

HIST 420/520
The Idea of Europe
CRN 38548/38549

Spring Term 2014

276 Lokey Education Building
Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00 – 11:20 am

Prof. George Sheridan
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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 11:45 am – 12:30 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Idea of Europe is a multi-disciplinary course that explores the meaning(s) of Europe past and present, and the conundrum that is European identity. Guest faculty from a variety of disciplines on campus (humanities, social sciences and music) make presentations and lead discussions on diverse cultural, historical, political and social topics pertaining to the European legacy. While the overall framework is historical, the course invites a creative investigation into different perspectives, texts, issues, and disciplinary assumptions--often incompatible or competing--that shape "Europe" as an object of study. While the course is taught in English, exploration of original materials in the European languages is encouraged. Students will be required to keep a journal and to complete a major term paper on some aspect of Europe. Details of both of these requirements are described below.

Faculty from various disciplines and areas of expertise will offer lectures and assign selected readings to explore aspects of Europe and its "productions" – cultural and otherwise -- over time. Students are not expected to demonstrate mastery of the different topics presented in these lectures and readings, and may reflect on the material from disciplinary perspectives that are more familiar to them. The lectures and readings are nonetheless designed to challenge students beyond their comfort zone of familiarity and knowledge, opening them up to a variety of perspectives or "ideas" of Europe.

One of the central themes of the course this year is Europe before and after World War I. August of this year is the centennial of the outbreak of that war, which had a major effect in transforming European identity and, especially, the belief in the superiority of European civilization. To reflect upon this transformation, the autobiography of Stefan

Zweig, The World of Yesterday, will be read throughout the course, along with other readings.

METHOD OF THE COURSE

- **Lectures and Readings**: Each week is organized around a set of topics, which are developed in lectures and readings. The **lectures** will be offered by a team of faculty from several different fields of study throughout the university. Normally each lecture will be accompanied by specialized readings related to the lecture topic. Students are required to attend all lectures, to do all the required readings, and to provide journal entries on each lecture as well as for the week's readings, as described below. The readings are indicated on the syllabus, along with their sources and locations.
- **Written Assignment: the Journal**: Students will keep a **weekly journal** of reflections on the material of each week's lectures and readings. The journal is a core requirement of the course and will count for about 60% of the course grade. The *minimum requirements for journal entries for each week* are the following:
 1. A summary, one or two paragraphs in length (about 200 words), of **each class session (lecture or discussion)** during the week. The summary should indicate in the student's own words the content of the lecture or themes of the discussion. Even if a student has difficulty understanding the material or does not grasp all of its detail, this summary should at least reflect the student's best sense of that content. It should provide evidence of attendance at class and a conscientious effort to grasp key points. The summary may be either an overall synthesis of the main themes of the presentation or discussion, or a more detailed elaboration of a few points. **Three "absences" (that is, three class sessions not recorded in the journal) are allowed for the entire term, without grade penalty; beyond three, failure to provide the summary will lower the grade progressively for this item.**
 2. An **extensive reflection** (1-2 pages, or minimum 250 words) on at least **one** of the **main** readings of the **week** assigned on the syllabus. The reading must be one of the more lengthy readings of the week, or an elaboration of two or more of the shorter passages of text. The reflections should indicate some independent assimilation of the content of the reading, nor a mere summary. Creative references to readings or class sessions from previous weeks are also welcome. In all instances the reflection on the readings must demonstrate careful attention to the text of the reading and will be evaluated on this basis. The reflection should also demonstrate an effort to relate the reading in some way to one of the lectures or discussion topics of the week. Students are encouraged to combine themes of the different readings assigned in the same week, where this is relevant and possible. **Important Note**: For **Week 8 (May 20)** your reflection on the reading **MUST** include an essay (approximately 700 words in length) on Stefan Zweig's

World of Yesterday from the beginning of the autobiography through the chapter titled “In the Heart of Europe.”

