EUS 400

The European Legacy

Course Outline

**Fall 2021 Dr. Nina Belmonte**

**CRN: 11658 CLE B326**

**Tues: 4:30-7:30** **Off. Hrs: Mon. 1:00-2:00pm**

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**Course Description**

We use the term “Western culture,” but do we know what that really means? What are its defining values and where did they come from? In this interdisciplinary seminar course, you will explore the roots of western culture in the narratives of shared values that accompanied the historical emergence of something called “Europe” and identify the legacy of these narratives in some of the most pressing issues for us here and now.

Our inquiry will revolve around four mutually implicit, double-edged themes:

1) faith/tolerance; 2) the value of the individual; 3) cosmopolitanism; 4) knowledge as universal “truth”. For each of these, we will examine its historical sources and seek out its ongoing operation in current events. Weekly seminars and discussion forums will provide an opportunity for you to share ideas, review readings and integrate course material toward a final term paper on a topic of your choice.

**Intended Learning Outcomes**

In this course you will gain a more complex, critical and historical understanding of the roots of western culture, the nature and source of its defining values and how they continue to operate in our present. You will be challenged to become more attentive readers, better writers, and more critical thinkers and cultural observers. You will have the opportunity to devote the semester to developing a research paper on a topic of your own choice, including developing an abstract and bibliography, and presenting your work to colleagues.

**Course Materials**

All required readings, images and videos will be accessible through the course Brightspace website. Weekly discussions will require research from current media sources (online, television, radio, social media).

**Course Evaluation**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 90-100 A+ | 77-79 B+ | 65-69 C+ |
| 85-89 A | 73-76 B | 60-64 C |
| 80-84 A- | 70-72 B- | 50-59 D |
|  |  | 0-49 F |

Participation/Weekly Posts 20%

2 Reflections (10% each) 20%

Abstract & Bibliography 10%

Presentation 20%

Final Paper 30%

**Description of Assignments**

**Participation/Weekly Online Forum Posts (20%)**

The quality of this course will depend largely on the quality of your participation. Each week, you will be required to:

**Read** the posted assigned readings.

**Attend** lectures and discussion.

**Research** the continuing legacy of these ideas in contemporary issues.

**Reflect/Respond** by posting on the course website an item from current news or cultural media, that relates to the week’s topics, along with your thoughts.

Each week one person will be assigned as forum facilitator, in charge of initiating the discussion and summarizing it for the weekly seminar meeting. Participation will be evaluated on your understanding and engagement with the topic.

**2 Reflections (10% each)**

You will write two short (3-5 page) reflections on the assigned readings and class discussion. These can be on any topic from the course readings, but the first must be completed by Week Four, the second by Week Nine. Reflections will be evaluated on the depth and complexity of reflection on your chosen text(s). These are intended to serve as preliminary research and inspiration for your term paper.

**Abstract & Bibliography (10%)**

The main work of this course will be researching and composing a substantial term paper. Toward this end, a 500-word abstract along with a working bibliography will be due by mid-semester. The abstract should include a sense of the structure (outline) of the final paper.

**Presentation (20%)**

Week Twelve will be reserved for presentations on your final paper topics. You need not complete the paper by this time, but you must have a cohesive, substantive sense of the completed project. Presentations will be evaluated according to quality of research, clarity and organization of the presentation.

**Final Term Paper (30%)**

The primary work for this course will be researching and writing a term paper on a topic of your choice. Topics should bring together historical material with an issue of contemporary importance. This can be a topic of ongoing interest to you, as long as the final paper is substantially informed by the material and the themes of this course. Topics must be cleared with me before work begins on the abstract. Papers will be evaluated on your understanding of the material, the quality of your research, the depth of your reflection and the clarity and presentation of your discussion.

**Course Policies**

**A Note on Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

Actions such as plagiarism, multiple submissions, falsifying materials used in academic evaluations, cheating, aiding others to cheat, or unauthorized use of an editor violate University policies on academic integrity and are considered serious offence. You must inform yourself about the university regulations. [UVic Policy on Academic Integrity](https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/index.php#/policy/Sk_0xsM_V?bc=true&bcCurrent=08%20-%20Policy%20on%20Academic%20Integrity&bcGroup=Undergraduate%20Academic%20Regulations&bcItemType=policies)

**Accessibility Statement**

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the [Centre for Accessible Learning](https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/) as soon as possible. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

**Withdrawals and Deferrals**

If you miss a substantial number of classes or assignments, you will be asked to withdraw or will receive an ‘N’ at the end of the semester. Even when the reasons for failing to meet course requirements are valid, it is not academically sound to allow students missing significant amounts of work to continue in the course. You should familiarize yourself with the withdrawal dates in the current academic calendar.

