European Cultures and Identities

Syllabus 2024

Materials

Reader, provided by the Utrecht Summer School

Period

8 July – 19 July, 2024

Credits

4.0 ECTS + Certificate of Attendance

Faculty

Dmitri Levitin Utrecht University, Course Coordinator, *d.levitin@uu.nl*

TBC, Teaching Assistant
Utrecht University, Faculty of Humanities

Utrecht Summer School

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Location

Janskerkhof 15A, 3512 BL Utrecht, The Netherlands
Room 004

Contents

Introduction

Welcome to the Utrecht Summer School and welcome to European Cultures & Identities. The aim of this course is to introduce you to Europe. This is a continent with many different countries that all maintain their own political systems, cultural traditions, and national identities. At the same time, a majority of the European countries have since the second half of the twentieth century been increasingly engaged in a joint project aimed at political and economic integration. We will explore how this mix of particularism and unity has developed historically.

Lecturers from Utrecht University will introduce various European topics in different educational formats: lectures, seminars, and excursions. The course can be divided into three general themes: 1) The idea of Europe; 2) European Culture and Identity materialized; 3) European Culture and Identity beyond the material. Within each theme there will be two or three lectures, accompanied by seminars, in which lecturers will address one of the following topics: The Idea of Europe (theme 1), Nationalism (theme 1), Heritage (theme 2), Art (theme 2), the History of Science (theme 3) and Imperialism (theme 3).

The learning objectives of the course are:
1. To obtain a grounding in European Culture and Identity on a conceptual level, and to think critically about these topics.
2. To learn to apply conceptual knowledge about the European Culture and Identity to understand cultural expressions (material and immaterial) and learn to think about the creation of cultures and identities on a deeper level.
3. To learn to apply this knowledge to case studies by practicing with writing assignments, a presentation, and an exam.

The course will conclude with three assessments, covering all the lectures and reading material. For the first assessment, you will hand in a portfolio consisting of the class assignments you have made during the summer school (deadline: Tuesday 12 July; 10% of your grade). For the second assessment, you will prepare a group presentation about one particular European state or nation, and discuss its relationship with the European Union and/or the concept of Europe at large. You will be asked to relate your case study to the lectures and to the reading material, and you will be challenged to formulate your own argument accordingly (40% of your grade). The third assessment will be an examination about the core themes of the course during which your knowledge of the material will be tested (50% of your grade).

Overview of Reading Material
(Readings TBC as soon as possible)

Main literature

1. Anthony Pagden, 'Europe. Conceptualizing a Continent' (*The Idea of Europe*, chapter 1, pages 33-54) (2013).
2. Benedict Anderson, 'Old Languages, New Models' (*Imagined Communities. Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*, chapter 5, pages 67-82) (2006).
3. Sharon Macdonald, 'The European Memory Complex' (*Memorylands. Heritage and Identity in Europe Today,* Chapter 1, pages 1-26) (2013)
4. Elizabeth Buettner, 'Europe and Its Entangled Colonial Pasts: Europeanizing the 'Imperial Turn'', (*Decolonizing Colonial Heritage: New Agendas, Actors and Practices in and beyond Europe,* Pages 25-43) (2022)
5. Shane Weller, 'Introduction', (*The Idea of Europe: A Critical History, Introduction*, Pages 1-16) (2021)

Academic Programme

8 July – 19 July 2024

Week 1

Monday 8 July 2024		
Time and location	**Activity**	**Description and readings**
Lecture Location: JK15A Room 004 10:00-10:30	<u>**Opening remarks:**</u> Dmitri Levitin	***Welcome and introduction to the course***
Lecture Location: JK15A Room 004 10:45-12:30	<u>**Lecture #1:**</u> Dmitri Levitin	***European Cultures and Identities: The Idea of Europe*** **Readings:** Anthony Pagden, 'Europe. Conceptualizing a Continent', *The Idea of Europe* (2013), chapter 1, pp. 33-54.

Tuesday 9 July 2024		
Time and location	**Activity**	**Description and readings**
Seminar Location: JK15A 004 10:45-12:30	<u>**Seminar #1:**</u> Group 1: Dmitri Levitin Group 2: **TBA**	***Contextualizing European States and State formation*** **In class assignment (no preparation needed):** With the whole class together: analyse an early modern (c. 1500–1750) map of Europe and a modern map of Europe (c. 1780–1900). Write a 350-word text connecting the course material of today's lecture and seminar with our analysis of the maps. **Readings:** Benedict Anderson, 'Old Languages, New Models', *Imagined Communities. Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism* (2006), chapter 5, pp. 67-82.
Lecture Location JK15A Room 004 12:45-14:30	<u>**Lecture #2:**</u> TBA	***On the European history of Colonialism*** **Readings:** TBA

Wednesday 10 July 2024		
Time and location	**Activity**	**Description and readings**
Seminar Location JK15A 004 10:45-12:30	<u>**Seminar #2:**</u> Group 1: Dmitri Levitin Group 2: TBA	***Colonialism, imperialism and post-colonial history of Europe in a broad sense*** **In class assignment:** TBA **Readings:** TBA
Lecture Location JK15A Room 004 12:45-14:30	<u>**Lecture #3:**</u> Rachel Gillett	***Diasporic Europe: Hearing the Past, 1900-2020)*** **Readings:** TBA

