

Universidad Complutense de Madrid
Facultad de Ciencias Políticas y Sociología

MASTER's Degree on: NATIONALISM STUDIES

EUROPEAN IDENTITIES AND THE EUROPEAN UNION
[ECTS: 6.0]

Professor: Isabel González Enríquez

isgonz12@ucm.es

Academic Year: 2026-2027, Second Semester.

Outline:

The aim of the present course-subject is to provide theoretical and conceptual tools (interpretive keys) that would allow comprehending and explaining Europe as a historical and cultural reality; and more specifically elucidating what the far-reaching political project, the current European Union, represents. Issues will be addressed from a range of diverse perspectives and disciplinary approaches, in accordance with the multiple dimensions that they entail. Therefore, data and references from philosophy, history, the broad social sciences and ethnography will be taken into consideration in broaching the subject matter of the course. Given the growing incidence of the European Union in all areas of society: the economy, education, politics, working conditions and leisure; a better understanding of the foundations on which the EU is based, and the institutions that it comprises, is an intellectual as well as a practical imperative. More so for the generations that are beginning to effectively live as Europeans.

Schedule: Tuesday, 15:30 to 18:30 CET. **Online, via Google Meet:**

<https://meet.google.com/ers-jtci-rhk>

Tutorials: Via *Google Meet* by appointment, and by email at any time during the semester

This course is incorporated to the Campus Virtual, UCM.

COURSE AIMS:

As stated in the subject's title, the broad aim of this course is to describe and comprehend the wide range of historical, religious, ethnic and linguistic, in sum sociocultural identities, that Europe (from the Urals to the Atlantic Ocean, Scandinavia to the shores of the Mediterranean) encompasses. Moreover, a particular focus will be placed in the study of the evolving latest grand endeavour aiming at building a united Europe, this time bearing the name of the European Union.

COURSE ABSTRACT:

For the fulfillment of the indicated objectives, resources and materials from diverse disciplinary fields will be brought to bear. Firstly, each theoretical module will require enrolled students to read one or more texts, which will be discussed in class. Secondly, all texts presented by students in their oral presentations are to be read and worked on by the class as a whole. Finally, the completion of the group research project may require students to search for and consult additional materials. Supplementary materials will be provided, including readings as well as documentaries, films, and relevant websites, in order to facilitate students' documentation work and possible research activities.

As regards work to be done in the classroom, a mixed formula is applied, where introductory lectures by the instructor and seminar- type open discussion are combined. Seminar sessions, where previously agreed texts are to be discussed, will eventually incorporate formal oral presentations by individual students.

REQUIREMENTS:

This subject-course will be taught in English. Lectures and seminar sessions will take place fully online. Proficiency in the English language, with advanced reading and speaking skills, is therefore required from enrolled students. Each student will be required to attend and actively participate in the virtual sessions on a regular basis, and to successfully complete two assignments:

1. **Oral presentation assignment:** for this practical assignment, each student is required to give an individual oral presentation to the whole class based on one of the following seven open-access academic texts. Each text may be presented by only one student. The seven texts will be mandatory readings for the entire class.

Myth of the near future? Assessing the European Green Deal's potential to become a political myth for the European Union

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14782804.2023.2288908>

Struggle and banality of belonging to Europe. Cultural Europeanization from the perspective of the Central and East European citizens

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14782804.2023.2207000>

Bringing Erasmus home: the European universities initiative as an example of 'Everyday Europeanhood'

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14782804.2022.2134986>

Imperial Gothic 2.0: Brexit, Brex-Lit, and everyday Euroscepticism in British popular culture

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14782804.2022.2134987>

Playing through to Europe? Depiction and Reception of the First World War in the Videogame Valiant Hearts

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14782804.2022.2097206>

Europeanization of citizens vis-à-vis regional politicians: the case of the German-speaking Community of Belgium in the Euregio Maas-Rhine

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14782804.2022.2146073>

Becoming more and more European: nationhood, Europe, and same-sex sexualities in the life stories of Lithuanian LGBQ people

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14782804.2022.2153242>

2. **Qualitative Research Group Project:** students will work in groups of 2 or 3 to conduct a brief qualitative research project on a freely chosen topic, subject to approval by the instructor and linked to the themes and concepts discussed in the course. Each student must upload the assignment individually, as it will include distinctive elements such as interview/observation transcriptions and the final considerations.

