EURO-GA 2301 What is Europe?

This course will explore the changing meaning of Europe from a historical, institutional and political perspective. We will trace the formation of modern states in Europe, including the role of nationalism, explore the evolution of democracy and its challenges, and explore the formation of the European Union as a post-national polity. After a brief historical reflection, we will mainly explore the new Europe emerging after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of communism in Eastern Europe.

The term “Europe” today mainly refers to the European Union, even though several European states are not members of the EU. Questions we will explore in the seminar include: What is the significance of the peaceful revolutions in 1989/90 and how did they change the meaning of Europe? Is democracy in East Central Europe stable and how do citizens view democratic institutions? How do citizens view the EU and what is their influence on the politics and policies on the European level? What is the role of nation-states today and to what extent can they influence EU-politics? Given the current crisis in Europe we will also address the problem of the euro crisis and its lessons. Is crisis management and regulation sufficient, or does the EU need a stronger basis of legitimacy? How will US-European relations evolve in the future? At the end of the semester, you will not only be familiar with key developments in European countries, but you will also have a tool kit for critical analyses of Europe’s key challenges. These include increasing diversity due to immigration, economic disparities, and the democratic deficit of the EU.

Required Readings:
* Lemke, Christiane et. al. (2013). Germany in Europe: Powerhouse at the Crossroads, Center for European and Mediterranean Studies, NYU (online)
* All chapters and articles listed on the syllabus (literature is on reserve and available online)

Format: The course involves introductory lectures, student presentations, and class discussions. There will be guest lectures, European film screenings and special events during the semester as part of the seminar. Please plan to attend at least two of these events some of which will be outside of class.

Requirements and Grading:
Writing: You will write two short papers (5-6 pages), and one final paper (15-20 pages). In the short papers you should critically reflect on the assigned readings, for example a certain theme or argument, or answer a specific question that emerged for you in the course of the reading. The first short paper will be on the evolution of modern European states up until 1989/90 (based on readings up to week 5), the second on post-Cold war Europe and the forming of the EU (readings up to week 11). The final paper is a formal research paper on a topic of your choice exploring contemporary European developments. A one-page formal paper proposal is due on November 19. All papers should be handed in in printed form.
Due dates: First paper October 1
Second paper November 12
Final paper: Research outline November 19; final paper December 13, 2013

**Presentations:** Everyone should actively participate in class, present findings from the readings and ask questions. To hone your public speaking skills you will be asked to prepare a short 3-5 minute presentation about a current event in European politics, based on newspaper articles followed by a brief discussion (one-page hand-out). At the end of the semester everyone will prepare a 10-minute presentation about your research topic. The short papers count for 20% each and the final paper for 40% of the grade; the remaining 20% is class participation including the event of the week.

**Week 1: September 3**
**Introduction: What is Europe? Changing Meanings Over Time**
Europe as a “way of life”; deconstructing the “West” and the “East”; constructing a “new Europe”? Cultural and political meanings; where does Europe end?
Readings: McCormick (2013), Why Europe Matters, Intro and chap. 1
Nolan (2012), The Transatlantic Century, pp. 1-9
Judt, Postwar. A History of Europe since 1945, chap. 3 (and as much as you can read)

**Week 2: September 10**
**Historical Perspectives on Europe: Nations, States and Post-National Identity**
State building, modernization and democracy: Contrasting France and Germany; nationalism and “imagined communities”; ethnic and civic nationalism; borders, boundaries, and bridges; is the EU a post-national polity?
Readings: Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*, chap. 1-3, 5-6
Crepaz/Steiner, *European Democracies*, chap 14 (The European Union)
Lemke et.al 2013, chap by Welsh
Video on the Evolution of Poland

**Week 3: September 17**
**Europe in Comparative Perspective: Governance and Transnationalism**
State-society relations in Europe; comparison with the US; transatlantic relations; new forms of governance; perceptions and misperceptions
Readings: Nolan, The Transatlantic Century, chap. 7 (pp. 191-215)
Jarausch, Cultural Dimensions of Transatlantic Estrangement
Pew Research Center (2012). Anti-Americanism Down in Europe, but a Values Gap Persists (online)

Guest lecture by Professor Mareike Kleine, London School of Economics on Governance and Informality in the EU (t.b.a.)

