

## The Idea of Europe

History 510:401

Fall 2014

Center for European Studies, Seminar Room

-102 Nichol Avenue (D/C)

Wednesdays 10:55-1:55 am

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**Europe.** The West. The “civilized,” or “free,” or “advanced” world. Such phrases always represent something more than mere 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 continent. But what is Europe? And what is not? 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.

**Course Requirements** This course is a seminar: virtually the entire course is based on our discussion and analysis of assigned texts (as well as images and film clips 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 (15%), as well as on two 4-5 pp. essays (20% each), on a take-home final paper (30%), and on three reaction papers that you write over the course of the semester (15%). The response paper to the week’s readings should be between 2-3 pages and you should post it on sakai no later than 8pm the Tuesday before class. On occasion I will post a link to news articles on the sakai chat room. In those instances I will post an announcement about it and you will be expected to read those articles before the next class. Each week I will introduce the readings for the following week’s discussion. Please bring each week’s readings with you to class. Questions for the essays and final exam will be given in class; they will also be posted thereafter on our class website.

Because this course is based on student participation and because we only meet once a week, more than two 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. Faculty members are required 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://history.rutgers.edu/undergrad/plagiarism.htm> and/or consult me.

### Required Texts include

Baron de Montesquieu, *Persian Letters* (NY: Penguin, 2004)

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

Stefan Zweig, *The World of Yesterday* (University of Nebraska Press, 1964)

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* (NY: Signet, 2008)

Slavenka Drakulic, *Cafe Europa: Life After Communism* (NY: Penguin, 1999)

Ian Buruma, *Murder in Amsterdam* (NY: Penguin, 2006)

These texts are available for purchase at the Rutgers University Bookstore. Remaining required readings are accessible for download at the class website; go to <https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal/> to log in, and look under “Resources.”

### **September 3: Introduction**

Introduction of class themes and requirements followed by a discussion of “Eurovision”

### **September 10: Europe as “The West”**

Baron de Montesquieu, *Persian Letters*: Letters 1-19; 54-66; 73-106; 112-123, 131, 147-150

Online: Montaigne, DeMissy, Menetra, Edict of Nantes, Revocation of the Edict of Nantes.

### **September 17: Europe as the Land of Universal Values**

Online: Descartes, Smith, Kant, Toqueville, Novalis, National Convention, Burke, Al Jabarbt

### **September 24: Enlightened Inequality?**

Online: Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizens. (multiple sources within one pdf file), Francis Place, Marx, Geddes/Thompson

### **October 1: East and West within Europe?**

Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Winter Notes on Summer Impressions*

Online: Anonymous; Czartoryski; Alexander II; Catherine II

### **October 8: Colonialism: Civilization and Barbarity; Exoticism of the Other**

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

Online: Chamberlain; Ferry; Butler, Kipling; von Trotta

### **October 15: A Europe of Nations                      1st PAPER DUE**

Stefan Zweig, *The World of Yesterday*, chaps. 1-3, 11

Online: Mickiewicz; Herder; Herzl

### **October 22: Decline of the West?**

Stefan Zweig, *The World of Yesterday*, chap. 9

Online: Spengler; Freud; Hesse; Eliot; Massis

### **October 29: New World Order(s); A United States of Europe?**

Online: League of Nations Charter; Rathaus; Goll; Kayser; Stalin; Coudenhove-Kalergi; Briand

### **November 5: Toward European Union: Economic unity? Political unity?**

Online: Churchill; Schuman; Monnet; Servan-Schreiber; Atlantic Charter 1941 & 1947

Mitterand

**November 12: Center for European Studies special event**

*The Fall of the Wall*: More information to follow

**November 29: Europe united through a common culture? 2nd PAPER DUE**

Online: Kundera; Šimečka, Vajda; Gorbachev, Habermas,

**December 3: A New Europe—Yet Again**

Slavenka Drakulic, *Cafe Europa*

Online: Heidelberg Manifesto, Charter of Fundamental Rights

**December 10: Eurabia?**

Ian Buruma, *Murder in Amsterdam*

Online: Ankara Agreement; Muslim Executive of Belgium; The Sarrazin Debate; The Rise of Anti-Semitism in Europe?

**Take Home Final Paper due online on sakai, by noon Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**

