

**Course Outline**  
**Engl 44347 / GE 44347**  
**Imagining Europe: From the Age of Enlightenment to the Age of the Euro**  
**TTH 10:15-12:00, Fisher Hall, Room 4.12**

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**Course Description and Justification**

Over the past few years, the question “what is Europe and what should it be?” has provoked increasingly heated discussions throughout the entire continent. On the one hand, the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize to the European Union; on the other, the European people seem as divided as ever before in their history, with the split between the Protestant North and the Mediterranean South running especially deep. One common complaint is that the EU is a technocratic union that has never really managed to take root in the dreams and aspirations of its citizens.

In this seminar, we will examine how poets, novelists, and filmmakers have imagined Europe over the course of the last 200 years. How do you give an imaginative shape to something that is too vast to ever be encompassed in its entirety, and too complex to be reduced to any uniform vision? We will read travel journals, observe how shared folk stories were turned into “national” literatures, study how Europe has defined itself in opposition to the putatively non-European, and investigate how common tragedies such as the Holocaust and communist dictatorships sowed the seeds for a continental identity. Throughout the semester, we will make use of London’s panoply of resources to support our studies.

Objectives:

At the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- identify the various ways in which a common European identity has been constructed over the past 200 years and engage in informed debate about them.
- understand the importance of pivotal events, such as the French Revolution, the Holocaust, and the Fall of the Berlin Wall, in the formation of contemporary European identity
- identify some of the main problems afflicting contemporary European identity, and talk about their historical roots.

This course counts towards the university literature requirement.

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**Course Structure and Expectations**

This class will be taught as a reading- and discussion-intensive seminar. Over the course of the semester, we will take several field trips to London sites such as the British Museum and the Tate Gallery. Given the small class size Students are expected to attend and participate every day that the class meets. Attendance is also mandatory at two outside lectures.

Course expectations:

- regular attendance and participation
- two short papers
- midterm and final exam

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### Books Available for Purchase

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Italian Journey*, Penguin, ISBN 978-0140442335, £12.99  
Montesquieu, *Persian Letters*, Penguin, ISBN 978-0-14-044281-6, £9.99  
Primo Levi, *If this is a Man*, Abacus, ISBN 978-0349100135, £9.99  
W.G. Sebald, *Austerlitz*, Penguin, ISBN 978-0241951804, £9.99  
Ian McEwan, *Saturday*, Vintage, ISBN 978-0099469681, £8.99

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### Plagiarism and Academic Honesty

As with all university classes, the academic code of honor will be strictly enforced. It is expected that all of the written work that you submit, as well as the ideas expressed therein, are your own. Whenever you do group work, all members of the group should contribute in roughly equal part. Evidence of intentional plagiarism will result in the appropriate punishment, up to and including course failure.

You may find further information on Notre Dame's honor code at the following web site:  
<http://www.nd.edu/~hnr/code/>.

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### Course Schedule

#### I. What is Europe?

Tuesday, 8/26	Introduction to class
Thursday, 8/28	Film: Fatih Akin, <i>The Edge of Heaven</i> (2007)
Tuesday, 9/2	Anthony Pagden, "Europe: Conceptualizing a Continent" Samuel Huntington, from <i>The Clash of Civilizations</i>
Thursday, 9/4	Yannis Hamilakis: "Stories from Exile: Fragments from the Cultural Biography of the Parthenon (or 'Elgin') Marbles" <b>Visit to the Parthenon Frieze at the British Museum</b>
Tuesday, 9/9	Montesquieu, excerpts from <i>Persian Letters</i> (letters 23, 24, 29, 30, 48, 63-65, 72, 73, 80, 85, 88-90, 102, 112-22, 131, 147-61)

#### II. Travelogues

Thursday, 9/11	Film: Cédric Klapisch, <i>L'anberge espagnole</i> (2002)
Tuesday, 9/16	Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, <i>Italian Journey</i> (pp. 23-51, 74-104)

Thursday, 9/18 [No class – we will jointly visit the Tate Gallery at a mutually agreeable time this week]

Tuesday, 9/23 Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Italian Journey* (pp. 128-78, section on Roman Carnival)

Thursday, 9/25 Rebecca West, *Black Lamb and Grey Falcon* (pp. 1-56)

Tuesday, 9/30 Rebecca West, *Black Lamb and Grey Falcon* (pp. 57-112)

### III. Storytelling and National Identity

Thursday, 10/2 Film: Guillermo del Toro, *Pan's Labyrinth* (2006)

### **Weekend of 10/4-10/5 Optional Field Trip to Ypres**

Tuesday, 10/7 Ernest Renan, *What is a Nation?*

Thursday, 10/9 Versions of “Little Red Riding Hood” by Delarue, Perrault, and The Brothers Grimm, of “Beauty and the Beast” by Leprince de Baumont, Straparola and the Brothers Grimm, and of “Snow White” by Basile, Gheug, and the Brothers Grimm.  
Preface to the First Edition of *Children's Stories and Household Tales* by the Brothers Grimm

Tuesday, 10/14 Donald Haase, “Yours, Mine, or Ours? Perrault, the Brothers Grimm, and the Ownership of Fairy Tales” + modern versions of “Little Red Riding Hood” as well as “Beauty and the Beast” by Angela Carter

Thursday, 10/16 **Midterm Exam**

### **[Fall Break]**

### IV. The World Wars and the Holocaust

Tuesday, 10/28 Primo Levi, *If This Be a Man*

Thursday, 10/30 Primo Levi, *If This Be a Man*

Tuesday, 11/4 Tony Judt, “From the House of the Dead: An Essay in European Memory”  
Lecture on the History and Structure of the European Union

Thursday, 11/6 Film: Emir Kosturica, “Underground” (1996)

Tuesday, 11/11 W. G. Sebald, *Austerlitz*

Thursday, 11/13 W. G. Sebald, *Austerlitz*

Tuesday, 11/18      W. G. Sebald, *Austerlitz*

V. Contemporary Europe

Thursday, 11/20      Film: Michael Haneke, *Caché* (2005)

**Thursday, 11/20      Lecture by Professor Helen Finch, University of Leeds**

Tuesday, 11/25      Luisa Passerini, “From the Ironies of Identity to the Identities of Irony”  
Ian McEwan, *Saturday*

Thursday, 11/27      **[No class]**

Tuesday, 12/2      Ian McEwan, *Saturday*

Thursday, 12/4      Ian McEwan, *Saturday*

**[Final Exam]**