

Geography 349 – Europe

Fall 2011, 2:30-3:45 MW, Science 180

Professor Robert Ostergren

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Hours: MW 3:45-4:30; or by appt., e-mail: rcosterg@wisc.edu

PART I. PEOPLE AND ENVIRONMENT

- 1. Defining Europe (Sept 7):** European identities; Europe, the European Union (EU), and the World; Europe and its regions; Europe East and West, Europe's physical setting: location, outline (peninsular Europe), climate and climate change
Read: Text Chapter 1, Media supplement: 'Despite expansion, Europe still can't define 'European''
- 2. European environments (Sept 12-21):** Europe's highly varied terrestrial environments (Northwest Highlands, Iceland, North European Plain, Hercynian Uplands, Alpine and Mediterranean South) – characteristics, origins and major landscape features; Europe's maritime environments – the surrounding seas, physical characteristics, use and perceptions.
Read: Text Chapter 2, Media supplement: 'Global warming brightens the outlook for British wine'

MAP QUIZ (Sept 26)

- 3. Population (Sept 26-28):** Origins, growth and distribution of Europe's population; plague and pestilence, historic conditions of fertility and mortality, food and diet; the demographic transition; the Atlantic migrations; "since" the demographic transition – recent trends; immigration (fortress Europe), population policy and the "graying" of Europe.
Read: Text Chapter 3, Media supplements: 'Neolithic immigration: How Middle Eastern milk drinkers conquered Europe' 'Shrinking population, growing poverty: Germany offers alarming statistics on children' and 'In France, civil unions gain favor over marriage'

- 4. Human-environment interaction (Sept 28-Oct 3):** Environmental adaptations – traditional European agricultural systems and landscapes; human impacts and environmental change over the Ages – introduction of exotics, impacts of industrialization; contemporary environmental problems and challenges – global warming, energy, air and water pollution.
Read: Text Chapter 4; Media supplements: ‘The Dutch simulate their demise’, ‘Gibraltar: the oil slick floating off the Rock’ and ‘Germans rediscover a yen for rural life’

EXAM 1 (Oct 5)

PART II. CULTURE AND POLITY

- 5. Language (Oct 10-12):** language and culture; origins and differentiation of Europe’s linguistic realms – Hellenic, Romanic, Germanic, Celtic and Balto-Slavonic Europe; non-Indo-European languages; Europe’s linguistic diversity; the politics of language; language policy and the EU.
Read: Text Chapter 5; Media supplements: ‘The Anglo-Saxon invasion; Britain is more Germanic than it thinks’ and ‘One in three like their literature in English’ and ‘Romansh faces a silent future’
- 6. Values and Religion (Oct 17-19):** the rise, spread and division of Christian Europe; Islam in Europe, past and present, the Jewish Diaspora and the Holocaust; religion and place – religion and the built environment; sacred spaces and places; secular Europe; religious revival; religion, values and the EU.
Read: Text Chapter 6; Media supplements: ‘Fears of Eurabia’ ‘Germany’s Jews: Immigrants from the former Soviet Union are transforming Jewish life in Germany’ and ‘Pilgrims flock to the way of St. James’
- 7. Polity (Oct 26-Nov 2):** political and territorial identity through the Ages; the rise of nationalism and the nation-state; ethno-nationalism; the nation-state and devolution, ethnic minorities; supranationalism; EU “widenings” and “deepenings”; EU Governance and the future of the EU project; Euro-regionalism – a Europe of regions?
Read: Text Chapter 7; Media supplements: ‘Right-wing extremism: the village where the Neo-Nazis rule’ ‘Extremism: New far-right – the boy next door’ ‘Balkan Culture Wars: Here comes the equestrian statue’ and ‘Turkey: Neither West nor East but up’ and ‘Five reasons why Europe is cracking’

EXAM 2 (Nov 7)

