

## **CONTEMPORARY EUROPE: A GEOGRAPHY (GEOGRAPHY 254/354)**

Spring 2008, WF 2:00-3:15 CLAS 434

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 11-12 and Thursdays 1-2 (except during spring break and on April 16)

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

(approximate dates for topics; exam times are fixed (see "Exam Policies" below.))

January 23-30

INTRODUCTION (Text: Introduction and reading on the EU: pp. 279-282, 320-321, 349, 391-393)

- A. What is Europe & Who are Europeans?
- B. Pan-European Organizations and the European Union

February 1-6

**EXERCISE 1 DUE in class Feb. 6** (exercise returned 2/6 if turned in at Prof. B's mailbox in CLAS 422 by 4 p.m. on 2/4)

POPULATION GEOGRAPHY (Text: Chapters 2 & 3)

- A. European Population Totals and Distribution
- B. European Demographics
- C. Cultural Characteristics of European Populations (Ostergren/Rice, chpt. 5; Gowland et al., pp. 260-267 (267-277 also recommended); Berentsen et al. Inset 3-2))
- D. European Music and Sport

February 8-15

**QUIZ during last part of class FEBRUARY 13**

POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY (Text: pp. 163-164, 172-194; Berentsen et al.: pp. 1-9)

- A. The Historical Evolution of Europe's Political Map
- B. Europe's Ethnic Conflicts and "Nations Without States" (Gowland et al., pp. 297-315; Berentsen et al., Inset 3.1, "Europe's Nations Without States", pp. 127-136)

February 20-29

**EXERCISE #2 DUE FEBRUARY 22**

ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY (Text: pp. 138-148, 153-156)

- A. Development Levels of Europe's Countries and Regions
- B. Why Western Europe is More Developed than the East (Gowland et al., pp. 27-40)
- C. Natural Resources and Agriculture (Berentsen et al., "Natural Resources", pp. 152-157)
- D. Manufacturing and International Trade (Berentsen et al., "Manufacturing", pp. 170-179)

March 5

URBAN GEOGRAPHY (Text: pp. 115-125; Ostergren/Rice, pp. 274-293)

- A. History of Urban Development in Europe
- B. The Morphology of European Cities: U.S. *versus* European Urban Land Use Patterns (Berentsen et al., pp. 215-226)

**HOUR EXAM 1: March 7**

March 19

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY (Text: Chapter 1; Berentsen et al.: "Europe's Landscapes" (pp. 27-40))

A. Landforms and Climate; Modification of the Environment and Environmental Problems

March 21

WESTERN EUROPE: FRANCE & BENELUX (Text: The Netherlands (pp. 227-236), Luxembourg (pp. 234-236))

A. France's Regional Center-Periphery Structure: Paris and the French "Desert" (Berentsen et al., Inset 8-1)

B. Planning in the Netherlands (Berentsen et al., Inset 8-2)

### **EXERCISE 3 DUE MARCH 28**

March 26-28

WEST CENTRAL EUROPE (Text: "Introduction" (pp. 238-241), "Berlin" (pp. 247-252), "Summary" (pp. 254-256, pp. 350-354; 356-360, "Land Use in the Alps" & "The Future" pp. 363-365)

A. Germany, Divided and United ("Big Brother is Still Haunting Society in Germany's East": <http://www.autentico.org/oa09338.php>;

"Why the CIA is Airing its Dirty Laundry: <http://www.time.com/time/printout/0,8816,1636988,00.html>)

B. Preserving Treasured Forest and Alpine Landscapes

April 2

THE BRITISH ISLES & DENMARK (Text: pp. 319-320; Berentsen et al., Inset 7-2; Text "N. Ireland" (pp. 305-307); pp. 288-291, 293-294)

A. The UK's North-South Divide

B. Ireland's Problems and Changes

April 4

SOUTHERN EUROPE (Text: pp. 256-261, "Arno" pp. 266-267, 324-326, 331-335, "Regionalism in Spain" pp. 346-347, pp. 516-520)

A. Southern Europe's Environmental and Cultural Resources: Use and Misuse

B. Development Problems in Southernmost Europe (Berentsen et al., Inset 10-3)

April 9

NORTHERN EUROPE (Text: pp. 365, 371-372, 375-376, 379-380, 383-385)

A. Western Europe's Welfare State Systems

### **HOUR EXAM #2 APRIL 11**

April 16 TBA

April 18

EAST CENTRAL EUROPE (Text: pp. 406-410, 418-423)

A. Political and Economic Transition

April 23

SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE (Text: 449-451; Burg (1993), "Why Yugoslavia Fell Apart")

A. The Dissolution of Yugoslavia

April 25-30

THE EUROPEAN FSU (Text: pp. 476-481)

