

Geog. 4892
Summer 2008

Geography of Europe

Instructor:

John O'Loughlin
Guggenheim 201h -(303)492-1619 (IBS number)
Email: johno@colorado.edu
Office Hours: after class
Homepage <http://www.colorado.edu/IBS/PEC/johno/johno.html>

TA:

Andrew Gustafson
email: gustafaf@colorado.edu
Office Hours: after class

This is a critical thinking course on contemporary Europe, which is defined as the European Union and prospective member states. The course emphasizes the challenges facing the populations of Europe in the globalizing world-economy and the course topics reflect debates in the economic, social and political worlds. Many topics revolve around the key issue of "Europeanness" and the requirements of entry into the European Union. Students are expected to become familiar with the basic "geography" of the region (some maps will be distributed in class) and to complete the suggested readings before each class. Classes will be conducted in a discussion-seminar format; the first 10 minutes devoted to the latest key news, 30 minutes or so devoted predominantly to presentation and the second 40 minutes predominantly to class discussion and presentation/discussion of exercise results. Attendance and participation will be noted by the instructor/TA each day and will count in the final grade. Short exams might be developed if it is clear that the readings are being ignored.

Students must complete a 12page research paper and eight short exercises that we will review in class on the day that they are due. The TA must approve the choice of the research paper topic and will work individually with each student to define and narrow the topic. Detailed instructions on the composition, length and format of the papers will be given later in the first week of class. There will be one class meeting in the Library towards the end of the second week to introduce the specific sources on the European Union.

The required readings for the course consist of articles available electronically through the classpages link. http://www.colorado.edu/geography/class_homepages/geog_4892_sum08/

Please read the text material carefully before the respective class and bring questions to class. Details on each day's reading will be announced in class for the next day. Be prepared to read everyday and discuss the text in class daily. The exercises will be based on eight separate readings from the *Economist* and other current sources and can be downloaded from the website (address below).

The paper emphasis is on the students' individual research interests within the rubric of the study of Europe. The main restrictions are that individual research topics should *focus on the post-1989 period and be confined to the region of the expanded European Union*. Students may wish to concentrate their efforts in the study of a specific region (e.g. Bavaria) to match language skills; either way, the topic must be identified and agreed by the middle/end of the third week of classes (25 July 2008).

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Introduction –Main Themes:

- a) Course outline and organization
 - b) Nationalisms, regional identities and localisms (In the nick of time)
 - c) Major elements of the physical geography of Western Europe – Ostergren/Rice pp. 35-66
 - c) Contemporary memberships of international organizations and trends –Fit at 50 (1st 3 sections)
 - d) Economic globalization and local cultures
- Quiz – map of Europe

2. The European Union, NATO, the East and the United States

- a) The US and Europe – Mars and Venus? (Anti-Americanism from Pew and Kagan)
- b) Expansion of Europe to the east; candidates and suitors (In the nick of time)
- c) Geopolitics of US, EU and Russia (Russia expanding)
- d) The Balkans and the future of European security (Can the EU tame Balkans)

3. Research Paper requirement

- a) How to write a good research paper; elements of style and resource materials.
- b) Library sources – meet at Reference Room
- c) Determination and approval of paper topic – (meet with Ted Holland to certify)

4. Contemporary Political Economic Geographies of Western Europe

- a) Declining industrial regions - locations and reasons for decline (Fit at 50 - rest)
- b) State policies in the world of globalization (Irish model)
- d) Turkey and the EU (White cap of hatred June 2007)
- e) Will Turkey ever join the EU? (Dahlman)
- f) The legacy of the Bosnian wars (Dahlman and Toal)
- f) EU nation-building in the Balkans (O Tuathail, O'Loughlin and Djipa; Vuillamy)

5. Social Polarization, Conflict and Identities

- a) Gastarbeiter, refugees and asylees –
- b) Isolation and segregation of foreigners –
- c) Right-wing backlash and voting trends – (Politics of Immigration)
- d) Challenges to the European identity – (Muslims in the UK)
- e) Ethno-national minorities and demands for autonomy –

Take-home Exercises:

1. Anti Americanism in Europe
2. Expansion of the EU – how far can it go?
3. The Irish boom – a model for all?
4. Relations between Russia and the EU
5. Srebrenica in retrospective.
6. Can the EU tame the Balkans?
7. Politics of Immigration – United Kingdom
8. Choice of European movie – write a review

Due Dates:

Acceptance by the TA of the paper topic – **28 July 2008**
Research paper due - Thursday, **7 August 2008** at class time.

Required Readings:

Class website for readings: www.colorado.edu/geography/class_homepages/geog_4892_sm08

Key website: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/default.stm>

Grade Distribution:

Paper – 35%

Exercises/map quiz – 45%

Class attendance and discussion – 20%

Readings: (all available from the class website)

Pew Charitable trust “India: Pro-America, Pro-Bush Bucking the Global Trend, U.S. Popularity Soared among Indians in '05” (data on the other countries as well)

Robert Kagan “Power and Weakness” *Policy Review*, No. 113 (June and July 2002).

Muslims in the UK _ *Guardian* includes 2 articles: “Why Muslims reject British values” by A. Sivanandan Sunday October 16, 2005 and “Report finds 'economic apartheid' by Vikram Dodd Monday April 30, 2007

Carl Dahlman “Turkey’s Accession to the European Union: The Geopolitics of Enlargement.” *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, **45**, No. 8, 2004, pp. 553-574.

Carl Dahlman and Gearoid O Tuathail “Broken Bosnia: The Localized Geopolitics of Displacement and Return in Two Bosnian Places” *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 95(3), 2005, pp. 644–66

Gearoid O Tuathail, John O’Loughlin and Dino Djipa “Bosnia-Herzegovina Ten Years after Dayton: Constitutional Change and Public Opinion” *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, **47**, No. 1, 2006, pp. 61-75.

Alexander Murphy “The May 2004 Enlargement of the European Union: View from Two Years Out” *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, **47**, No. 6, 2006 pp. 635–646

George Friedman “Finding Russia’s limits” from www.stratfor.com

Ed Vuillamy “After the massacre, a homecoming” *Guardian* April 30, 2005.

Economist “The white cap of hatred: Nationalism in Turkey” June 1 2007 (online at www.economist.com)

Economist “Taming the Balkans” June 23, 2005

Economist “Survey of the EU: Fit at 50” March 15, 2007

Economist “A new improved race card: The politics of immigration.” April 7, 2005

Economist “Islam in Europe: Look out Europe, they say” June 22, 2006.

Economist “The Irish economy: An economic miracle with many causes” Oct 14th 2004

Economist “In the nick of time: A special report on EU enlargement” May 31st, 2008

Robert Ostergren and John Rice *The Europeans: A Geography of People, Culture, and Environment*. New York: Guilford Press, 2004