Class Details

Europe in the Global Context

Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:00 – 13:20
Location to be confirmed

Prerequisites

None/interest in European and global affairs

Class Description

The overriding goal of this course is to reach an understanding of the key strategic issues facing Europe in today’s global context. We will track how Europe has reached the present critical juncture in its history and consider where it is headed, including the options available to European policy-makers amid the on-going crisis in the EU. To this end, we will examine the key events of the 19th and 20th centuries that led to the foundation of the EU and have shaped contemporary Europe. At the same time, we will consider Europe’s relations with the US as today’s sole superpower, the challenges posed by the resurgence of China and Russia and Europe’s role as a major player in the resource-rich Eurasian continent, where a new round of great power competition is unfolding.

The course is interdisciplinary: it draws on political economy, history, international relations and geopolitics. It aims to raise questions and stimulate discussion rather than provide clear-cut answers.

Lectures, discussions, student presentations, video materials, field trips

Desired Outcomes

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of why the EU was established after WWII and the more recent trends towards deeper integration

2. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the main problems the EU faces today

3. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Europe’s place in the contemporary world
Assessment

Components

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class attendance:</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation:</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term paper:</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final paper:</td>
<td>35%</td>
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Presentation: (students select own topic; 10 mins presentation followed by discussion)
Mid-term paper: (students select one topic from five; 1,500-2,000 words)
Final paper: (students select one topic from five; 2,000-3,000 words)

Assessment Expectations

Grade A: Excellent work. Shows a full mastery of the topic. Is well researched, well organized and well referenced. Shows ability to make an original approach to the problem/topic set.

Grade B: Good work. Has done the necessary research and made a clear answer to the problem set, using reasonable referencing. Shows some insights.

Grade C: Satisfactory work. Has done necessary research but no more. Makes attempt to answer problem but perhaps not always very clearly. Rather mechanical and lacking individual insights.

Grade D: Passable work. Meets minimum requirements but may not be very coherent or well argued. Perhaps not well focused on the problems set. Probably based on very limited reading.

Grade F: Fails to meet the requirements

Grade conversion

N/A

Grading Policy

NYU in Prague aims to have grading standards and results in all its courses similar to those that prevail at Washington Square.

Attendance Policy

Each unexcused absences will result in your final grade being reduced by 3%. Absences only for medical reasons will be excused. To obtain an excused absence, you are obliged to supply either a doctor’s note or corroboration of your illness by a member of the housing staff (either an RA or a Building Manager). Absences due to travel will not be excused.

Late Submission of Work

Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor

Delayed submission will negatively influence the overall assessment

End of term papers must be submitted on time

Plagiarism Policy

According to the Liberal Studies Program Student Handbook, plagiarism is defined as follows:

Plagiarism is presenting someone else’s work as though it were one’s own. More specifically plagiarism is to present as one’s own a sequence of words quoted without quotation marks from another writer, a paraphrased passage from another writer’s work; facts or ideas gathered, organized and reported by someone else, orally and/or in writing. Since plagiarism is a matter of fact, not of the student’s intention, it is crucial that acknowledgment of the sources be accurate and complete. Even where there is no conscious intention to deceive, the failure to make appropriate acknowledgment constitutes plagiarism.

The College of Arts and Science’s Academic Handbook defines plagiarism similarly and also specifies the following:

“presenting an oral report drawn without attribution from other sources (oral or written), writing a paragraph which, despite being in different words, expresses someone else’s idea without a reference to the source of the idea, or submitting essentially the same paper in two different
courses (unless both teachers have given their permission in advance).

Receiving help on a take-home examination or quiz is also cheating – and so is giving that help – unless expressly permitted by the teacher (as in collaborative projects). While all this looks like a lot to remember, all you need to do is give credit where it is due, take credit only for original ideas, and ask your teacher or advisor when in doubt.”

“Penalties for plagiarism range from failure for a paper, failure for the course or dismissal from the university.” *(Liberal Studies Program Student Handbook)*

Required Text(s)

The course Reader: European Integration in the Global Context, Part I and Part II

Additional reading material is listed in the description of individual lectures below

Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase as copies are in NYUP Library)

N/A

Internet Research Guidelines

Exercise caution, relying mainly on official institutional sites and accredited academic sites

Additional Required Equipment

N/A

Session 1

Tuesday, September 3

Introduction to the course

Setting out the aims and methodology of the course. An introduction to the theory of geopolitics: Mackinder (and others): The struggle for control of the East European “Heartland” and Eurasian “World-Island”. The current crisis of the European Union.