In addition to the above minimum requirements for journal entries, students are encouraged to add their own personal reflections about Europe or about any topic related to Europe as inspired by the readings or lectures of the week. Because the journal is the only means for assessing a student’s regular engagement with the course material, these personal reflections should be done after completing items (1) and (2) above, both of which are necessary for making this assessment. For personal reflections, students are encouraged to write creatively, and in an ongoing way (that is, week-by-week, with flashback to preceding journal entries), about major topics of interest to them as these emerge in their encounter with the topics and the material of this course. In most instances these creative reflections, if done systematically, will enhance the journal grade.

As the moment of individualized assimilation and synthesis of course material, the journal should be kept on a weekly basis, ideally following each class session with its corresponding reading.

Journal entries may be done in handwritten form (legible writing please), or they may be typed and printed. In all instances only hard-copy (paper) versions of journals will be accepted – no electronic versions of journals in any form are acceptable.

Journals will be collected in class and evaluated at mid-term (**May 1**) and again at the end of the term (**June 5**). Journals at mid-term should include all material through April 29 (of Week 5). Journals at the end of the term should include all class sessions through June 3 and the readings assigned for Week 10. Journals submitted late will receive a progressive grade penalty for lateness. Journals submitted late for final evaluation may delay the student’s receiving a grade for the course.

- **Written Assignment: Research Paper:** Each student will write, in addition, a major paper on a topic of choice related to any aspect of Europe, contemporary or historical, in any discipline or field. A written statement of the paper topic and list of sources to be used in the paper are due **Thursday, May 8**. This statement may be sent to Prof. Sheridan by email. The length of the paper is 8-12 pages (a paper of slightly greater length is acceptable), double-spaced, 12-point type, or the equivalent (about 2700 words). The paper is due on **Thursday, May 29** in printed, paper form.

Besides the length specified above, minimum requirements for the paper are as follows:

- At least 2 books other than books or material on the syllabus of weekly readings must be used as the core for the paper. These must be serious scholarly works, not popular accounts, and not textbooks. One book may be an original source for a period or topic, such as a book-length work of philosophy or theology, political or social or artistic theory, or a novel. The other book must be a scholarly study or a collection of scholarly essays.

- Note 1: Students in European Studies who intend to use the paper to satisfy the project requirement for the minor must use 3 books, or 2 books and, in addition, at least 2 scholarly articles or original document sources. Such students should inform Prof. Sheridan at the outset of the course of their wish to use the paper for this requirement.
- Note 2: Variations on the above requirement of 2 books will be considered, but these require (1) full explanation of the nature of the materials used for the paper, and justification for substitution of one or both books; and (2) advance approval by Prof. Sheridan before beginning work on the paper. Such variations may include substitution of articles in scholarly journals or the use of original documentary materials in place of one book, or a paper based largely on numerous primary source materials. Students considering such an approach to sources for their paper must provide references and relevant explanations on the paper topic statement due May 8. Only with Professor Sheridan's explicit and written approval of their statement and sources may students take this approach. Students considering a project of this kind should consult him early in the term.
- The 2 books must be identified, with complete publication details, on the list of sources submitted with statement of paper topic due on May 8. Publication details include at least the following: full name of author or editor, complete title and subtitle of each book, name of publisher and date of publication. If the book is a collection of separately authored articles, the names of authors and titles of each article that will be used should be specified.
- The statement of paper topic should indicate, to the extent possible, the precise focus of the paper and the manner in which the two books and other sources will most likely contribute to the content paper. Statements and sources not meeting the minimum requirements of the paper as indicated above will be returned to the student for revision.

