Varieties of Contemporary European Culture
Syllabus Spring 2012

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Monday 1.30 and by appointment

Course description:
The main objective of the course is to acquire students with the similarities and differences of contemporary European civil societies and to examine the role of cultural, social and political factors in the processes of European integration. Stress will be laid on the description and interpretation of presently existing varieties of European civil societies, but the course will also help the students to understand the main historical roots of European cultural plurality, i.e. the political, economic and cultural processes that engendered this plurality. In the course Europe is conceived in traditional geographic terms, i.e. it includes not only countries of the European Union, but also countries of Eastern Europe as well as the Balkans. During weeks 6 – 10 students are obliged to present their own research conducted on one of the topics covered within this period. The final paper (3000 words, 15% tolerance) is due latest on May 21st (in the last class – hard copy only). The paper must be fully referenced and must include a bibliography. Papers will be penalized by 5% for every working day they are late.

Students are encouraged to use the internet to access relevant resources on their chosen topic. They can also refer to readings from previous sessions, plus consult the suggested readings below (more in the NYU library available):

Grading policy
Class participation: 20 % (2 absences tolerable)
Paper (plus presentation): 30 %
Mid-term: 20 %
Final: 30 %

Schedule of classes
(The lecturer reserves the right to alter the syllabus during the course of the semester if necessary)

Week 1
13 February - Overview of the course

15 February - Defining Europe – syllabus as required reading
**Week 2**
20 February - **Defining Europe**

22 February - **The Concept of the Nation in European Cultures**

**Week 3**
27 February - **The Concept of the Nation in European Cultures**

29 February - **Modernity & Process of Modernization in Europe**

**Week 4**
5 March - **Modernity & Process of Modernization in Europe**

7 March - **Models of Regionalization and Nation Forming Processes across Europe**

**Week 5**
12 March - **Models of Regionalization and Nation Forming Processes across Europe**

14 March - **Jews in Europe**; guest lecture - M. Belfer from Metropolitan University in Prague

**Week 6**
19 March - **Inventing Central Europe**

21 March - **Student Presentations: British Isles**
During weeks 6 – 10 students are obliged to present their own research:

**Week 7**
26 March - **Mid-Term Test**
28 March - **Student Presentations: Northwestern Europe, ie France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxumbourg**

*Week 8*
2 April - **Student Presentations: Eastern Mediterranean**

4 April - **Student Presentations: Central and Eastern Europe**

*Week 9 – Spring Break – no classes*

*Week 10*
16 April - **Student presentations: Scandinavia and Protestant Baltic Countries**

18 April - **Student presentations - Western Mediterranean**

*Week 11*
23 April - **Civil Societies in Europe & the Concept of Civil Society**

25 April - **Crisis of the State: European Civil Society as Challenge of Globalization**

*Week 12*
30 April - **Crisis of Middle Class as Challenge for Democracy in Europe**

2 May - **Civil Societies in Europe or European Civil Society?**

*Week 13*
7 May - **Europe as the Sphere of Publics?**

9 May - **European Modernity and Politics of Identity**

**Week 14**

14 May - **The EU as a Global Network State**

16 May – **Gender in/equalities across Europe**; guest lecture Hana Havelková from Faculty of Humanities, Charles University in Prague (reading: Havelková, H. *Waste of Talents: Turning Private Struggles into a Public Issue*).

**Week 15**

21 May - **Final exam (PAPERS ARE DUE)**