Instructor Details

Karel B. Müller
mullerk@vse.cz
Monday 1.30 and by appointment

Class Details

Varieties of Contemporary European Culture
Mon Wed 12:00-13:20
Location to be confirmed.

Prerequisites

None

Class 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.

Lecture, discussions, video resources, guest speakers

Desired Outcomes

1. Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of key issues in the history of nation forming processes in Europe.
2. Critically analyze contemporary social, political and cultural forms and varieties of European civil societies.
3. Demonstrate the ability to analyze contemporary problems and conflict within the process of European integration

Assessment Components

Class participation: 20 %
Mid-term test: 20 %
Final test: 30 %
Paper (plus presentation): 30 %

The final paper (3000 words, 15% tolerance) is due in the last class (the final test class). The paper must be fully referenced and must include a bibliography. Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.

Assessment Expectations

Grade A: Exceptional level of accurate, clear and analytical writing
Grade B: Very good level of written work but falling short of the highest level
Grade C: Satisfactory and sufficiently accurate written work
Grade D: Adequate level of written work but weakly analytical
Grade F: Muddled, poorly presented written work

**Grade conversion**

A=94-100  
A-=90-93  
B+=87-89  
B=84-86  
B-=80-83  
C+=77-79  
C=74-76  
C-=70-73  
D+=67-69  
D=65-66  
F=below 65

**Grading Policy**

NYU Prague aims to have grading standards and results similar to those that prevail at Washington Square. At the College of Arts and Sciences, roughly 39% of all final grades are in the B+ to B- range, and 50% in the A/A- range. We have therefore adopted the following grading guideline: in any non-Stern course, class teachers should try to ensure that no more than 50% of the class receives an A or A-. A guideline is not a curve. A guideline is just that—it gives an ideal benchmark for the distribution of grades towards which we work.

**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**

Papers will be penalized by 5% for every working day they are late.

**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

Students are also encouraged to consult all books and readings from „the course’s shelf” in the NYU library.

None

Students are encouraged to use the internet to access relevant resources on their chosen topic. The list of recommended websites will be given.

The lecturer reserves the right to alter the syllabus during the course of the semester if necessary.

Overview of the course

Monday, February 11

Session 2

Defining Europe

Wednesday, February 13


Session 3

The Concept of the Nation in European Cultures

Friday, February 15


Session 4

Monday, February 18


Session 5

Modernity & Process of Modernization in Europe

Wednesday, February 20


Session 6

Modernity & Process of Modernization in Europe

Monday, February 25


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<tr>
<th>Session 7</th>
<th>Models of Regionalization and Nation Forming Processes across Europe</th>
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<th>Session 8</th>
<th>Models of Regionalization and Nation Forming Processes across Europe</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, March 1 (make up for Wednesday classes)</td>
<td>Hobsbawm, E.J.: <em>Nations and nationalism since 1780</em>; (Cambridge, CUP 2004), pp. 131-162.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Session 9</th>
<th>Inventing Central Europe</th>
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<th>Session 10</th>
<th>Jews in Europe; guest lecture - M. Belfer from Metropolitan University in Prague.</th>
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<tr>
<th>Session 11</th>
<th>Central Europe and Post-communist Civil Societies</th>
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<th>Session 12</th>
<th>Watching the movie “Seven days to remember”, the unique documentary from the Prague Spring 1968.</th>
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<td>Wednesday, March 13</td>
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<tr>
<th>Session 13</th>
<th>Student Presentations</th>
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<td>Friday, March 15 ( make up for Wednesday classes)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Session 14</th>
<th>MIDTERM TEST</th>
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<td>Monday, March 18</td>
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Session 15 | Student Presentations
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Wednesday, March 20

Session 16 | Student Presentations
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Friday, March 22
(make up for Wednesday classes)

Session 17 | Student Presentations
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Monday, March 25

Session 18 | Student Presentations
---|---
Wednesday, March 27

Spring Break
April 1 - 5

Session 19 | Student Presentations
---|---
Monday, April 8

Session 20 | Student Presentations
---|---
Wednesday, April 10

Session 21 | Gender in/equalities across Europe; guest lecture Hana Havelková from Faculty of Humanities, Charles University in Prague
---|---
Monday, April 15
Havelková, H. *Waste of Talents: Turning Private Struggles into a Public Issue.*

Session 22 | Civil Society and its Enemies
---|---
Wednesday, April 17

Session 23 | Globalization as a Challenge to the Modern State and Civil Societies
---|---
Monday, April 22


Session 24
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Source</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, April 29</td>
<td>National Holiday</td>
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<td>Monday, May 13</td>
<td>Muller, K. B.: Search for a European Identity – Psycho-Sociological Perspective; in Central European Journal of International &amp; Security Studies; Vol. 12007, No.1,</td>
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<td>Session 29</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM (PAPERS ARE DUE)</td>
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<td>Monday, May 20</td>
<td>Classroom Etiquette</td>
<td>No specifications, I just want the class being as civil, focused and interactive public space as possible.</td>
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<td>Required Co-curricular Activities</td>
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Suggested Co-curricular Activities

None