Sources for Course Paper

Engaging Europe has a bibliographical essay devoted to a variety of topical areas pertaining to the "Idea of Europe." The essay can provide a useful guide to initiating a search for topics and materials. Since the publication of this essay, there have been a large number of new publications on similar or related topics.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES

- 1) **Attendance** at all class sessions is mandatory. Journal entries will be used as evidence of such attendance and must make use of the material as presented in class sessions as well as in the readings for each session.
- 2) **Journal entries**, as described above, demonstrating assimilation of each week's lectures and associated readings. Journals will be collected for mid-term evaluation on Thursday, May 1 and for final (end-of-term) evaluation on Thursday, June 5. Note: Continue your journal entries, on a separate sheet or in separate notebook, after submitting your journals for mid-term evaluation; do not wait for mid-term evaluations to be returned to you before continuing your entries.
- 3) **Course paper** of 8-12 pages in length (about 2700 words), written according to the above specifications. The statement of paper topic and list of sources you intend to use is due on Thursday, May 8. The paper is due Thursday, May 29.

In the determination of course grades, the journal will be weighted about 60% of the course grade, and the paper about 40%.

COURSE MATERIALS

The following books are available for purchase at the UO Bookstore, Textbook Department:

- Engaging Europe: Rethinking a Changing Continent, ed. Evelyn Gould and George J. Sheridan, Jr. (Rowman & Littlefield, 2005)
- Stefan Zweig, The World of Yesterday tr. Anthea Bell (University of Nebraska Press, 2009)

In addition, several readings are posted on the **Blackboard** site for the course. For some lectures, additional readings will be announced. The **Blackboard** site for the course is the main channel of communication outside of class. Consult the site frequently (at least once a week) for announcements and posted course documents.

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SYLLABUS OF TOPICS AND ASSOCIATED READINGS

References:

- Engaging Europe: Rethinking a Changing Continent, ed. Evelyn Gould and George J. Sheridan, Jr. [abbreviated *Engaging Europe*]
- Stefan Zweig, The World of Yesterday [abbreviated *World of Yesterday*; page numbers are from the 2009 translation by Anthea Bell, University of Nebraska Press edition]
- *Blackboard*

Week 1: Building Europe

April 1: Introduction to the Course

April 3: Europe in My Heart and in My Brain

George Sheridan, History and European Studies

- *Engaging Europe*, Forward (pp. ix-xii), ch. 2 (pp. 27-39)
- Mircea Cărtărescu, “Europe Has the Shape of My Brain” [*Blackboard*]
- *World of Yesterday*, “Foreward,” pp. xi-xvi

Week 2: European Antiquities

April 8: The World According to the Romans

Prof. Cristina Calhoon, Classics

- Vitruvius, On Architecture and Virgil, Georgics (selections) [*Blackboard*]

April 10: Roman Imperialism: Making Ideas of Europe Real from the Late Republic to Late Antiquity

Prof. Nathaniel Andrade, History

- Christopher Krebs. "Borealism: Caesar, Seneca, Tacitus, and the Roman Discourse about the Germanic North," in *Cultural Identity and the Peoples of the Ancient Mediterranean*, ed. E. S. Gruen, 203-21. Los Angeles: Getty Research Institute, 2010. [**Blackboard**]
- Yannis Hamilakis. "Double Colonization: the Story of the Excavations of the Athenian Agora (1924-1931)." *Hesperia* 86.1 (2013): 153-77. [**Blackboard**]

Week 3: Early Ideas of Europe

April 15: Idea of Rome, Idea of Europe

Prof. John Nicols, History

- *Engaging Europe*, ch. 5 and "Provincia Gallia Narbonensis"

April 17: The Europe of Christendom

George Sheridan

- Novalis, "Christendom or Europe?" [**Blackboard**]
- Christendom Readings – Excerpts [**Blackboard**]
- *Engaging Europe*, ch. 2 (pp. 39-58)
- *World of Yesterday*, "The World of Security," pp. 23-48

Week 4: Discovering Europe

April 22: Discovering Europe Through Travel

Prof. Nathalie Hester, Romance Languages (French and Italian Literature)

