

ARTS1782

Contemporary Europe in Crisis: Power and Culture

Term 2, 2022



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
Juliette Gout	j.gout@unsw.edu.au			

School Contact Information

School of Humanities & Languages

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

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm

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Acknowledgement of Country

UNSW Arts, Design and Architecture Kensington and Paddington campuses are built on Aboriginal Lands. We pay our respects to the Bidjigal and Gadigal peoples who are the Custodians of these lands. We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the First Australians, whose lands, winds and waters we all now share, and pay respect to their unique values, and their continuing and enduring cultures which deepen and enrich the life of our nation and communities.



Image courtesy of the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous [UNSW's Indigenous strategy](#)

Course Details

Units of Credit 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 task	Weight	Due Date	Course Learning Outcomes Assessed
1. Reflection on contemporary political, social, cultural or economic issues	25%	24/06/2022 11:59 PM	1, 2, 3
2. Research Essay	55%	24/07/2022 11:59 PM	1, 3, 4
3. Final test	20%	06/08/2021 10:00 AM	1, 2

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

Assessment length: 1,000 words plus bibliography

Due date: 24/06/2022 11:59 PM

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

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

Assessment 2: Research Essay

Assessment length: 1,500

Due date: 24/07/2022 11:59 PM

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.

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

Assessment 3: Final test

Due date: 06/08/2021 10:00 AM

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

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: 30 May - 3 June	Topic	Introduction: Europe in Crisis?
Week 2: 6 June - 10 June	Topic	The European Union: Myth and Reality
Week 3: 13 June - 17 June	Topic	Media in Crisis? Implications for Europe
Week 4: 20 June - 24 June	Topic	Crisis of Democracy or of Liberalism? Populism and Illiberalism
	Assessment	Reflection
	Assessment	Reflection on contemporary political, social, cultural or economic issues
Week 5: 27 June - 1 July	Topic	Threat from the East? Putin's Russia
Week 6: 4 July - 8 July	Topic	No face to face or online classes
Week 7: 11 July - 15 July	Topic	Europe and the World: NATO, China and the Middle East
Week 8: 18 July - 22 July	Topic	Europe and Refugees: A Crisis of Humanitarianism or weakness of the West?
	Assessment	Final essay
Week 9: 25 July - 29 July	Topic	A Crisis of Multiculturalism? Europe and Islam
Week 10: 1 August - 5 August	Topic	New challenges? COVID-19 and Environmentalism
	Assessment	Final test

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)

Ivan Krastev - Stephen Holmes, *The Light That Failed – Why the West Is Losing the Fight for Democracy* (2020)

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)

The convenors will try to respond to the current developments in Europe and adjust the course content accordingly.

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 includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original 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 for the purpose of them plagiarising, 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

The [UNSW Academic Skills support](#) offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. 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 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

Academic Information

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided.)

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.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines>

Image Credit

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/macron-putin-agree-take-action-preserve-peace-elysee-2022-02-20/>

reuters.com, February 21, 2022

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