PART III. TOWNS AND CITIES, WORK AND LEISURE

- 8. Europe's urban heritage (Nov 9-23):** the classical foundations of European urbanism – Greece and Rome; urban rebirth – the rise of medieval towns and trading systems; city, court and empire – renaissance and baroque refinements; the dawn of modernity – the industrial or Victorian city.
Read: Text Chapter 8
- 9. Modern and post-modern urbanism (Nov 28-30):** modernity, totalitarianism and urbanism and between the wars; the impact of World War II, post-war reconstruction and development (western and socialist); modern urban systems; post-modern cities.
Read: Text Chapter 9; Media supplements: 'Renewables in the city: A Nazi era bunker joins the battle against climate change' and 'Warsaw on the rise'
- 10. Making a living, consumption, leisure and popular culture (Dec 5-12):** employment sectors; labor markets and the conditions of work: feminization and flexibility; education and training; wealth and income; social protection, health care and the welfare state; revolutions in retailing and consumerism: hypermarkets, Eurobrands and fast food – consumption and cultural convergence; the European rite (right) of holidaymaking – tourism, past and present; popular culture and entertainment – television, cinema, print media and e-culture.
Read: Text Chapter 10; Media supplements: 'Education for all, but who pays?' 'Europeans shift long-held views that social benefits are untouchable' and 'Darth Vader vs. Death Strip: Berlin Wall sinks into Cold War Disneyland'

EXAM 3 (Dec 14)

Course Requirements

REQUIRED READING:

Textbook: Robert C. Ostergren and Mathias Le Bossé, *The Europeans: A Geography of People, Culture and Environment* SECOND EDITION (New York: Guilford Press, 2011). Reading assignments are noted in the course outline (see above).

Media Supplements: news media articles are posted on the course web site (Learn@UW). Assignments are noted in the outline above (about one per week), but please note that students should check the Learn@UW web site regularly for new postings since these articles may be updated.

EVALUATION:

- (1) Map Quiz on physical features and political units (**Monday, Sept 26**), 20 pts.
Students are asked to locate physical features and political units on a blank outline map. For preparation purposes, lists of physical features and political units, as well as blank outline maps are provided on the course web site (Learn@UW).
- (2) Three exams (**Wednesday, Oct 5, Monday, Nov 7, and Wednesday, Dec 14**), each 60 pts. Exams usually feature a mixture of testing techniques (multiple choice, identifications, map questions, short answer, matching, true-false, etc.) and are **non-cumulative**. Students are responsible on exams for lecture and reading materials (both textbook and supplemental).

GRADING:

A total of 200 points is possible. Grades are distributed according to the following scheme (with some allowance for necessary adjustments as the semester progresses):

93 – 100%	A
88 – 92.99	AB
80 – 87.99	B
75 – 79.99	BC
68 – 74.99	C
60 – 67.99	D
< 60	F

Scores for each of the three exams and the quiz are posted on the course web site (Learn@UW), usually within about a week or so.

EXTRA CREDIT:

Students may earn up to 4 points extra credit. Credit is earned by submitting a copy of a news item relevant to the course, accompanied by a brief paragraph or two relating the news item to course material. **You may submit only one item and must do so by the last day of classes to earn extra credit.** Submission may be in the form of a hard copy given to me in class, or electronically by e-mail attachment (receipt of electronic submission will be acknowledged by e-mail reply).

The idea here is to encourage students to stay abreast of **geographically interesting** news events in Europe. News items may come from any source, but often the easiest way is to follow the Europe pages on one of the on-line news services. Some good English language options are:

BBC News
Spiegel
The Economist
The New York Times

All have good regional coverage. **For links to these and more news services** (including English language on-line news sites for most European nations), see the list under the links tab on the top navigation bar of the course web site (Learn@UW). Don't be in a rush to submit. To earn maximum credit, follow the news daily or weekly and choose an item that seems to have strong geographical relevance as defined by topical discussions in class and text. Look to the *Media supplement* articles on Learn@UW for examples of the kinds of articles you should be looking for (**Note: *I'm also impressed if you find something on one of the lesser known national news services listed on the course website.***).

ABSENCES:

If you miss an exam due to illness or emergency, please contact me as soon as you can conveniently do so to arrange a makeup. If you know that you will miss an exam for reasons other than illness or emergency, please consult with me in advance so that your absence can be excused and arrangements for taking the exam at an alternative time can be made.

LECTURE POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS:

Pdf copies of lecture PowerPoint presentations will be made available to you on the course site at Learn@UW, usually the day before they are presented in class. This is intended to help you follow lecture presentations and review materials for exams, not as an alternative to class attendance. ***Indeed, much of the lecture material for this course is visual (photos of landscapes and places), and the images that appear in the PowerPoint presentations are not very useful without the in commentary that accompanies them.***

GRAD and HONORS STUDENTS:

Please see me about additional course requirements for those enrolled for either grad or honors credit.