ARTS1782

Contemporary Europe in Crisis: Power and Culture

Term Two // 2021

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Jan Lanicek	J.Lanicek@unsw.edu.au	Appointments by email	Morven Brown 367	9385 1497

Tutors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Sophie Robinson	sophie.robinson@unsw.edu.au			

School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

Location: School Office, Morven Brown Building, Level 2, 258

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Contemporary Europe in Crisis: Power and Culture explores the unprecedented challenges facing contemporary Europe, through academic analysis, political commentary, film and novels. The processes of economic and political integration, heralded by the European Union, are under existential threat, and nationalism is on the rise. To the west, British disaffection with perceived loss of sovereignty has led to a referendum passing 'Brexit', indicating the intention of a member state to leave the EU for the first time. To its south, Europe is dealing with a refugee crisis brought on by wars in north Africa and the Middle East. On its Eastern flank, tensions with Russia are heightened, especially over Ukraine. The relationship of Europe with the USA in the era of Donald Trump's presidency is also in flux. All this is taking place while Europe has been reeling from the global financial crisis, with stringent austerity measures in some countries leading to great social deprivation and political unrest. This has created a resurgent right wing, which blames Europe's ills on immigrant populations, especially the Islamic community. Europe pressingly seeks to reconcile its liberal and secular ideals with the competing demands of nationalism and religious fundamentalism. This course will introduce the social, cultural and political crisis in contemporary Europe through a cultural lens.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Explain the crises facing contemporary Europe and their cultural impact.
2. Describe the social and cultural contexts in which Europe has responded to recent challenges including refugees, political and economic fragmentation, multiculturalism and austerity.
3. Analyse a selection of literary and cinematic texts that deal with contemporary European social and political issues.
4. Demonstrate research skills through effective writing, oral presentation and scholarly reflection.

Teaching Strategies

The content and approach to learning in this course is designed to engage students intellectually, imaginatively and critically in the challenges facing contemporary Europe. It will rely on the delivery of content in-class, online and library based, incorporating blended and student-centred learning where appropriate. Subject matter will need to be responsive to the ever-shifting political situation in contemporary Europe and will mix current political analysis with relevant cultural and imaginative engagements, including film and fiction. All students are given the opportunity in tutorials to contribute tutorial discussions and to explore different themes covered in the lectures with teaching staff and with fellow students.

Assessment

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Reflection on contemporary political, social, cultural or economic issues	25%	27/06/2021 11:59 PM	1, 2, 3
Research Essay	55%	25/07/2021 11:59 PM	1, 3, 4
Final test	20%	06/08/2021	1, 2

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Reflection on contemporary political, social, cultural or economic issues

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 1,000 words plus bibliography

Details:

Reflection on contemporary political, social, cultural or economic issues (1,000 words plus bibliography); written feedback and marking via Turnitin.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 2: Research Essay

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 1,500

Details:

Students write a research essay of ca. 1,500 words. The research essay is a substantial piece of independent research, reflection and analysis.

Students receive feedback via individual comments, a rubric and a mark.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 3: Final test

Start date: Not Applicable

Details:

45 minutes; students will receive a grade via moodle, but no written feedback.

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 31 May - 4 June	Topic	Introduction: Europe in Crisis?
Week 2: 7 June - 11 June	Topic	The European Union: Myth and Reality
Week 3: 15 June - 18 June	Topic	Media in Crisis? Implications for Europe
Week 4: 21 June - 25 June	Topic	Crisis of Democracy or of Liberalism? Populism and Illiberalism
	Assessment	Reflection
Week 5: 28 June - 2 July	Topic	Is the Bear Back? Putin's Russia
Week 6: 5 July - 9 July	Topic	No face to face or online classes
Week 7: 12 July - 16 July	Topic	A Giant with the Feet of Clay? Europe and the World.
Week 8: 19 July - 23 July	Topic	Europe and Refugees: A Crisis of Humanitarianism or weakness of the West?
	Assessment	Final essay
Week 9: 26 July - 30 July	Topic	Multiculturalism: Europe and Islam
Week 10: 2 August - 6 August	Topic	COVID-19 and a Concluding discussion
	Assessment	Final test in your tutorial times.

Resources

Prescribed Resources

This course readings will be available on Leganto. Students also need to check their email regularly for updates on resources and reading material. Since this course deals with current affairs, students are urged to read newspapers and be attuned to other mainstream media for news items and analysis relating to European current affairs. Students should also consult the news website EUObserver https://euobserver.com/

Recommended Resources

There are several books that you can read during the term. Most of the material is quite polemical, but we need to engage even with ideas we do not fully support or agree with.

Ivan Krastev, After Europe (2016)
Manuel Castells (ed.), Europe's Crises (2018)
William Drozdiak, Fractured Continent: Europe's Crises and the Fate of the West (2017)
Douglas Murray, The Strange Death of Europe: Immigration, Identity, Islam (2017)
Guy Verhofstadt, Europe's Last Chance: Why the European States Must Form a More Perfect Union (2017)

Course Evaluation and Development

This course will be evaluated through ongoing discussion and consultation with students and lecturers and through MyExperience end of term surveys.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.
http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/

Image Credit

https://www.politico.eu/interactive/world-cartoonists-on-this-weeks-events-coronavirus-covid-19-cartoons/

First published in Der Standard, Austria, March 17, 2020 | By Oliver Schopf

CRICOS

CRICOS Provider Code: 00098G

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Bedegal people who are the traditional custodians of the lands on which UNSW Kensington campus is located.