Course description
The course seeks to address the question of what is distinctive about European cultures and identities, as represented in cities, such as Athens, Rome, Córdoba, Florence, Amsterdam, Paris and Berlin. While it is clear that there is great diversity across the continent, we will explore attitudes, ideas and hopes that either have become common guiding posts, or still are sites of contestation today. For example, while democracy and mathematical science are widely seen as common, determining factors for societal progress, the significance of cross-cultural toleration and post-colonial approaches are still debated in the public sphere in contemporary Europe.

Mostly, the themes examined will be of relevance to us in Canada as well, since many features of the European world picture have become globalised through colonialism, socio-political ties and common cultural ancestry. The course will be supported by guest speakers from Anthropology, Art History and Visual Studies, Biology, Greek and Roman Studies, History, History in Art, Italian and Hispanic Studies, and Visual Arts.

Method
Each week we will guided by a theme, which is especially connected to particular place in Europe and which continues to resonate today. While promoting an open mind about the attitudinal and conceptual resources present in European heritage, we will also seek to determine the contradictions inherent in that cultural framework. Students are expected to do assigned readings and assignments ahead of lectures, and to participate in class discussion.

Course objectives
To attain an understanding of focal concepts that have made the cultural tissues of Europe what they are today. A multi-disciplinary grasp of the complexity of the European cultural heritage will be obtained through discussion of key attitudes, ideas and hopes that characterise European cultures and identities.
Course organisation

Texts
Primary texts will be made available on Coursespaces, unless otherwise noted. Some supplementary readings may be located at the Reserve Room of the McPherson Library.

Student engagement
Assigned weekly readings need to be done ahead of class lectures. Attendance during class periods, weekly assignments, constructive participation, and tolerance with regard to the views of others will be expected and contribute to the participation credit. Students are responsible for materials covered, and for informing themselves about announcements missed if absent.

Tips for best performances
a) Do readings ahead of class periods and read material attentively.
b) Come to class, and participate in class discussion with constructive points.
c) Speak to the instructor if failing to understand the material.

Grading
Mid-term test 25%
A final, comprehensive, take-home exam 40%
Weekly assignments 25%
Participation 10%

The mid-term test
Composed of short answer and long-answer questions. The test assesses your understanding of the readings and lectures. Clarity and presentation of your answers contribute to your overall score.

Take-home final exam
Composed of short-answer and long-answer questions, comprehensive, covering all readings, lectures and field trip information, handed out the last day of classes. Like the midterm, the exam assesses your understanding of the course material. Clarity and presentation of your answers contribute to your overall score. Exam questions are handed out on the last day of classes, and the completed, printed, exam must be delivered to the instructor no later than NOON, 5 days after the last day of classes. You may also be asked to submit a copy through Coursespaces. Late exams will NOT be accepted and will receive 0%.

Weekly assignments
Most weeks you will be asked to write up a short commentary on, or a summary of points, found in the readings assigned for that week. One paragraph will normally be sufficient (maximum length: one page). Further information on these weekly assignments will be found on the Coursespaces website.

Participation: Participation will be assessed on the basis of a) regular attendance and b) constructive participation in class discussion. Class attendance will be taken. Justified absences should be discussed with the instructor ahead of time.


**Other matters**

**Numerical and letter grades**

Percentages will convert to a letter grade according to the standard University scheme:

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

**What the letter grades mean**

A+, A, or A- Earned by work which is technically superior, shows mastery of the subject matter, and in the case of an A+ offers original insight and/or goes beyond course expectations. Normally achieved by a minority of students.

B+, B, or B- Earned by work that indicates a good comprehension of the course material, a good command of the skills needed to work with the course material, and the student’s full engagement with the course requirements and activities. A B+ represents a more complex understanding and/or application of the course material. Normally achieved by the largest number of students.

C+ or C Earned by work that indicates an adequate comprehension of the course material and the skills needed to work with the course material and that indicates the student has met the basic requirements for completing assigned work and/or participating in class activities.

D Earned by work that indicates minimal command of the course materials and/or minimal participation in class activities worthy of course credit toward the degree.

F Work that is not worthy of course credit toward the degree.

**Late assignments**

Late assignments will not be accepted (they will be worth 0%) and exams will not be rescheduled. If a test is missed for significant reasons of a medical sort (provide medical certificate), or for other serious, documented personal reasons, arrangements will be made to accommodate the student within reason. Documented evidence for having legitimately missed an exam and an explanatory statement in writing have to be received no more than ten days after the deadline or exam missed.

**Academic integrity**

The University Calendar states that “Academic integrity requires commitment to the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. ... Any action that contravenes this standard, including misrepresentation, falsification or deception, undermines the intention and worth of scholarly work and violates the fundamental academic rights of members of our community.” Violations of academic integrity include plagiarism, multiple submissions, falsifying materials subject to academic evaluation, cheating on work, tests and examinations, and aiding others to cheat. Penalties for these violations vary, with first violations generally resulting in a failing grade on the work. Please familiarise yourselves with the policies at [http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2017-05/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html](http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2017-05/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html)

**Diversity and Transition**

UVic is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members. New students may contact the Transition Office, [www.uvic.ca/transition](http://www.uvic.ca/transition).