IS 1104 Introduction to European Studies

Virginia Tech

Spring 2025

Instructor's Contact Details

Name: Professor Yannis A. Stivachtis, PhD
Office: 528 Major Williams Hall
E-mail: ystivach@vt.edu
Tel: (540) 231-5816
Zoom: https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/8826427416

Office Hours: Tuesday 3:30-5:00 pm; Thursday 10:00-11:30 am or with appointment

Class Information

Lectures: Tuesday & Thursday 2:00-3:15pm
Location: USLB 210 or 112 Major Williams Hall

Course Description

A multidisciplinary introduction to the history, geography, politics, economy, culture, and society in Europe.

Course Outcomes

Having successfully completed this course, the student will be able to:

1. Engage with major topics and issues of European Studies.
2. Analyze European issues from a multi-disciplinary perspective.
3. Analyze international news in order to keep abreast of European affairs and to cross-check perspectives from country to country.
4. Critically examine issues and arguments pertaining to European politics, religion, culture, society, economy and history.

Required Texts

David S. Mason, *A Concise History of Modern Europe*, 5th edition. New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2022.

*Additional material will be distributed by the instructor.

Course Requirements

Students will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

Total numbers of points: 100

Attendance:	10 points
In class participation:	20 points
Weekly written assignments:	50 points (10X5)
Exams:	20 points (2X10)

Mid-term & Final Exams

There are no mid-term and final exams for this course.

In-class participation

In-class participation refers to the active involvement of students in in-class discussions and their ability to respond to the instructor's questions.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory. Students will receive 1 penalization point for each class session they miss **unless a note from the Office of the Dean of Students is provided excusing the student's absence**. Penalization points will be subtracted from the students' grade for 'Professionalism'.

Only students who are in the classroom during the first ten (10) minutes of the class will count as being present.

If a student needs to leave the class early, s/he needs to inform the instructor. Students, who 'walk out' of class without doing so, will not receive credit for attendance and participation on the day or the class section in question and will be regarded as absent.

Weekly written assignments

Weekly assignments are short reports that critically engage with the topics presented in class during the week.

Students are required to write ten (10) weekly papers of length of approximately 500 words. Unless the instructor states otherwise, the deadline for submitting the weekly assignments will be each Tuesday at the beginning of class. Students need to submit hard copies of their assignments.

Late submissions will receive a 1.0 penalization point per day unless students submit the necessary documentation from the Office of the Dean of Students

Author's Guidelines

A hard copy of the assignment should be submitted in class. The assignment should include the student's full name, the word count, and the complete title of the assignment. The assignment should be typed in single space, justified and presented in Times New Roman 12 format. The author should use APA style.

Exams

Students are required to take two (2) written exams. Unless the instructor specifies otherwise, the exams will be taken in class using Blue Books.

Students with Special Needs

Students who need special assistance with note and exam taking should contact the course instructor within the first week of classes. However, those students should contact the relevant university office to obtain the necessary documentation before they meet with the course instructor. The instructor will do everything to address students' needs.

Course Evaluation

Toward the end of the semester, the online Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) questionnaire (https://eval.scholar.vt.edu) will be used to gather feedback on particular aspects of the course

and instruction. I read and consider all student comments regarding the course and instruction. For example, power point slides are posted prior to class because feedback indicated that this would help students to organize their notes.

Grade Scale

Please note that for this course the applicable grade scale is as follows:

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	67-69
D	64-66
D-	60-63
F	0-59
F*	

Please note that grades ending at .5 will be rounded up.

* A student who receives a sanction of **F*** as their final course grade shall have it documented on their transcript with the notation "FAILURE DUE TO ACADEMIC HONOR CODE VIOLATION." You would be required to complete an education program administered by the Honor System in order to have the "*" and notation "FAILURE DUE TO ACADEMIC HONOR CODE VIOLATION" removed from your transcript. The "F" however would be permanently on your transcript."

Honor Code

Students are encouraged to complete the Academic Integrity Success Module. It may be found at this link: https://canvas.vt.edu/enroll/CE7YK9

This module covers necessary information regarding Academic Integrity at Virginia Tech that students will need throughout their time as a student. This information includes our policies and the importance of academic integrity at Virginia Tech. Even if a student has completed the module in the past, a refresher is always helpful.

Syllabus Statement

The Undergraduate Honor Code pledge that each member of the university community agrees to abide by states:

> *"As a Hokie, I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do."*

Students enrolled in this course are responsible for abiding by the Honor Code. A student who has doubts about how the Honor Code applies to any assignment is responsible for obtaining specific guidance from the course instructor before submitting the assignment for evaluation.

