Introduction to European Cultures and Identities (EUS 200)  
Spring 2018  
CRN 21533

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Course description
This course seeks to address the questions, ‘what is a European?’ and ‘what is special about European culture?’ Rather than expect a unitary answer to those questions we pursue a pluralistic approach. While we grant that Europe needs to be understood as being comprised by a great diversity of cultures and identities we shall, nonetheless, seek to identify ideals of civilization, civility, citizenship and cosmopolitanism that may be seen as common characteristics of ‘European civilisation’. For this purpose we shall explore key attitudes, ideas and hopes, as they become expressed in selected European cities, including Athens, Rome, Córdoba, Florence, Sevilla, Paris, London and Berlin at crucial moments in their respective histories.

Method
Each week we will focus on a particular theme that came to prominence at a certain time and place, continues to resonate in today’s Europe, and even informs other areas of the world where European ideas and practices have reached. Students are expected to do assigned readings and assignments, and to participate in class discussion. Guest speakers from the European Studies faculty and beyond will focus on particular aspects of the week’s theme and selected geographical area.

Course objectives
This course is to provide a multi-perspectival introduction to the European cultural heritage by facilitating discussion of key attitudes, ideas and hopes, characteristic of European civilisation. While promoting an open mind about the attitudinal and conceptual resources present in that heritage, we shall also pursue some of the contradictions inherent in that cultural framework, which have too often led to oppression, exploitation and misery in cross-civilisational contact situations.
Texts and Coursespaces readings
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.

Course organisation and 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
1. Do readings ahead of class periods and read material attentively.
2. Come to class, and participate in class discussion with constructive points.
3. Speak to the instructor if failing to understand the material.

Grading
Mid-term test 35%
A final, comprehensive, take-home exam 45%
Participation 20%

The mid-term test: Composed of short answer and essay 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, it will be comprehensive, covering all readings, lectures and field trip information. To be 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. Standards will be somewhat higher than the midterm, as you will have had more time to research and compose your answers. Late exams will not be accepted.

Participation: Participation will be assessed on the basis of a) regular attendance, b) constructive participation in class discussion, and c) weekly assignments. Class attendance will be taken. Justified absences should be discussed with the instructor ahead of time. Further information on the weekly assignments will be found on the Coursespaces website.

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

- A+ = 90-100
- B+ = 77-79
- C+ = 65-69
- D = 50-59
- A = 85-89
- B = 73-76
- C = 60-64
- F = 0-49
- A- = 80-84
- B- = 70-72
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 that is worthy of course credit toward the degree.

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

Academic Misconduct: 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: 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).