The Other in European History and Politics

Mate Nikola Tokić (tokicm@ceu.edu)                       Fall Term, 2017
Office Hours: TU 15.30-16.30                                TU/TH 13.30 – 15.10
Vigyázó Ferenc u. 2, Room 203                              Nádor u.15, Room 104

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In 2012, the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the European Union its famed Peace Prize for having advanced the causes of “peace, reconciliation, democracy and human rights” over the course of seventy years. Today, the very Union appears under threat, as numerous fault-lines caused by the pressures of resurgent nationalism, economic stagnation, increased migration and myriad other issues appear to be widening and deepening with each passing day, embodied most notably in Great Britain’s decision to leave the EU altogether. Understandably, the question of “European unity” has become a much discussed topic in recent times. Less discussed, but perhaps even more fundamental, is the very question as to what “Europe” itself means and the implications our understanding(s) of “Europeanness” has for contemporary politics. This course focuses on the development of the concept of Europe as much as an idea as a political and social reality both in history and today. In particular, the course looks at the centrality of “othering” in the construction of European identity over the ages. As Gerard Delanty has written, “the discourse of Europe is ambivalent in that it is not always about unity and inclusion, but is also about exclusion and the construction of difference based on norms of exclusion.” At its core, the course is concerned with the discourses and practices of identity formation as it relates to the notion of Europe and in particular the ways in which Europe is defined as much by that which it is not as by that which it is. The course will help the student learn to think critically about how European identity has developed as normative concept and the consequences this development has had on contemporary society and politics.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

• to develop a nuanced understanding of identity formation as explored by various academic fields of study, particularly within the disciplines of History and International Relations.

• to be able to identify and compare different kinds of “othering” in the context of Europe and the European project.

• to learn how to draw on historical and other methodologies to inform our understanding of contemporary issues in international relations.

• to apply this knowledge to the development of academic research projects.
COURSE EVALUATION

Ten percent of your grade is based on class participation in class. For this reason, attendance is absolutely necessary: if you are not in class, you are not participating. If you are to miss a session, please contact me before class time. Of course, attendance is not the same as participation. Students are expected to contribute to class discussion in a constructive manner. Not only will this be beneficial to both your own and your colleagues’ understanding of the material, it will also allow me to gauge how well you are comprehending and synthesizing the course material. To do this, it is imperative that you complete the assigned readings for each week before we meet.

During the course of the semester, each student will be required to lead class discussion once. This assignment should be seen primarily as an exercise to help you organize your thoughts about the readings. These presentations are not meant to serve as a summary of material, but rather as a platform for exploring that given week’s material more deeply.

Additionally, students will be asked to submit two (2) 500 word critical response papers. One will deal with one or more readings from weeks 1-6. The other will deal with one or more readings from weeks 7-12. You will be asked to indicate ahead of time which reading or readings you would like to deal with in your response papers, and will be required to submit your response paper BEFORE that reading is dealt with in class. The procedure for doing so will be discussed in class. Please refer to the online resource for what is expected from the response papers.

The final assignment will consist of two parts, a project proposal and annotated bibliography—each consisting 1,000 words—and a final research paper. The student will be expected to develop a project related to othering and international relations, either in history or in contemporary politics. The proposed research plan will include sections on the subject, aims, materials and methods of the project. In conjunction with the proposal, the student will submit an annotated bibliography supporting the research plan. The assignment should be seen as an exercise in strengthening the student’s understanding of how an academic project is undertaken. Students will be expected to present their research topics to the class on November 3. The final paper will be due on Friday, December 16. Again, please refer to the online resource for what is expected from the project proposal and annotated bibliography.

For those interested, students may submit a podcast in lieu of the final paper. The podcast will be produced in conjunction with the School of Public Policy’s Center for Media, Data and Society (CMDS)’s project “Academic Podcasting: Digital Scholarship, Communities of Knowledge Production and the Elusive Search for the Public.” Further information, such as deadlines and requirements, will be provided in class and on Moodle.
Breakdown of assessment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Response Paper 1 (500 words)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>To be submitted at the latest before class on Oct. 27.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Response Paper 2 (500 words)</td>
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<td>To be submitted at the latest before class on Dec. 6.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Proposal and Annotated Bibliography</td>
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<tr>
<td>(2x 1,000 words, Due Monday, November 7 @ 23.59)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>(5,000 words, Due Friday, December 16 @ 23.59)</td>
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**CLASS POLICIES**

- Plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty will result, at a minimum, in the student failing the class. The case will then be referred to the Committee on Academic Dishonesty. It is the responsibility of the student to understand what constitutes plagiarism and academic dishonesty. For reference, please consult the following university documents: *Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism*, the *CEU Policy Document* and the *MA Handbook*.

- All assignments must be submitted electronically using **MS Word** to my email address. The papers should be saved with the format “**Last Name First Name – Assignment Name.**” For example, if I were to submit response paper one, it would be “**Tokic Mate – RP 1.**” The due date of all assignments is indicated in the syllabus, and can be submitted until 23.59. For each 24 hour period past the deadline, the assignment will be docked 1/3 of a letter grade. Papers will not be accepted more than seven days after the due date.

- If you have an issue with a grade you’ve received, I am more than willing to take your concerns into consideration. I will not, however, hear any verbal requests for a grade change. Instead, I ask that you write me a short (250 word) explanation as to why you feel the grade I gave you was unsatisfactory. I will then return to the work with fresh eyes. Please note: this means the possibility exists that the grade can go down as well as up.

- All content for the class will be made available online. It goes without saying that you are responsible for all information contained in this syllabus, imparted in class and provided electronically.

- Finally, the classroom is an electronics free room. Use of mobile telephones, computers, tablets or other electronic instruments is prohibited. Please come to class with writing utensils to take notes: it has been demonstrated that one learns much more taking handwritten notes than by way of typing or recording!
**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

**WEEK 1: INTRODUCTIONS**

**Tuesday, September 19:** No Assigned Readings

**Thursday, September 21:**


**WEEK 2: CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS**

**Tuesday, September 26:**


**Thursday, September 28:** No Assigned Readings

- Podcasting Presentation by Program Coordinators at the Center for Media, Data and Society, School of Public Policy

**WEEK 3: POSITIONING “EUROPE”**

**Tuesday, October 3:**


**Thursday, October 5:**


WEEK 4: EUROPE AND THE “ORIENT”

Tuesday, October 10:


Thursday, October 12:


WEEK 5: EUROPE’S FRONTIER(S)

Tuesday, October 17:


Thursday, October 19:


WEEK 6: INTERNAL OTHERING

Tuesday, October 24:


Thursday, October 26:


WEEK 7:

Tuesday, November 2: No Assigned Readings

• Presentation of Topics

Thursday, November 3: No Assigned Readings

• Presentation of Topics

WEEK 8: GENDERED OTHERING

Tuesday, November 7:


Thursday, November 9:


**WEEK 9: OTHERING, IDENTITY AND THE EUROPEAN UNION PROJECT**

Tuesday, November 14:


Thursday, November 16:


**WEEK 10: OTHERING AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

Tuesday, November 21:


Thursday, November 23:


**WEEK 11: MIGRATION, ISLAM AND THE NEW EUROPE**

Tuesday, November 28:


Thursday, November 30:


**WEEK 12: CONCLUSIONS**

Tuesday, December 5:


Thursday, December 9: No Assigned Readings