

## History of the Idea of Europe (EUS3930/CPO4000)

Summer (A) 2023

Instructor: Murad Gafarov

Period 3 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

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M, Tu, W, Th, F

Office TBD

Classroom: TUR 2328

Office hours: TBD or by appointment

**Course Description:** What is Europe? Although it may seem a simple and even rhetorical question, a serious attempt to answer it runs into significant challenges. In the most basic sense, Europe is a geographical term that extends at least as far back as Greek antiquity. However, with its borders in constant flux throughout history, the idea of Europe can rely on geographical definitions only partially. Thus, other factors, primarily political, philosophical, and religious, often defined what Europe was. But these ideas were not any less problematic than the geographical ones. As becomes evident then, regardless of how one approaches the question, there is no simple answer to what Europe is. The idea of Europe has a rich and complex history that has been of increasing interest since the middle of the last century. The aftermath of catastrophic wars and the emergence of the European integration project pushed many to reflect on what being European implies and what Europe is. This course offers an overview of the history of the idea of Europe from antiquity to contemporary times. We will explore and critically reflect on various manifestations of the idea—political, religious, cultural, and geographic. Each of these aspects, and even a combination, dominated the understanding of Europe at different historical periods.

**Goals:** This course teaches students how to engage in historical, textual, and conceptual analyses. It includes locating original sources, learning about and employing interpretive methods, and developing critical thinking. The writing component of the coursework is designed to help students learn how to formulate their thoughts, develop an argument, and reflect on the reading material.

**Audience:** This course will interest and benefit students in political science, history, philosophy, European studies, and international studies. A better understanding of the idea of Europe provides not only conceptual clarity but also brings forth practical issues that arise from the way Europe has been imagined within the processes that influence European politics in general and the EU specifically. Although the history of the idea of Europe is not the history of Europe, it can help us capture essential aspects of Europe's political and intellectual development that more conventional accounts tend to overlook.

**Assessment:** Quizzes – 25%. Each quiz will consist of one open-ended question based on the readings for that day and will take place in the first 10 minutes of class. If you are late or absent without an excuse, you will not be able to re-take the quiz. There are a total of 6 quizzes. Each quiz is worth 5 points, and the lowest grade gets dropped.

Reflection Papers – 60%. At the end of each module, students will submit a reflection paper based on the material for that module. Reflection papers must engage with *at least two different readings* from the module. Discussions must be meaningful and not just summarize the reading. Papers should be formatted either in APA or MLA (please see 'Helpful Resources' section for guidelines). Submitted papers must be at least 1500 words long excluding references, footnotes, headers, titles, and subtitles. Reflection Papers will

always be due at midnight. If you fail to submit the assignment on time, you will be penalized half a letter grade for each day that it is late.

Attendance and participation – 15%. Attendance is mandatory. You are allowed (1) unexcused absence that will not affect your grade. If you must miss more than one day, you will be asked to provide documentation explaining the reason for your absence.

Class discussions are a crucial part of the course. Every Friday is designated for a group discussion and any questions that students may have. You're strongly encouraged to come to class with questions prepared beforehand. Each student is expected to participate in the class discussion in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please refrain from using cell phones during class time.

Please also review the university policies regarding attendance: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

**Grading scale:** (A) 94-100; (A-) 90-93; (B+) 87-89; (B) 83-86; (B-) 80-82; (C+) 77-79; (C) 73-76; (C-) 70-72; (D+) 67-69; (D) 63-66; (D-) 60-62; (F) 0-59

Please also review the university policies regarding grading: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

**Course material:** Required – Pagden, A. (Ed.). (2002). *The Idea of Europe: From Antiquity to the European Union*. Cambridge University Press.

All other readings will be available through Canvas, Ares, and Course Reserve in the Library West.

**Honor code:** You are required to abide by the Student Honor Code. Any violation of the academic integrity expected of you will result in a minimum academic sanction of [faculty to insert their minimum academic penalty, for example: “failing grade on the assignment or assessment”] Any alleged violations of the Student Honor Code will result in a referral to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. Please review the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code at [sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/](http://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/)

**Accommodation for students with disabilities:** Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center (<https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

**Helpful Resources:** [Campus Resources](#)

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.

### Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.

On-Line Students Complaints: View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process

### Other Resources

Maps of Europe: [http://alabamamaps.ua.edu/historicalmaps/europe/europe\\_Before1825.html](http://alabamamaps.ua.edu/historicalmaps/europe/europe_Before1825.html)

Stanford Encyclopedia: <https://plato.stanford.edu/>

**Course Evaluation:** Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>

## **Module 1**

### ***Conceptualizing Europe***

May 15 – **Introduction**

May 16 – **General Overview**

- Weller – The Idea of Europe pp. 1-15

May 17 – **What is Europe?**

- Pagden – Europe: Conceptualizing a Continent pp. 33-54

May 18 – **What is Europe? (II)**

- Pocock – Some Europes in Their History pp. 55-70
- Burke – Did Europe Exist Before 1700 pp. 21-29

May 19 – **Discussion and Questions**

May 22 – **Modern Origins of Europe**

- Hale – The Civilization of Europe pp. 3-13; 38-50

May 23 – **Modern Origins of Europe (II)**

- Dussel – Europe, Modernity, and Eurocentrism

May 24 – **Identity**

- Herzfeld – The European Self pp. 139-170

May 25 – **Identity (II): ‘Other’ Europes**

- Asad – Muslims and European Identity pp. 209-227

May 26 – **Discussion and Questions**

**Reflection Paper #1 due by midnight.**

## **Module 2**

### ***‘European’ Political Thought***

May 29 – **No class. Holiday.**

May 30 – **General Overview**

- Elbe – ‘We Good Europeans...’: Genealogical Reflections on the Idea of Europe

May 31 – **‘Before’ Europe**

- Nietzsche – Birth of Tragedy (selections)

June 1 – **‘After’ Europe**

- Nietzsche – Beyond Good and Evil (selections)

June 2 – **Discussion and Questions**

June 5 – **Ancient Origins of Europe**

- Plato – Apology

June 6 – **Ancient Origins of Europe (II)**

- Aristotle – Politics I, II, VII (selections)

June 7 – **Europe Discovered**

- Montesquieu – Persian Letters (selections)

June 8 – **Civilization and Progress**

- Montesquieu – Persian Letters (selections)
- J. S. Mill – Considerations on Representative Government Ch. 4

June 9 – **Discussion and Questions**

**Reflection Paper #2 due by midnight.**

## **Module 3**

### ***Towards Integration***

June 12 – **General Overview.**

June 13 – **Perpetual Peace**

- de Saint-Pierre – Project for Perpetual Peace in Europe
- Rousseau – A Lasting Peace through the Federation of Europe

June 14 – **Perpetual Peace (II)**

- Tully – The Kantian Idea of Europe pp. 331-358

June 15 – **Projects for Europe**

- Spiering and Wintle – European Identity, Europeanness, and the First World War pp. 1-13
- Bugge – The Nation Supreme pp. 84-95

June 16 – **Discussion and Questions**

June 19 – **No class. Holiday.**

June 20 – **Projects for Europe (II)**

- Bugge – The Nation Supreme pp. 95-122

June 21 – **‘Other’ Europes**

- Kundera – The Tragedy of Central Europe

June 22 – **Conclusion**

- Weller – pp. 269-281

**Reflection Paper #3 due by midnight**

June 23 – **Discussion and Questions**