*Essential reading*


*Further reading*


Session 2  
Thursday,  
September 5  

**Balance of Power in Europe in the 19th Century**

The defeat of Napoleon and the establishment of the Concert of Europe (1815-1914). The concept of the balance of power: its strengths and weaknesses. The unraveling of the Concert in the run-up to World War I and the emergence of the US as a global player.

**Essential reading**


**Further reading**


Session 3  
Tuesday,  
September 10  

**The Unification of Germany**

The drivers of German unification: the struggle with Napoleonic France. The Prussian-Austrian conflict: why Prussia gained the upper hand; assessing Bismarck’s role and actions.

**Essential reading**


**Further reading**


Session 4  
Thursday,  
September 12  

**The Unification of Italy; the Austro-Hungarian Empire**

The unification of Italy: further destabilization in Europe. The Austrian Empire/the Austro-Hungarian Empire: a modern multi-ethnic integration model. The disintegration of the Empire: self-determination, fragmentation and the further advance of the nation-state.

**Essential reading**


Further reading


(http://www.h-net.org/~habsweb/occasionalpapers/untaughtlessons.html#lesson one).

Session 5
Tuesday, September 17

Russia in the 19th Century: Its Emergence as a Major European Player

Russia’s role in defeating Napoleon and in the Concert of Europe. Reforms under Tsar Alexander II; Tsar Nicholas II and the Bolshevik revolution. The foundation of the USSR.

Essential reading


Further reading


Session 7
Tuesday, September 24

China in the 19th Century: Its ‘Century of Humiliation’

The Qing Dynasty. The Opium Wars. The First Sino-Japanese war (1894-95); China’s further humiliation at the hands of Japan as the rising regional power. The Chinese revolution of 1911 and the early years of the Republic.

Essential reading


Further reading


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**Session 8**

**Thursday, September 26**

**World War I and Its Consequences**


**Essential reading**


**Further reading**


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**Session 9**

**Friday, September 27**

(Make up for Tuesday classes)

**DVD viewing or field trip – to be decided**

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**Session 10**

**Tuesday, October 1**

**World War II and Its Consequences**

The causes and conduct of the war. The final resolution of tensions created by German unification. The post-War settlement and the roots of the EU/NATO.

**Essential reading**


**Further reading**


**Session 11**
**Thursday, October 3**

**The Cold War: The Soviet Occupation of Central and Eastern Europe**

The East-West confrontation: the Cold War and the Berlin Wall. How Stalin engineered control over Central and Eastern Europe.

**Essential reading**


**Further reading**


**Session 12**
**Tuesday, October 8**

**The Economics of Communism**


**Essential reading**


**Further reading**


**Session 13**
**Thursday, October 10**

**The Re-emerging Eurasian Giant: China, 1945-89: From Communist Victory to Market Reforms**

The establishment of the People’s Republic of China in 1949. The Great Leap Forward and the Cultural
Revolution. The Sino-Soviet split.

**Essential reading**


**Further reading**


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**Session 14**  
**Tuesday, October 15**

The European Union

From modest beginnings to monetary union; widening and deepening over a half a century. The Union’s key institutions and main operational principles.

**Essential reading**


**Further reading**


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**Session 15**  
**Thursday, October 17**

The Failure of East European Integration under Communism

Khrushchev’s de-Stalinization, Gorbachev’s perestroika and Reagan’s realpolitik; the collapse of the USSR. Anti-communist uprisings in Eastern Europe. The fall of the Berlin Wall and the demise of the Soviet bloc.

**Essential reading**


**Further reading**


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**Session 16**

**Tuesday, October 22**

DVD viewing or field trip – to be decided

Mid-term papers due

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**Session 17**

**Thursday, October 24**

**EU/NATO Enlargement into Eastern Europe: The New Cold War**

The EU as the anchor for political and economic transition. The US/NATO as the regional guarantor of stability. NATO-Russia relations.