A. Historic Empires: The Bases of Soviet and Russian Ethnic Heterogeneity and Conflict

B. Russian Resources and Regional Development

May 2

CONCLUSION (Chapter 16)

**MAY 9 Tentative Time/Date for COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM: 3:30-5:30 p.m.**

**Reading: GEOG 254/354**

Assignments include selections from several current and recent textbooks and other sources, including: *The EU & Neighbors*, B.W. Blouet, John Wiley & Sons Inc., 2008 (referred to as "Text" in the syllabus); *Europe: A Contemporary Geography*, 7th ed., W.H. Berentsen (ed.), NY: John Wiley & Sons Inc., 1997; *The European Mosaic: Contemporary Politics, Economics and Culture*, 2nd ed., D. Gowland et al. (eds.), London: Longman: London, 2000; *The Europeans: A Geography of People, Culture, and Environment*, R.C. Ostegren and J.G. Rice, New York: Guilford, 2004. Several short, recent articles on selected topics will also be handed out in class.

**SOME FRIDAYS:** At the beginning of class Prof. B will invite reports and discussion on "what's happening in Europe". Topics closely related to the course are especially apt but virtually any topic is welcome, including, for example, reports on elections in Europe or European reactions to developments in the U.S.

**GEOG 354 STUDENTS:** These students will meet periodically for approximately an hour with Prof. Berentsen at an agreed upon time/date to discuss topics of mutual interest. The discussion will be based in part on reading, including some reading beyond that assigned to all GEOG 254/354 students.

**Grading: GEOG 254**

Exercises 20%; quiz 5%; classroom participation 5%; hour exams 35%; final exam 30%; additional weight for highest exam score 5%. Also see "Make up Policies" below. Note that someone missing an exam based on ill health or an emergency must promptly contact Prof. Berentsen and provide documentation about the absence. For a missed final exam a student must contact Prof. Berentsen as soon as possible to arrange a make-up exam. Students cannot automatically assume that they can schedule the make-up exam as late as possible; a make-up exam would be given as soon as possible after the scheduled exam date. **There are no "extra credit" options in GEOG 254; students need to focus on doing well on all assigned work beginning in January in order to learn course material and earn a good grade in GEOG 254.**

**Grading: GEOG 354**

Exercises 0-20%; quiz 0-5%; classroom participation 10%; hour exams 35%; final exam 30%; project 20%; additional weight for highest exam score 5%. Exercises and the quiz are optional for GEOG 354 students; if

GEOG 354 students submit the exercise and/or begin the quiz, the scores will apply. If weights exceed 100%, a GEOG 354 student's final average would be prorated to a 100% basis. Students will receive a handout describing requirements for the project. Note that someone missing an exam based on ill health or an emergency must promptly contact Prof. Berentsen and provide documentation about the absence. For a missed final exam a student must contact Prof. Berentsen as soon as possible to arrange a make-up exam. Students cannot automatically assume that they can schedule the make-up exam as late as possible; a make-up exam would be given as soon as possible after the scheduled exam date. **There are no "extra credit" options in GEOG 354; students need to focus on doing well on all assigned work beginning in January in order to learn course material and earn a good grade in GEOG 354.**

**Questions about Coursework:** If you attend class regularly and are doing the work in this class, NO question is a bad one. If you have a question, please bring your lecture notes and book (if appropriate) along to office hours and I'll try to sort out the problem with you. Realize that whether you are at office hours or are writing in by email, my approach will be to try to help you figure out answers to questions on your own by, for example, providing hints, clues, etc. This approach responds to the proverb—"Give someone a fish and they can eat today; teach someone to fish and they'll have food forever". In addition to responding to questions, I'm also ready to discuss issues in more depth than in class, discuss your perspectives on course content that you think may differ from my own, and/or discuss issues related to Europe that we are not able to address in class.

**Classroom Participation:** Within the time available, Prof. B endeavors to allow individuals to express their views on controversial issues, however at times I may need to curtail discussion owing to time constraints. Abridging discussion, when necessary, will not be intended to limit the content of a multi-sided debate. Note that answers on exams will be judged on their completeness in terms of factual content and presentation of interpretations of these facts, the latter possibly involving more than one interpretation (i.e., controversy). Exams and exercises, and their evaluations, will be designed to avoid a student being required to "parrot" someone else's views in order to receive credit. However, knowledge of widely held and important views, even if these differ from one's own, may be expected. In short, being able to report others' views accurately can be important; this does not require that a student agree with them. A good critique of such views would indicate a laudable depth of knowledge by a student.

**Exercises:** Instructions for exercises will be passed out in class; students are responsible for getting this material if they miss a class. The grad student term project will be discussed in a meeting with the grads.