Students are strongly discouraged from misusing sites such as Chegg and CourseHero, as well as misusing ChatGPT and other Generative Artificial Intelligence. Students are strongly encouraged to consult their faculty members regarding the use of such outside materials as the misuse of these sources may constitute a violation of the Honor Code. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the University community from the requirements and expectations of the Honor Code.

All university policies and procedures apply in any Virginia Tech academic environment, and all students are expected to follow them. For additional information about the Honor Code, please visit: https://www.honorsystem.vt.edu/

Honor Code Pledge for Assignments: The Virginia Tech honor code pledge for assignments is as follows:

"I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this assignment."

The pledge is to be written out on all graded assignments at the university and signed by the student. The honor pledge represents both an expression of the student's support of the honor code and a commitment to uphold the academic standards at Virginia Tech.

If you have questions or are unclear about what constitutes academic misconduct on an assignment, please speak with me. I take the honor code very seriously in the course. The normal sanction I will recommend for a violation of the Honor Code is an 'F*' sanction as your final course grade. The 'F' represents failure in the course. The "*" is intended to identify a student who has failed to uphold the values of academic integrity at Virginia Tech. A student who receives a sanction of F* as their final course grade shall have it documented on their transcript with the notation "FAILURE DUE TO ACADEMIC HONOR CODE VIOLATION." You would be required to complete an education program administered by the Honor System in order to have the "*" and notation "FAILURE DUE TO ACADEMIC HONOR CODE VIOLATION" removed from your transcript. The "F" however would be permanently on your transcript.

Your written assignments may be reviewed through the University's plagiarism prevention and detection software called Turnitin- Feedback Studio, which is a resource designed to detect and prevent plagiarism. This software is a tool that works by cross-referencing submitted materials with journals, essays, newspaper articles, papers, books, the internet, and other literary works. Turintin-Feedback Studio does not identify all forms of plagiarism. The software also does not replace my judgement regarding what constitutes plagiarism.

Students enrolled in this course are responsible for abiding by the Honor Code. A student who has doubts about how the Honor Code applies to any assignment is responsible for obtaining specific guidance from the course instructor before submitting the assignment for evaluation. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the University community from the requirements and expectations of the Honor Code.

For additional information about the Honor Code, please visit: https://www.honorsystem.vt.edu/

All assignments submitted shall be considered "graded work" and all aspects of your coursework are covered by the Honor Code. All projects and homework assignments are to be completed individually unless otherwise specified.
Commission of any of the following acts shall constitute academic misconduct. This listing is not, however, exclusive of other acts that may reasonably be said to constitute academic misconduct. Clarification is provided for each definition with some examples of prohibited behaviors in the Undergraduate Honor Code Manual located at https://www.honorsystem.vt.edu/

A. CHEATING

Cheating includes the intentional use of unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids or other devices or materials in any academic exercise, or attempts thereof.

B. PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism includes the copying of the language, structure, programming, computer code, ideas, and/or thoughts of another and passing off the same as one's own original work, or attempts thereof.

C. FALSIFICATION

Falsification includes the statement of any untruth, either verbally or in writing, with respect to any element of one's academic work, or attempts thereof.

D. FABRICATION

Fabrication includes making up data and results, and recording or reporting them, or submitting fabricated documents, or attempts thereof.

E. MULTIPLE SUBMISSION

Multiple submission involves the submission for credit—without authorization of the instructor receiving the work—of substantial portions of any work (including oral reports) previously submitted for credit at any academic institution, or attempts thereof.

F. COMPLICITY

Complicity includes intentionally helping another to engage in an act of academic misconduct, or attempts thereof.

G. VIOLATION OF UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE, DEPARTMENTAL, PROGRAM, COURSE, OR FACULTY RULES

The violation of any University, College, Departmental, Program, Course, or Faculty Rules relating to academic matters that may lead to an unfair academic advantage by the student violating the rule(s).

Instructor's Bio

Yannis A. Stivachtis is Professor of Political Science, holder of the Jean Monnet Chair, and Director of the Center for European & Transatlantic Studies (CEUTS), which is recognized by the European Commission as a *Jean Monnet Center of Excellence*.

He was awarded (2019) the *Jean Monnet Chair* in recognition of his excellence in European Studies by the Education, Audiovisual and Cultural Executive Agency (EACEA) of the European Commission. He has also been recognized as *National Security Scholar* by the U.S. Department of Defense (2014).