**Essential reading**


**Further reading**


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**Session 18**

**Tuesday, October 29**

**Russia: From Yeltsin to Putin 2.0**

The Yeltsin years (1990s): the rush to establish democracy and the market; the financial crisis of 1998
and post-crisis recovery. The Putin era (from 2000 to the present day).

**Essential reading**


**Further reading**


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**Session 19**

Thursday, October 31

**Russia and the EU Today**

The structurally divergent but complementary economies of the EU and Russia. The foreign policy of Putin’s Russia. The US-oriented foreign policy of new EU members from Eastern Europe. Prospects for improved relations.

**Essential reading**


**Further reading**


Series of papers on all aspects of Russian foreign policy by Andrei Tsygankov: [http://bss.sfsu.edu/tsygankov/Research/Articles.htm](http://bss.sfsu.edu/tsygankov/Research/Articles.htm).


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**Session 20**

Tuesday, 

**Student presentations**
November 5

**Session 21**
Thursday, November 7

**China’s Internal Transformation, 1989 – Present**

How China functions today: towards capitalism under the banner of communism. The sources of its continued rapid growth; economic and political risks; the prospects for democracy.

**Essential reading**


**Further reading**


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**Fall Break**
November 11-15

**Session 22**
Tuesday, November 19

**China in the Global Context: The Enduring ‘Civilization State’**

China’s “peaceful rise” and the changing balance of global power. China’s role in supporting the global economy. The impact of China’s resurgence on the globe and specifically on the European Union.

**Essential reading**


**Further reading**


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**Session 23**
Thursday, November 21

**The Rise of New Global Players and Its Impact on Europe**

Looking beyond China: The BRICs and N-11. The geopolitical power of the BRICs. “Beijing Consensus” and the “World without the West”; how Europe is likely to cope/adjust

**Further reading**


*BRICS and Beyond*, report by Goldman Sachs Global Economics Group, 2007


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**Session 24**
Friday, November 22

(Make up for Thursday classes)

**Student presentations**

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**Session 25**
Tuesday, November 26

**Resource Constraints and the Significance of Eurasia**

Trends in global population growth. Resource constraints and Eurasian resources. Russia’s role in Eurasia and its proposals for the reintegration of the former Soviet space; Russia-US rivalry in Central Asia.

**Essential reading**


**Further reading**


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**Session 26**

**Thursday, November 28**

**Eurasia and the New Global System**

Economics – the main driver shaping the new global system. “Central Eurasia” as an integral part of the global system. Russia's vision of a “Eurasian Union”.

**Essential reading**


Karaganov, Sergei, “A Union of Europe: the Last Chance?”, Valdai Discussion Club, July 2010 ([http://www.valdaiclub.com/content/union-europe-last-chance](http://www.valdaiclub.com/content/union-europe-last-chance)).


Series of papers on aspects of Russian foreign policy by Andrei Tsygankov: [http://bss.sfsu.edu/tsygankov/Research/Articles.htm](http://bss.sfsu.edu/tsygankov/Research/Articles.htm).

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**Session 27**

**Tuesday, December 3**

**The Eurozone Crisis and Europe’s Evolution Beyond That Crisis**

The structural flaws of the Eurozone and how they will likely be dealt with. “Pan-European integration” as a response to the new global environment?

**Essential reading**


http://www.brugesgroup.com/germaneconomicpolicyandtheeuro.pdf

Whyte, Philip, “Why Germany is not a Model for the Eurozone”, Centre for European Reform, London, October 2010.


Session 28
Thursday, December 5
(last day of classes)

Summing up, Part I: Class discussion of questions such as the following:

- Do geopolitical and balance of power theories stand up to scrutiny?
- What are the ramifications of the (re-)emergence of China?
- What are the implications for Europe and Central Europe in particular?
- What are the implications for the United States?
- And for US relations with Europe?
- How will the EU overcome its present crisis?

Final papers due

Session 29
Tuesday, December 10

Summing up, Part II: Class discussion continued

Session 30
Thursday, December 12

Feedback on final papers

Classroom Etiquette

No eating in the classroom.

Required Co-curricular Activities

N/A