**\*\*Territory Acknowledgement\*\***

We acknowledge and respect the lək̓ʷəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the University of Victoria stands, and the Songhees, Esquimalt and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

**Schedule of Classes**

*Note: You will be expected to be familiar with the Required Readings. They will be posted on Brightspace. Supplemental Materials are suggested for your interest and enlightenment. “Continuing Legacy” are suggested topics for weekly postings and may change as new issues arise. Students are encouraged to suggest additional topics or supplemental readings.*

**September 14**

**WEEK ONE: Shared Values—Shared Culture?**

Required Reading: Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

European Charter of Fundamental Rights

US Bill of Rights & 14th Amendment

Declaration of the Rights of Man and The Citizen

Supplemental Materials: de Gouges, “Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the Female Citizen”

Wollstonecraft, “A Vindication of the Rights of Women”

Continuing Legacy: Environnement Jeunesse

Juliana v. United States

Ava DuVernay, "13th" (2016)(Netflix)

**September 21**

**WEEK TWO: Complexifying the Monolith**

Required Reading: Davies, *Europe* (excerpts)

Pagden, *The Idea of Europe* (Intro)

Habermas/Derrida, “What Binds Europeans Together?”

Supplemental Materials: Antique Maps of Europe

Pensky, et al, *Old Europe, New Europe, Core Europe*, Intro

Continuing Legacy: Look up “European Identity” in *The Guardian*

Brexit!

**September 28**

**WEEK THREE: Faith – A Christian Community?**

Required Reading: Augustine, *City of God* (Excerpts)

Paul’s Letter to the *Ephesians*

Peter Brown, *Rise of the Christian West*, Ch. 1, 2, 19

Supplemental Materials: Aslan, *Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth*

*Alcuin of York: His Life & Letters* (Charlemagne)

Continuing Legacy: Christian Community Movement for Religious Renewal

“The Handmaid’s Tale” (series)

**October 5**

**WEEK FOUR: Faith – Freedom and Tolerance *\*\*First Reflection Due\*\****

Required Reading: Pico della Mirandola, *Oration on the Dignity of Man*

More, *Utopia,* “The Religions of the Utopians”

Voltaire, *Treatise on Tolerance*

T.S. Eliot, “Notes Toward the Definition of Culture” (excerpt)

Supplemental Materials: Lionel Laborie, “Radical Tolerance in early Enlightenment”

Film: “Even the Rain” (Bollaín, 2010)

Continuing Legacy: Charlie Hebdo

Religious Dress in Public Space

**October 12**

**WEEK FIVE: The Individual – Inwardness/Immortality/Inviolability**

Required Reading: Paul, Letter to the *Galatians*

de Beauvoir, *Ethics of Ambiguity* (excerpt)

Siedentop, *Inventing the Individual*, Chp. 4, 25 and Epilogue

Supplemental Materials: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, IX, 9, 1170a

Montaigne, *Essays*, Bk X

Shakespeare, “Macbeth” and/or “Hamlet”

“The Seventh Seal” (Bergman, 1957)

Continuing Legacy: Medically Assisted Death

Photographic Portraits of Sebastião Salgado

**October 19**

**WEEK SIX: The Individual – *Liberty=Freedom? \*\*Abstract and Bibliography Due\*\****

Required Reading: Thucydides, “Pericles’ Funeral Speech”

Gregory of Nyssa, “On Ecclesiastes”

Mill, *On Liberty,* “Of Individuality”

Mazzini, *Essays*, “Europe: Its Condition and Prospects”

Supplemental Materials: Martin Luther King, “I Have a Dream” speech

Emerson, “Self-Reliance”

John Locke, *2nd Treatise on Government*, Ch. 4&5

BBC, "History of Africa: Slavery & Suffering" 16

Continuing Legacy: 1619 Project

Black Lives Matter

Residential Schools

**October 26**

**WEEK SEVEN: Truth as Ideality/Universality**

Required Reading: Plato, *Republic*, Book 7

Descartes, *Discourse on Method*, 1-4

Newton, *Principia*, Bk 3

Supplemental Materials: Dussel, “Anti-Cartesian Meditations”

Mills, “Non-Cartesian Sums”

Continuing Legacy: COVID-19 and Scientific Procedure

Indigenous Wisdoms

**November 2**

**WEEK EIGHT: Truth as Universality: “Science”**

Required Reading:Kuhn, *Structure of Scientific Revolutions* (excerpts)

Horkheimer and Adorno, *Dialectic of Enlightenment*,

“What is Enlightenment?”

Feyerabend, *Against Method*, Intro & Sects. 1, 18

Continuing Legacy: Climate Change (and Denial)

Observer Effect/Quantum Theory

**November 9**

**WEEK NINE: *Reading Break***

**November 16**

**WEEK TEN: Cosmopolitanism**

Required Reading: Kant, “Universal History,” “Perpetual Peace”

Benhabib, *Another Cosmopolitanism*, “Philosophical Foundations”

Derrida, “On Cosmopolitanism”

Supplemental Materials: Edwards & Woolf, “Cosmopolis: Rome as World City”

Nava, *Visceral Cosmopolitanism*

Continuing Legacy: Refugees, Refugee Camps

New Nationalist Movements

European Capitals of Culture

**November 23**

**WEEK ELEVEN – TBA (Student Choice)**

**November 30**

**WEEK TWELVE: Student Presentations (*Last Class*)**

**\*\*Final Paper Due: December 14\*\***