He is also the editor of the *Critical European Studies* book series (Routledge) and co-editor of the *Athens Journal of Mediterranean Studies*. He currently serves as Senior Advisor of the Center for European and Mediterranean Affairs (CEMA) of the Athens Institute for Education & Research (ATINER) (Greece); External Expert for the Research Executive Agency (REA) of the European Commission; External Expert of the Hellenic Authority for Higher Education (HAHE), Greek Ministry of Education; Advisory Board member of the Center for Intelligence and Security Studies, Bellevue University; and Senior Advisor of the Research Institute for European & American Studies (RIEAS, Greece).

His research and teaching interests include international relations theory (with particular emphasis on the English School of International Relations including the study of the evolution of international society and the study of regional international system/society in Europe, Eurasia, and the Middle East), Security/Strategic Studies (with emphasis on national and international security, strategic theory, and arms control and disarmament), and European Studies (including EU strategy, EU's foreign, security, and defense policy, EU's external relations and interior policies, and European organizations).

His previous appointments include Professor of International Relations, Geneva School of Diplomacy (Switzerland); Professor of International Relations, The American College of Switzerland; Visiting Professor, The American University of Paris; Visiting Lecturer, European Institute-University of Geneva; Research Fellow, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR); Research Fellow, Institute for Strategic Studies-Austrian Ministry of Defense (Austria); Research Fellow, Austrian Institute of European & Security Policy; and Research Fellow at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

He has authored and edited several books and has published numerous journal articles and book chapters.

Yannis Stivachtis' Personal Meeting Room

Join Zoom Meeting
https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/8826427416

Meeting ID: 882 642 7416
One tap mobile
+13017158592,,8826427416# US (Washington D.C)
+13126266799,,8826427416# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
Meeting ID: 882 642 7416
Find your local number: https://virginiatech.zoom.us/u/kcJPbpafzg

Join by SIP
8826427416@zoomcrc.com

Join by H.323
162.255.37.11 (US West)
162.255.36.11 (US East)
115.114.131.7 (India Mumbai)
115.114.115.7 (India Hyderabad)
213.19.144.110 (Amsterdam Netherlands)
213.244.140.110 (Germany)
103.122.166.55 (Australia)
149.137.40.110 (Singapore)
64.211.144.160 (Brazil)
69.174.57.160 (Canada)
207.226.132.110 (Japan)
Meeting ID: 882 642 7416

Join by Skype for Business
https://virginiatech.zoom.us/skype/8826427416

Class Schedule

Adjustments to the assignment schedule are inevitable. The professor will make every effort to keep students abreast of changes.

Week 1

01/21 Course introduction

PART I: Geography of Europe

03/23 Physical geography of Europe

Week 2

01/28 Economic geography of Europe
01/30 Social geography of Europe

Week 3

02/04 Geography of European subregions
02/06 Geography of European conflicts

PART II: History of Europe Since 1789

Week 4

02/11 The French Revolution & Napoleon (Mason, chapters 1 & 2)
02/13 The industrial revolution and the birth of capitalism (Mason, ch. 3)

Week 5

02/18 The 1848 revolutions (Mason, chapter 4)
02/20 Marx, Marxism, and socialism (Mason, chapter 5)

Week 6

02/25 Darwinism and Social Darwinism (Mason, chapter 6)
02/27 The unification of Italy and Germany (Mason, chapter 7)

Week 7

03/04 The age of imperialism (Mason, chapter 8)
03/06 World War I (Mason, chapter 9)

Week 8 **Spring Break – No classes**

Week 9

03/18	The Russian Revolution and Communism (Mason, chapter 10)
03/20	World War II and the Holocaust (Mason, chapter 11)

Week 10

03/25	The Cold War and decolonization (Mason, chapter 12)
03/27	From the Cold War to the present (Mason, chapter 13 and Conclusions)

PART III: European Integration

Week 11

04/01	**Exam I (Mason, chapters 1-12)**
04/03	The origins of the European Union (material distributed by the instructor)

Week 12

04/08	The emergence of the European Union (material distributed by the instructor)
04/10	The consolidation of the European Union (material distributed by the instructor)

Week 13

04/15	European crises (material distributed by the instructor)
04/17	Issues in European integration: Immigration (material distributed by the instructor)

Week 14

04/22	Issues in European integration: Democracy (material distributed by the instructor)
04/24	Issues in European integration: The Environment (material distributed by the instructor)

Week 15

04/29	Eastern European integration,1949-1991
05/01	Eastern European integration since 1991

Week 16

05/06	**Exam II (material distributed by the instructor)**
05/07	**Reading Day**