

REGIONS AND CULTURES OF EUROPE
Revised 10/4/15

Fall 2015

REE 345 #43790/ GRG 326 #36420/ EUS 346 #35445

Instructor: Dr. Sharon E. Wilcox
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Office: BUR 586
Office hours: Tues/Thurs 3:30-4:30

Course description: This course is a systematic introduction to geography of all regions of Europe, from Iceland to Sicily and European Russia and Finland to Bretagne and Galicia. The course is based on a renowned textbook by Alexander B. Murphy, Terry G. Jordan-Bychkov and Bella Bychkova Jordan and focuses on all the major aspects of the European makeup: its physical, economic, political, and cultural geography, geolinguistics and environmental issues. A special attention is given to such issues as expansion of the European Union and NATO, problems associated with immigration and ethnic tensions, challenges of multiculturalism and integration. A significant portion of the class is dedicated to the analysis of demographic, urban and agricultural patterns. The historical perspective allows the analysis of the evolution of the European civilization during the last two millennia and resulting geographical patterns in modern Europe.

Course grading policy: students must take 3 exams, each worth 33.3% of the final grade. Make-up exams will be allowed only in cases of medical emergency with the written proof from the doctor's office. There will not be a final exam.

Required textbook: Alexander B. Murphy, Terry G. Jordan-Bychkov and Bella Bychkova Jordan. *The European Culture Area: A Systematic Geography*, 2014, 6th edition. Rowman and Littlefield: Lanham, Boulder, CO. Available at The University Co-Op.

Contacting the Instructor: The best way to reach me is by email. Please give me 24 hours to respond to your emails and 48 hours over the weekend.

Course policies:

1. There will not be makeup exams! The only time when a student can have an exemption from this policy is in case of medical emergency. A student must provide an authorized document from doctor's office.
2. Observation of religious holidays: according to the University of Texas at Austin regulations, religious holidays are observed. Accordingly, the students need to notify the instructor in advance.
3. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and students might face severe consequences in cases of plagiarism. Students must use their own words and ideas only and cite their sources very carefully.
4. Cell phones must be put away during class and computers may be used only for note taking or for class activities.
5. Though there are no points assigned for class attendance, attending lectures and lab sessions regularly is strongly recommended as a prerequisite of success in this signature class.
6. University of Texas at Austin will provide accommodations for students with disabilities. **Please notify the instructor as soon as possible if you had previously arranged for accommodation with Dr. Jordan.**
7. **Classroom Behavior:** Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, ethnicity, nationality, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, and gender/gender variance.

REVISED COURSE SCHEDULE

Aug 27 **Introduction to the course**

Sept 3 **Europe Bounded and Defined** / Ch.1: 1-24

Sept 8 **Habitat: Terrain** / Ch.2: 25-35

Sept 10 **Habitat: Hydrogeography** / Ch.2: 35-36; 47-56

Sept 15 **Habitat: Climate types, Vegetation and Soils** / Ch.2: 36-47

Sept 17 (Guest: EU Lecture)

Sept 22 **The Patterns of Languages** / Ch.4: 93-122

Sept 24 **Geography of Religion** / Ch.5: 123-158 (Guest lecture)

Sept 29 **Major Demographic Patterns** / Ch.3: 71-92

Oct 1 **Major Demographic Patterns** / Ch.3: 71-92

Oct 6 **Migration & Integration Challenges** / Ch.3: 80-84

Oct 8 **Migration & Integration Challenges** / Ch.11: 375-376

Oct 13 Study Day

Oct 15 **EXAM 1**

Oct 20 **Evolution of the European State** / Ch.6: 159-171

Oct 22 **European Agriculture** / Ch.7: 197-215/ **Modern Rural Patterns** / Ch.7: 215-231

Oct 27 **Industrial Revolution and Its Impact** / Ch.8: 233-273

Oct 29 **Postindustrial Economy** / Ch.9: 275-287

Nov 3 **The Quaternary Sector** / Ch.9: 287-298

Nov 5 **EXAM 2**

Nov 10 **Rise of the European City** / Ch.10: 299-320 (Guest Lecture)

Nov 12 **Modern European Cities**/Ch.10: 320-326

Nov 17 **Regional Types of Cities** / Ch.10: 326-341

Nov 19 **Social and Political Geography** / Ch.11: 343-375

Nov 24 **Green Europe** / Ch.2: 65-68

Nov 26 **THANKSGIVING – NO CLASSES**

Dec 1 **EU and NATO Enlargement**/Ch.6: 189-195

Dec 3 **EXAM 3**