ASSESSMENT:

Participation in the seminar-discussion sessions, having previously worked with the assigned readings, plus individual oral presentations: 50 percent.

Qualitative research group project: 50 percent.

TEACHING SCHEDULE and ACTIVITIES

Lectures:

Introductory lectures will be delivered by the teacher on each of the main themes addressed in the course.

Seminars:

Some sessions will consist of open debate seminars; where compulsory readings will be discussed, documentaries be watched and commented upon, presentations by students will be carried out.

Presentations:

Enrolled students are required to do at least one formal oral presentation to the class.

Other activities:

Eventually, some complementary activities will be carried out, in agreement with participants in the course. These might include lectures on specific topics by external authors-lecturers invited.

OUTLINE of CONTENTS by MODULES:

Module 1. The concept of identity. Social ontologies and interpretations of identity and identities. Identity as a social construction; the representation of “the savage.” The case of ethnicity; material and symbolic resources of ethnic discourse. The case of nationalism.

Recommended readings:

SCHILLER, N. G., BASCH, L. G., & SZANTON BLANC, C. (1992). *Towards a transnational perspective on migration : race, class, ethnicity, and nationalism reconsidered*. New York Academy of Sciences.

Module 2. The European 'discovery' of the Americas and the emergence of the Modern Era. Key features of modern thought: science, democracy, and the market. Dichotomies of Modernity: nature–culture, self–other, science–magic, reason–senses. The project of universal domination of modern Europe and its critique. The concept and the idea of Europe in literary, ethnographic, and historical sources.

Required readings:

STEINER, George (2004). *The Idea of Europe*. Tilburg, NL: Nexus Institute. (pp. 7-37).

INGOLD, Tim (2018). *Anthropology: Why it Matters*. Polity Press. On taking others seriously (pp. 1-26).

Module 3. Eurocentrism or Occidentalism. How Europe imagines itself in contrast to other regions of the world such as Africa, the Americas or 'the Orient'. Orientalism: Culture and Empire. Islam in Europe. Social and cultural diversity across Europe: historical developments, religious traditions, political cultures, cultural identities. Religious, ethnic and language minorities.

Required readings:

SAID, Edward W. (1978) *Orientalism*. Western Conceptions of the Orient. London: Penguin Books, 1991. (Introduction, pp. 9-36).

Module 4. European identities and migration. Challenges engendered by the new migrations and globalization. Population movements and migrations, their impact on the definition and practice of citizenship. The populations of Muslim origin. The old-new ever expanding-contracting, unfinished European Union: political, economic, and sociocultural dimensions. The future of the European Union.

Required readings:

GOODY, Jack (2004). *Islam in Europe*. Cambridge: Polity Press (Preface and Introduction pp.1-19).

STOLCKE, Verena (1999). New rhetorics of exclusion in Europe. *International Social Science Journal* 51 (159), pp-25-35.

Module 5. The Europeanisation of identities through everyday practices. Case studies: the potential role of political myths; belonging from the perspective of the Central and East European citizens; the European universities initiative; Euroscepticism in British popular culture; 'Everyday Europeanhood' through videogames; diverse speaking communities in Belgium; life stories of Lithuanian LGBTQ people.

Required readings: all 7 texts listed in the oral presentation assignment.

Other bibliographic references:

ABÉLÈS, Marc (1992) *La vie quotidienne au Parlement Européen*. Paris : Hachette.

ANDERSON, Benedict (1982) *Imagined Communities. Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. London and New York: Verso, 1992.