- Francesco Negri, *Viaggio settentrionale* (1700), selections [**Blackboard**]
- Recommended: Gerard Delanty, *Inventing Europe*, chs. 1, 2 (Reserve Book Room, Knight Library)

April 24: European Economic Man

George Sheridan

- Readings in Political Economy [**Blackboard**]
- On the Mechanical Arts, from the *Preliminary Discourse* [**Blackboard**]
- *Engaging Europe*, ch. 10
- *World of Yesterday*, “At School in the Last Century” and “Eros Matutinus,” pp. 51-113

Week 5: Finding Europe

April 29: Relocating Europe

Prof. Alexander Murphy, Geography

- Michael Heffernan, *The Meaning of Europe: Geography and Geopolitics*, ch. 1 [**Blackboard**]
- *Engaging Europe*, ch. 4

May 1: Class discussion: First Half of the Course

THURSDAY, MAY 1: JOURNAL DUE (MID-TERM REVIEW)

Week 6: The European Dream

May 6: 'Europe is a big Word. What was Europe?' Germaine de Staël (1766-1817) and Napoleon's Competing Meanings of Europe

Prof. Fabienne Moore, Romance Languages (French Literature)

- Germaine de Staël, *On Literature; On Germany; Considerations on the French Revolution; Ten Years of Exile*. Excerpts [**Blackboard**]
- Michael Heffernan, *The Meaning of Europe. Geography and Geopolitics* (1998) Excerpts [**Blackboard**]
- Questions on readings [**Blackboard**]

May 8: Proust's *Parloirs*

Prof. Evelyn Gould, Romance Languages (French Literature)

- Marcel Proust, *In Search of Lost Time : the Guermantes Way*, selections [Blackboard]
- Cartoon from *La Libre Parole* [Blackboard]
- *World of Yesterday*, "Universitas Vitae" and "Paris, the City of Eternal Youth" pp. 115-181

Recommended: *Engaging Europe*, chs. 3 and 8

THURSDAY, MAY 8: PAPER TOPIC STATEMENT AND SOURCES LIST DUE

Week 7: The Europe of Yesterday

May 13: "The White Ribbon" (Das weisse Band): Film of Michael Haneke (2009)

- *World of Yesterday*, "Detours on the Way to Myself" through "Brightness and Shadows over Europe," pp. 183-235

May 15: "The White Ribbon" (Das weisse Band), Part II

- *World of Yesterday*, "The First Hours of the 1914 War" through "In the Heart of Europe", pp. 237-304

Week 8: Interwar Europe

May 20: Stefan Zweig's Europe: Discussion

With Ludovic Frobert, Director of Research, Ecole Normale Supérieure (Lyon, France) and George Sheridan

Journal entry (required): Write an extended reflection (approximately 700 words) on *World of Yesterday* from the beginning through "In the Heart of Europe," pp. xi – 304 (all chapters assigned to this point)

May 22: The Break in Tradition: Walter Benjamin and Weimar Modernism

Prof. John McCole, History

- Walter Benjamin, selections from writings [Blackboard]
- *World of Yesterday*, "Going Home to Austria" through "The Setting Sun," pp. 305-381

Week 9: Postwar Europe

May 27: Listening and the Art of Survival

Prof. Robert Kyr, School of Music, Music Composition

- *World of Yesterday*, “Incipit Hitler” through “The Death Throes of Peace,” pp. 383-end

May 29: Making the Idea of Europe Concrete: The European Union and Its Challenges Today

Prof. Craig Parsons, Political Science

- Craig Parsons, “A Brief History of the European Union” [*Blackboard*]

THURSDAY, MAY 29: COURSE PAPER DUE

Week 10: Reflecting Upon Europe, Today and Yesterday

June 3: The Meaning of Europe

- *Engaging Europe*, ch. 11

June 5: The Idea of Europe – Reflecting on the Class

- *Engaging Europe*, ch. 1

THURSDAY, JUNE 5: JOURNAL DUE (FINAL REVIEW)