**Week 4: September 24**
**Reading Day**
**Culture and Society in Europe and the US**
Legacies of the Cold War; East-West differences; Coca-Cola Culture; civil society and discontent
Readings: Nolan, The Transatlantic Century, chap. 8 and 9
Week 5: October 1 (First Paper Due)

Europe as an Economic and Social Project
Economic integration of Europe; idea and reality of “social capitalism”; is there a social Europe? The euro crisis and its lessons; Germany’s economic role in Europe
Readings: Hall (2011). Understanding the Economic Crisis
Lemke et. Al (2013), chap by Nolan, Patton and Gross
McCormick (2013), Why Europe Matters, chap. 2 and 3

Week 6: October 8  Special Event: Euro Crisis (t.b.a.)

October 15 No classes (fall break)

Guest Lecture Professor Jost Halfmann on climate change policies (t.b.a.)

Week 7: October 22
The Euro-Polity and the Social Construction of Europe after the Lisbon Treaty
Topics: The EU as post-national polity; Europe as a democracy; identity, norms and values; rational and ideational concepts; the quest for legitimacy; citizens’ views
Readings: McCormick, Why Europe Matters, chap. 4, 5, and 6
McNamara, Constructing Authority in the EU
Lemke et al (2013), chap by Landfried and Wendler

Week 8: October 29
Topics: The role of the EP; parties in parliament; assessing the democratic deficit;
The New Right, Euro-scepticism and contentious politics; does Europe need a constitution?
Readings: Dinan, Ever Closer Union, chap. 7, 8, 9 (The European Parliament)
Minkenberg, The Radical Right in Europe
Website of the EU

Week 9: November 5
Regulation in the European Union: EU-Commission, Council of Ministers, European Court of Justice
Topics: Euro-polity and decision-making; the regulatory role of the Commission; the law-making role of the Council; supranational and intergovernmental policy making;
judicial activism; the Lisbon Treaty and institutional changes;
Readings: Dinan, Ever Closer Union, chap. 10 (European Court of Justice)

Week 10: November 12 (Second Paper Due)
Remembering November 9, 1989: The Fall of the Wall and the New Europe
Special event: Movie screening “Good bye, Lenin”

Week 11: November 19 (Research Outline Due)
Europe East-Europe West: Transitions in Post-Communist Europe
Why communism collapsed; new democracy in east Central Europe; backlash, defect democracies and hybrid regimes; Poland and Hungary in Comparison
Readings: Lemke et. al (2013), chapter by Welsh
Levitsky, Steven and Lucan A. Way (2010). Competitive Authoritarianism (selec. chap.)
Merkel, Are Dictatorships Returning?
Week 12: November 26
Special Event: Movie Screening “The Lives of Others”
Thanksgiving Break

Week 13: December 3
Democratization, Norm Diffusion, and External Relations of the EU
What is the common foreign and security policy of the EU? How important is the concept of “civil power”? What are the prospects of EU-enlargement and how will US-European relations develop?
Readings: Börzel/ Risse: Venus Approaching Mars?
Dinan: *Ever Closer Union*, chap. 17, 18
Lemke et. al. (2013), chapter by Dan Hamilton and Holger Moroff
McCormick, Why Europe Matters, chap. 7, 8

Week 14: December 10
Concluding Session: Workshop with student presentations

Final Papers are due on December 13
Prof. Dr. Christiane Lemke

Literature


Lemke, Christiane et. al.(2013). Germany in Europe: Powerhouse at the Crossroads,


Moravcsik, Andrew (2012). Europe after the Crisis. How to Sustain a Common Currency, *Foreign Affairs*, May/June, pp. 54-68


Pew Research Center (2012). Anti-Americanism Down in Europe, but a Values Gap Persists (online)


Streeck, Wolfgang (2010), The fiscal crisis continues: From Liberalization to consolidation, *Comparative European Politics* 8, 505–514.


Video: Evolution of Poland