- BAUMAN, Zygmunt (2004) *Europe. An Unfinished Adventure*. London: Polity Press.
- BENDA, Julien (1946) *La traición de los intelectuales [La trahison des clercs]*. Barcelona: Círculo de Lectores, 2000.
- BERLIN, Isaiah (1990) *The Crooked Timber of Humanity. Chapters in the History of Ideas*. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2013.
- BILLIG, Michael (1995) *Banal Nationalism*. London: Sage Publications.
- BILLINGTON, James H. (1966) *The Icon and the Axe. An Interpretive History of Russian Culture*. New York: Vintage Books, 1970.
- (*) DANILEVSKII, Nikolai I. (c. 1869) *Russia and Europe: The Slavic World's Political and Cultural Relations with the Germanic Roman West*. Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, Slavica Publishers Inc., 2013.
- DALE, Stephen F. (2015) *The Orange Trees of Marrakesh. Ibn Khaldûn and the Science of Man*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press.
- DÍEZ del CORRAL, Luis (1954) *El rapto de Europa. Una interpretación histórica de nuestro tiempo*. Madrid: CEU, 2018.
- DIEZ MEDRANO, Juan (2013) *Framing Europe. Attitudes to European Integration in Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom*. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press.
- ESLER, Gavin (2021) *How Britain Ends. English Nationalism and the Rebirth of Four Nations*. London: The Head of Zeus.
- GALBRAITH, James K. (2016) *Welcome to the Poisoned Chalice. The Destruction of Greece and the Future of Europe*. New Haven & London: Yale University Press.
- GALCERÁN HUGUET, Montserrat (2014) *La bárbara Europa. Una mirada desde el postcolonialismo y la descolonialidad*. Madrid: Traficantes de Sueños.
- GOODY, Jack (2006) *The Theft of History*. Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge U. Press. (*)
- GOODY, Jack (2003) *Islam in Europe*. London: Polity Press.
- GREENFELD, Liah (1992) *Nationalism. Five Roads to Modernity*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.
- HABERMAS, Jürgen (1995) *Más allá del estado nacional*. Madrid: Trotta, 1997.
- HABERMAS, Jürgen (1996) *La inclusión del otro. Estudios de teoría política*. Barcelona: Paidós, 1999.
- HOBBSBAWM, Eric (1962) *The Age of Revolution, 1789-1848*. London: Abacus, 1977.
- HOBBSBAWM, Eric (1975) *The Age of Capital, 1848-1875*. London: Abacus, 1997.
- HOBBSBAWM, Eric (1987) *The Age of Empire, 1875-1914*. London: Abacus, 2014.
- HOBBSBAWM, Eric (1994) *The Age of Extremes. The Short Twentieth Century 1914-1991*. London: Abacus, 1995.

JUDT, Tony (2005) *Postwar. A History of Europe Since 1945*. London: Vintage Books.

JUDT, Tony (1996) *A Grand Illusion? An Essay on Europe*. London: Hill & Wang Publishers.

KHALDÛN, Ibn (c.1370) *The Muqaddimah. An Introduction to History*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2005 (abridged edition).

LACROIX, J.; NICOLAÏDIS, K. (eds.) (2010) *European Stories. Intellectual Debates on Europe in National Contexts*. Oxford, Eng: Oxford University Press.

LLOBERA, Josep (1994) *The God of Modernity. The Development of Nationalism in Western Europe*. Oxford: Berg.

MAR-MOLINERO, Clare et al, (eds.) (2006) *Language Ideologies, Policies and Practices. Language and the Future of Europe*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

MEARSHEIMER, John J. (2018) *The Great Delusion. Liberal Dreams and International Realities*. New Haven, London: Yale University Press.

MOSSE, George L. (1975) *The Nationalization of the Masses. Political Symbolism and Mass Movements in Germany from the Napoleonic Wars through the Third Reich*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 1996.

MURRAY, Douglas (2017) *The Strange Death of Europe. Immigration, Identity, Islam*. London: Bloomsbury, 2018.

NAIRN, Tom (1977) *The Break-Up of Britain. Crisis and Neo-Nationalism*. London and New York: Verso, 2021 (with a new Introduction).