Thursday 11 July 2024		
Time and location	**Activity**	**Description and readings**
Excursion Janskerkhof square Bus 9:00-17:00	<u>**Excursion #1:**</u> Mauritshuis Den Haag	**Programme:** 9:00 bus departure from Janskerkhof 10:30-11:30 visit to the Mauritshuis 11:30-17:00 free time in Den Haag 17:00 return to Utrecht **In class assignment:** TBA

Friday 12 July 2024		
Time and location	**Activity**	**Description and readings**
Seminar JK15A 004 10:45-12:30	<u>**Seminar #3:**</u> Group 1: Dmitri Levitin Group 2: TBA	***What's European about European Art?*** **In class assignment:** TBA **Readings:** TBA

Week 2

Monday 15 July 2024		
Time and location	**Activity**	**Description and readings**
Lecture Location JK15A Room 004 10:45-12:30	**Lecture #4:** TBA	***Heritage, Memory and Identity in Eastern Europe*** **Readings:** TBA
Seminar JK15A 004 12:45-14:30	**Seminar #4:** Group 1: Dmitri Levitin Group 2: TBA	***Eastern Europe, Between Europe and Asia*** **Readings:** TBA

Tuesday 16 July 2024		
Time and location	**Activity**	**Description and readings**
Excursion Janskerkhof square Bus 9:00-17:00	**Excursion #2:** Amsterdam	**Programme** TBA **In class assignment:** TBA

Wednesday 17 July 2024		
Time and location	**Activity**	**Description and readings**
Lecture Location JK15A Room 004 10:45-12:30	<u>Lecture #5:</u> Dmitri Levitin	***What's European about European Science?*** **Readings:** TBA
Seminar JK15A 004	<u>Seminar #5:</u> Group 1: Dmitri Levitin Group 2: TBA	**Assessment 1: Group presentations (40%)**

Thursday 18 July 2024		
Time and location	**Activity**	**Description and readings**
Exam Location JK15A Room 004 10:45-13:45	<u>Exam:</u> Dmitri Levitin	**Assessment 2: Exam (50%)**

Friday 19 July 2024		
Time and location	**Activity**	**Description and readings**
Lecture Location JK15A Room 004 16:00-18:00	**Closing remarks:** Dmitri Levitin & TBA	Closing remarks of the school, presentation of certificates, and farewell drinks at café Hofman Location Hofman: Janskerkhof 17A, 3512BM Utrecht, The Netherlands

Assessments, Attendance and Grading

Assessments

There will be two assessments that both test your knowledge and challenge you to formulate your own argument based on the course matter:

1. Class assignments: 10%
2. Group presentation: 40%
3. Final exam: 50%

Both assessments will take place at the end of week 2 and you need an average grade of at least 5,5 to pass the course.

Attendance and Grading

Note that full attendance is expected in all lectures, seminar sessions, and excursions. Students who are absent beyond their fault (illness, accident, etc.) should submit a medical certificate to Timo Houtekamer as soon as possible. Make-up assignments are expected for all unexcused absences. Ten percentage points will be subtracted for all uncompensated absences. Students who fail more than two make-up assignments will be dropped from this course.

Your grades will be numerical grades according to the Dutch grading system. Dutch grades range from 0 (very bad) to 10 (excellent). At Utrecht University, a 5,5 is the lowest passing grade, though note that this might be different at other (Dutch) institutions. Also note that grade inflation has not affected the Dutch grading system as much as it has some American institutions. Grades of 9 and higher are rarely given, the most common grades are between 6 and 8. The Utrecht University student registration system (Osiris) that will produce your transcript will round off all grades to whole numerals for 5 and lower, and half numbers for 5.5 and higher. On course work and examinations, however, it is customary to receive a grade that has not been rounded off. Pluses and minuses are sometimes used, and count for one-fourth of a point, for instance: 8- = 7,75. Meaning of numerical grades:

9.00-10.00	Excellent
8.00-8.99	Very good
7.50-7.99	Good
7.00-7.49	Very satisfactory
6.50-6.99	Satisfactory
6.00-6.49	Sufficient
5.50-5.99	Acceptable; minimum pass
5.00-5.49	Insufficient; fail
4.00-4.99	Unsatisfactory
3.00-3.99	Very unsatisfactory

2.00-2.99   Bad
0.00-1.99   Very bad

Note that conversion of grades that you have received in the Netherlands to grades at your home institution is the responsibility of your home institution, not Utrecht University. This chart should be used as an indication; no rights can be drawn from it.

* Any case of plagiarism will be reported to the home institution and results in a course failure, meaning 1.00 as final grade for this course.

Online Education

You have received your Utrecht University login code (SOLIS-ID) from the Summer School administration. If this is not the case, send them an e-mail at summerschool@uu.nl or contact them by phone: +31 (0)302534400. You can use this login code to gain access to the digital teaching environment on Microsoft Teams and to the digital environment of the university library.

Current political map of Europe