Course Syllabus

Course: *European Cultures*
Department: *International Relations and European Studies*
Host Institution: *University of Nicosia, Cyprus*

Course Summary

Course Code	Course Title	ECTS Credits
EUS-210	European Cultures	6
Subject	Contact Hours	Prerequisites
European Cultures	42-45	none
Department	Level of Course	Language of Instruction
International Relations and European Studies	Lower-Division	English

Course Description

This course explores European Cultures, by using various scopes and lenses, and different case studies from around Europe. It aims to encourage a critical understanding of both the notion of European, and of culture, as well as their symbiotic co-existence in these terms. Using a multi-disciplinary approach – including historical, sociological, cultural, and anthropological resources – it invites a rounded thinking about European cultures (and cultures in more general terms), and emphasizes the notions of diversity, inclusion, and constant change in Europe and beyond.

The learning outcomes of this course unfold in two levels. On one hand, to introduce the complex notion of culture, in ways that will invite critical understandings of human cultures around the world, and reflections on one's own culture.
On the other hand, to introduce the complex notion of European, showing how one understands such contexts only by challenging their uniformity and fixity.

Prerequisites *(if applicable)*

Course Outline

1. Introduction: What is Europe? Exploring the notions of European Union, Eurozone, Schengen Area.
2. Culture: Exploring the notion of culture in general, and European culture – official narratives and grassroots responses (French hip-hop)
3. The beginnings of Europe (historical understanding of the formation of Europe)
4. European Identity: post-Soviet Czech Republic and the road to Europeanization
5. Religion in Europe: the cases of Poland and Greece
6. Tradition and Modernity in Europe: the case of the Cypriot wedding
7. European Cultural Capital: Europeanizing localities, and localizing Europe in cultural representations
8. Exchanges and interactions, then and now: European culture and the USA
9. European attitudes toward gender: observing the Eurovision stage
10. Cultural representation through food: an Italian restaurant in Cyprus
11. Nationalism, social memory, and trauma: visiting the Green Line
12. Presentations and discussion

Reading and Resources

- Anderson, Lara, Benbow Heather Merle and Manzin Gregoria. 2016. "Europe on a Plate: Food, Identity and Cultural Diversity in Contemporary Europe". *Australia and New Zealand Journal of European Studies*, 8/1, pp.1-15.
- Argyrou, Vassos, 1996. *Tradition and Modernity in the Mediterranean: The wedding as symbolic struggle* (Cambridge University Press).
- Balibar, Etienne and Williams, Erin M. 2002. "World Borders, Political Borders". *Modern Language Association*, no.1, special topic: Mobile Citizens, Media States, pp. 71- 78.
- Burgess, J. Peter. 2002. "What's So European About the European Union?: Legitimacy Between Institution and Identity". *European Journal of Social Theory*, 5/4, pp.467-481.
- Davie, Grace. 2006. "Religion in Europe in the 21st Century: The Factors to Take into Account". *European Journal of Sociology*, pp.271-296.
- Fricker, Karen and Gluhovic, Milija. 2013. "Introduction: Eurovision and the 'New' Europe" in *Performing the 'New' Europe: Identities, Feelings, and Politics in the Eurovision Song Contest*, ed. by Karen Fricker and Milija Gluhovic (Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan)
- Koivumaa, Katarina. 1998. "Europe: Several Identities or One Single Identity?". *Perspectives*, 98/10, pp.49-54.
- Kouvarou, Maria. 2015. "American Rock with a European Twist: The Institutionalization of Rock'n'Roll in France, West Germany, Greece, and Italy (20th Century)". *Historia Critica*, special issue "Listening to the Past: Music and Sound in the Historical and Social Framework", pp.75-94.
- Papadakis, Yiannis, Peristianis, Nicos, and Welz, Gisela. 2006. "Modernity, History, and Conflict in Divided Cyprus" in *Divided Cyprus: Modernity, History, and an Island in Conflict*, ed. by Yiannis Papadakis, Nicos Peristianis and Gisela Welz (Bloomington: Indiana University Press), pp. 30-46.
- Sassatelli, Monica. 2002. "Imagined Europe: The Shaping of a European Cultural Identity Through EU Cultural Policy". European Journal of Social Theory, 5/4, pp.435-451.
- Williams, Raymond. 1976. "Culture" in *Keywords* (Oxford: Oxford University Press), pp.49-54.

Other resources include documentaries, excerpts from films, and music videos.

Evaluation

Each student will be required to give a presentation on a single European culture. The main requirement of this assignment is to approach the material critically, relating it to the thematics presented during lectures. At the same time, students will be asked to evaluate other students by using as reference the knowledge gained during the course.

Final exam: 50%
Presentation: 30%
Attendance and participation in discussions: 20%

Other Academic Policies

Class attendance is compulsory. If unable to attend a class, students must inform the course lecturer in advance. A maximum of 20% excused absences is tolerated; however beyond this percentage, students will be withdrawn from the course. Moreover, any work missed due to absence must be completed on return to class.