PADGEN, Anthony (ed.) (2002) *The Idea of Europe. From Antiquity to the European Union*. Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press.

PAKENHAM, Thomas (1991) *The Scramble for Africa, 1876-1912*. London: Abacus.

SAID, Edward W. (1978) *Orientalism. Western Conceptions of the Orient*. London: Penguin Books, 1991.

SAID, Edward W. (1993) *Culture and Imperialism*. New York: Alfred Knopf.

SHORE, Chris (2000) *Building Europe: The cultural politics of European integration*. London: Routledge.

THIESSE, Anne-Marie (1999) *La création des identités nationales. Europe XVIIIe.-XXe. siècle*. Paris: Éditions du Seuil.

TODD, Emmanuel (2024) *La défaite de l'Occident*. Paris: Gallimard.

WOLF, Eric R. (1982) *Europe and the People Without History*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

OTHER SOURCES: Websites & Links:

<http://europa.eu/> <http://www.eurydice.org/>
<http://www.euro-islam.info/> <http://www.robert-schuman.eu/>
<http://www.jeanmonnetprogram.org> <http://avalon.law.yale.edu/default.asp>

World Values Survey: <http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/>
Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe: <http://www.share-project.org/>
Immigration and Citizenship in Europe: <http://www.euimmigration.org/>
International Centre for Migration Policy Development: <http://www.icmpd.org/>
The Rising Tide Foundation: <https://risingtidefoundation.net/about-us/>

[EUROSTAT](#) 2002 (&after). *The Life of Women and Men in Europe: A Statistical Portrait*
Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Union.
[EGO](#). European History Online.

Documentaries and films:

- [Europa](#) (Lars Von Trier, 1990)
- [Europa, Europa](#) (Agnieszka Holland, 1990)
- [Ordinary Fascism \(Triumph over Violence\)](#) (Mikhail Romm, 1965)
- [Alemania, año cero](#) (Roberto Rossellini, 1948)
- [Europa 1951](#) (Roberto Rossellini, 1951)
- [E la nave va](#) (F. Fellini, 1983)

- *América, América* (Elia Kazan, 1963)
- *The American Creed* (A. Lasfargues y H. Védrine, 2004)
- *Fahrenheit 9/11* (Michael Moore, 2004)
- *El mundo según Bush* (William Karel, 2004)

- *My country, my country* (Laura Poitras, 2006)
- *Homeland: Iraq Year Zero* (Abbas Fahdel, 2015)
- [Palestine is Still the Issue](#) (John Pilger, 1977, 2002)

Farewell Comrades! (Andrei Nekrasov et al, 2011; ARTE, gebrueder beetz filmproduktion and Artline Films). TV series in six episodes: 1.Victory; 2.Wars; 3.Hope; 4.Awakening; 5.Rebellion; 6.Collapse.

The Western Tradition (E. Weber): 27.- The Reformation. 29.- The Wars of Religion. 35.- The Enlightenment and Society. 37.-The American Revolution. 43.- The French Revolution (and the romantics), 44.- The nation-states.

- *Cromwell* (Ken Hughes, 1970)
- *Irlanda: la raíz del problema* (Granada TV, 1998)
- *Todos somos vecinos* (Granada TV, 1993)

- *Memoria de Europa. J. Semprún en Buchenwald* (TVE-En Portada, 2010)

- *La nueva Alemania y Europa* (TVE-En Portada, 2011)
- *El desencanto de Europa* (TVE-En Portada, 2012)

- *Fronteras de Europa. La fortaleza europea* (TVE-ARTE France, 2001)
- *Musulmanes en Europa* (TVE-En Portada, 2008)
- *The [Green Border](#)* (Agnieszka Holland, 2023)
- *Los Hermanos Musulmanes (Egipto)* (TVE-En Portada, 2011)

- *When the Moors Ruled in Europe* (Granada TV report, 2005. T. Copestake)
- *An Islamic History of Europe* (BBC-Manchester report, 2004. Paul Sapin)
- *The Crusades: Crescent and the Cross* (History Channel, 2005: Mark Lewis)