

Geog. 4892
Summer 2010

Geography of European Union

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:

Cole Akeson
email: cole.akeson@colorado.edu
Office Hours: before 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 20 minutes devoted to the latest key news, 30 minutes or so devoted predominantly to instructor 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 quizzes might be developed if it is clear that the readings are being ignored.

Students must complete a 12-15page 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, sources 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 first 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_sum10/

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 reading in class daily. The exercises will be based on eight separate readings from the *Economist* and other current sources and will be given in class a few days before the respective deadlines .

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 submitted for approval by the beginning of the third week of classes (15 June 2010).

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Introduction –Main Themes:

- a) Course outline and organization
 - b) Nationalisms, regional identities and localisms (Europe, nationalism and shared fate)
 - 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 (In the nick of time)
- Quiz – map of Europe (Thursday 4 June)

2. 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 Cole Akeson to certify)

3. 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)

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
- g) 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. Attitudes towards NATO and the US in Europe
2. Expansion of the EU – how far can it go?
3. The Irish boom – a model for all? NO!
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 – **17 June 2009**
Research paper due - Friday, **2 July 2009** at class time.

Required Readings:

Class website for readings: www.colorado.edu/geography/class_homepages/geog_4892_sum10

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 “European attitudes in 2009” (data on the individual countries)

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.

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 “Europe, nationalism, and shared fate” www.stratfor.com May 11, 2010

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 “Redrawing Europe” April 2010

Economist “Who are we?: The politics of immigration and identity.” April 29, 2010

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

Economist “Swing low, swing right: A report on the European Parliamentary elections.” June 11th 2009

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