**All exercises must be securely stapled, neatly presented, typed, well organized and written, highly legible, and turned in on the due date. Complete bibliographic information for sources of written work must be provided.** Four or more words taken directly from **any** source must be put within quotations and properly cited. Citations must include all information needed for another person to easily access your sources. Copying from an outside source or another person is plagiarism and can be punishable by failure in the course. Prof. Berentsen has been forced to take action against many dozens of plagiarists in recent semesters. The University has sanctions for cheating beyond those related to grades within a course itself. These can include probation, suspension or expulsion from the University.

**Check written work carefully** for misspelled words, improper punctuation, and incomplete sentences. Though mistakes of this sort are common in many students' papers, they should not occur often in essays written by college students. An effort to use standard American English is expected in oral and written work.

Exercises not meeting the standards outlined above may receive reduced or no credit. Exercises are due in

class on the due date or will be considered late and receive reduced credit. Exercises may be turned in late, but penalties will accrue up to a 25% by 7 days following a due date. No exercise turned in more than one week after the due date will receive credit, unless a verifiable emergency can be documented to explain the late submission, in which case no penalties apply (see "Make-up Policies" below). A number of students each semester ignore deadlines and incorrectly believe that their late work will receive credit. Successful completion of this course requires timely completion of course work. **In short, work must be correctly completed and turned in on time for full credit, or within 7 days of the due date for partial credit.**

**REQUIREMENTS FOR WRITTEN WORK INCLUDE:** punctuality; neatly presented and legible work, typed double-spaced with a dark ribbon (poorly presented work will receive a lower grade); proper spelling (there are penalties for misspelling proper nouns and/or frequent misspellings); proper referencing of any cited materials; and proper grammar and punctuation. Prof. B highly recommend that you review rules related to all of the above. Writers' guides generally provide such information, (e.g., David Sonstroem (1985), *The Style Booklet* (Storrs, Conn.: Dept. of English, U. of Conn.).

Exercises must represent a student's own work and may not be done in collaboration with fellow students, except in cases where directions specifically encourage or allow a group effort. Directions, weights, and requirements for exercises will be distributed and announced in class.

**Late Submission and Make-up Policies:** There will likely be no make-up for a missed quiz or exam. If you miss a quiz or exam, its weight will be added to the weight of the comprehensive final exam, **if** you have satisfactory evidence documenting cause of your absence. In such a case, students will need to explain their problem in writing and document it on a form provided. The form must be submitted promptly following recovery from an illness or emergency that caused an absence from an exam. The cause of an absence from an exam or late submission of an exercise must be verified by written documentation on official stationery--e.g. a note from a doctor or the University infirmary in the case of an illness or health emergency, or a printed funeral notice in the case of death of a close relative or friend. (The latter is a regrettable necessity. A student once reported to his various instructors that a total of four grandmothers died one semester. We were not amused; zeroes on exams were recorded.) A small number of people regularly, unsuccessfully try to convince Prof. Berentsen of similar such invented tales about all manner of problems and maladies. Realize that family ski vacations and similar diversions also do not qualify as emergencies. Notes from roommates, parents, etc., do not provide sufficient evidence to explain any absence. A student with non-medical related personal emergencies must have documentary evidence, which could include a note from a professional counselor. Students who have conflicts between the times of an exam and another University commitment must have official, written documentation of the problem and must discuss the conflict well prior to the exam date with Prof. Berentsen. If a student misses too much of the course, including both hour exams, it may be necessary for him/her to drop the course. All documentation related to absences must be given to Prof. Berentsen or left for him in the Geography Office (Room 422, CLAS Building). **These policies apply to all students. Students who do not provide satisfactory evidence for the cause of an absence from an exam or late submission of an exercise will automatically receive a score of zero.**

**Academic Misconduct:** Plagiarism includes copying four or more words without proper quotation and citation directly from another source, which could be another student's paper, a web site, a book, a dictionary, an encyclopedia, or other source. A student is responsible for properly preparing his/her own work; penalties for plagiarism apply in a case where a student claims ignorance about this course's student conduct rules.

While some high school and college instructors choose not to enforce plagiarism rules, they have been and will be strictly enforced in this course. Consequences of academic misconduct can include loss of credit on a quiz, exam or exercise and/or an F in the course. The Dean of Students may also be informed of student misconduct, which could result in sanctions on a student by the University. Needless to say, cheating is unethical and unfair to honest members of the University community, and it is a terrible habit. Penalties for student misconduct have been and will be imposed if necessary in GEOG 254/354.

Note that it is a violation of the Student Conduct Code to seek to influence a grade in any manner not related to academic performance; no "extra credit" options are available and there are no special mechanisms for any student to overcome poor performance on exams and exercises. **Prof. B does not have discussions about or respond to messages from students trying to get “extra credit”, “curved” grades, or any kind of “break”—other than possibly forwarding unethical communications to University officials. All final grades are determined as indicated above.**