Class code: EURO-UA9294001

Instructor Details

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Office hours immediately before and after class, and by arrangement via e-mail

Class Details

The Political Economy of Europe from a Global Perspective – SPRING 2015

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 today and how they impact on the political economy of the region. 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 Eurozone. 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 draws largely on political economy but also on 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

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

Class attendance: 20%
Presentation: 20% (students select own topic; 10 mins presentation followed by discussion)
Mid-term paper: 25% (students select one topic from five; 1,500-2,000 words)
Final paper: 35% (students select one topic from five; 2,000-2,500 words)
Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.

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
Attendance Policy

Absences only for medical reasons and for religious observance 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). To be excused for religious observance, you must contact the instructor and the Associate Director via e-mail one week in advance of the holiday. Your absence is excused for the holiday only and does not include days of travel associated with the holiday. Unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from your final course grade for every week of classes missed.

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)

Required reading is included in the course reader (“European Integration in the Global Context,” Part I and Part II).

Recommended (additional/source) reading is listed below the description of each individual lecture.

Supplemental Texts (not required to purchase as copies are in NYU-P Library)

NA

Internet Research Guidelines

Exercise caution, rely mainly on official sites of institutions and accredited academic sites

N/A

Additional Required Equipment

N/A

Session 1

Tuesday, Feb 3

Introduction to the course

Setting out the aims and methodology of the course. An introduction to the political economy of Europe – the main internal and external challenges to the region.

Required reading (included in the reader)


**Recommended (source) reading**


**Session 2**
Thursday, Feb 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 its impact on the European economies.

**Required reading (included in the reader)**


**Recommended (additional) reading**


**Session 3**
Tuesday, Feb 10

**The Unification of Germany**

The drivers of German unification: the struggle with Napoleonic France. The Prussian-Austrian conflict: how Prussia, as the economic motor of Continental Europe, gained the upper hand.

**Required reading (included in the reader)**


**Recommended (source) reading**


**Session 4**
Thursday, Feb 12

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

The unification of Italy: another building block for the future EU. 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.

**Required reading (in the reader)**


**Recommended (additional) reading**


**Session 5**
Tuesday, Feb 17

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

**Session 6**
Thursday, Feb 19

**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 and its economic implications.

**Required reading (in the reader)**


**Recommended (additional) reading**


**Session 7**

**Tuesday, Feb 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: a new economic heavyweight in the making?

**Required reading (in the reader)**


**Recommended (additional) reading**


**Session 8**

**Thursday, Feb 26**

**World War I and its Consequences**


**Required reading (in the reader)**


**Recommended (additional) reading**


**Session 9**

**Tuesday, March 3**

**Session 10**

**Thursday, March 6**

**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, its economic implications and the roots of the EU/NATO.

**Required reading (in the reader)**


**Recommended (additional) reading**


**Session 11**

**Tuesday, March 10**

**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 political and economic control over Central and Eastern Europe.

**Required reading (in the reader)**


**Recommended (additional) reading**


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**Session 12**
Thursday, March 12

**The Economics of Communism**


**Required reading (in the reader)**


**Recommended (additional) reading**


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**Session 13**
Tuesday, March 17

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


**Required reading (in the reader)**


**Recommended (additional) reading**


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**Session 14**
Thursday, March 19

**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.

**Required reading**


**Recommended (additional) reading**


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**Session 15**
Tuesday, March 24

**The Failure of East European Integration under Communism**

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

**Required reading (in the reader)**

### Session 16
**Thursday, March 26**

**Recommended (additional) reading**

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

**Mid-term papers due**

### Session 17
**Tuesday, March 31**

**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.

**Required reading**
- Dannreuther, Roland, *Russian Perceptions of the Atlantic Alliance*, Edinburgh University, 1997 ([http://www.nato.int/acad/fellow/95-97/dannreut.pdf](http://www.nato.int/acad/fellow/95-97/dannreut.pdf)).

**Recommended (additional) reading**

### Session 18
**Thursday, April 2**

**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).

**Required reading (in the reader)**

**Recommended (additional) reading**

### Session 19
**Tuesday, April 14**

**Russia and the EU Today: Complementary Economies, Divergent Politics**

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.

**Required reading (in the reader)**

**Recommended (additional) reading**


**Student presentations**

**Session 20**
Thursday, April 16

**Session 21**
Tuesday, April 21

**China’s Internal Economic and Political 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.

**Required reading (in the reader)**


**Recommended (additional) reading**


**Session 22**
Thursday, April 23

**China’s Economy 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 EU.

**Required reading (in the reader)**


**Recommended (additional) reading**


**Session 23**
Tuesday, April 28

**The Rise of New Global Players and Its Impact on the Eurozone**

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

**Required reading (in the reader)**

“A game of catch-up”, *The Economist* (supplement), 24 September 2011.

**Recommended (additional) reading**


### Student presentations

#### Session 24
**Thursday, April 30**

#### Session 25
**Tuesday, May 5**

**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.

**Required reading (in the reader)**


**Recommended (additional) reading**


**Eurasia and the New Global Economic 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”.

**Required reading (not in the reader – copies available from the professor)**

President Vladimir Putin’s proposals for a “Eurasian Union”, Izvestia, 4 October 2011


#### Session 26
**Thursday, May 7**

**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?

**Required reading (not in the reader)**


**Recommended (additional) reading**


Willem Buiter and Ebrahim Rahbari, “The Future of the Euro Area: Fiscal Union, Break-up or Blundering
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

Summing up, Part II: Class discussion continued – the global economic crisis

Feedback on final papers

Classroom Etiquette

No eating in the classroom.

Required Co-curricular Activities

N/A

Suggested Co-curricular Activities

N/A