Markaris; Van Rompuy; RT News; Goodhart; Malik

**Week of April 23 Crisis of the Euro; Crisis of “Europe”?**

Habermas; Schengen; Kosovo; Euroskepticism; IMF and Lagarde; Trevor Kavanaugh; Mardell; Bove

**April 30 Brexit; Catalonia; A Future of Europe?**

Selection of recent press, to come

**Final paper due by noon on Wed., May 7th, on the Sakai website**

