ECTS CARD

STUDY PROGRAMME	ACADEMIC YEAR	SEMESTER
EUROPEAN GENERAL STUDIES	2022 - 2023	1

COURSE TITLE

IDENTIFY, CULTURE AND THE SYMBOLIC CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE

COURSE PROFESSOR	COURSE ASSISTANT
Oriane CALLIGARO & J.F SCHAUB	Margaux COGNARD

NATURE OF COURSE (COMPULSORY, OPTIONAL)	LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION
COMPULSORY	English

ECTS CREDITS

LAW: 3 ECTS; ECO: 3 ECTS; EEIB: 3 ECTS; POL: 4 ECTS

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1. COURSE OBJECTIVES

The central objective is to introduce students to an understudied dimension of European integration – the construction of a European imagined community – and to reflect on categories too often used uncritically such as 'Europe', 'History of Europe', 'European identity', or 'European culture'. This reflection shall provide them with useful theoretical and empirical tools to assess critically past and current representations of Europe as well as a whole range of EU policies.
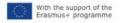
The course is divided in two parts.
In the first four sessions, Prof. Schaub adopts a historical perspective to explore those main concepts of European identity, consciousness or culture, and their emergence on the long term, from the Early Modern Times to WWI.
In the last four sessions, Prof. Calligaro focusses on the contemporary uses, in European policies, of these historical legacies to promote a sense of belonging to the European Union among the citizens.

In more detail, the main objectives of the course are the following:

- Firstly, it will allow to students to understand that the consciousness of being European is being shaped by a set of historical heritages. This is not a simple history, since divergent and successive interpretations of these legacies have been companions of a very progressive awareness of the existence of a shared belonging. It will take into account the fact that the regions that constitute Europe today have defined their historical identity through the relations they have sustained with each other, but also through confrontations with the extra-European worlds.

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- It will discuss topics as important as the birth of specifically European political institutions and regimes, the characteristics of the processes of confessionalization and secularization, the progress of scientific knowledge and philosophical rationality, imperial and colonial expansion, the birth of racial ideologies, the invention of literary, visual or musical languages that are unlike any other.

- It will provide students with insights into the historical, theoretical, and conceptual backgrounds of contemporary debates about European identity, especially the debate regarding the definitions to be given to European culture and European civilization. Students should acquire a thorough knowledge of the concrete strategies conceived by the EU institutions and other actors to promote a European imagined community and to establish connections between the EU and its citizens;

- Finally, using these theoretical and practical insights gained in the course, students should be able to assess EU action in the symbolic, cultural and communicational fields critically, demonstrating the ability to identify the relevant sources, actors, and methodological frameworks. Students should have the capacity to use this reflection on identity construction and political legitimacy to contextualize developments in policy areas in which they specialize (law, economics, political governance, foreign affairs, etc.).

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students will have acquired the following knowledge and skills:

1. Students will gain knowledge and understanding of the main political and cultural processes in the long term history of Europe and their legacies and effects in contemporary European politics and in EU policies;

2. This will enable them to understand and discuss the respective literature and to apply this knowledge in their autonomous analysis and assessment of EU policies in the field of education, culture, communication;

3. This will allow them to formulate judgments on more normative and conceptual issues relating to the construction of European identity and to strategies developed by EU actors to foster a European consciousness;

4. Participants will finally be able to communicate their analyses to others – fellow students, scientific staff and practitioners – and discuss these in a critical manner.
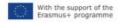
3. COURSE CONTENTS

Session 1: Introductory lecture. Europe: A constructed community?
Session 2: Constructing Europe through culture I
Session 3: Constructing Europe through culture II
Session 4: Constructing Europe through education and research
Session 5: Constructing Europe through memory
Session 6: Constructing a European public sphere

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Session 7: Constructing Europe through symbols – constructing European symbols
Session 8: Who are the Europeans? Identity, citizenship and the significant Others

4. TEACHING METHOD(S)

This course mainly consists of lectures. Substantial time will be devoted to discussions and presentations and students are warmly invited to participate.

On a voluntary basis, students can make an oral presentation of 10 minutes (2 for each session). The topics suggested in this syllabus can be adapted, and other related topics can be proposed and discussed with the professor, as long as they remain coherent with the general theme of the session.

5. COURSE MATERIAL

Course material

Besides the compulsory readings for each session (see outline), students are invited to consult the following books:

- Oriane Calligaro, *Negotiating Europe: The EU Promotion of Europeanness*, New York, Palgrave Macmillan, 2013;
- Kathleen R. McNamara, *The Politics of Everyday Europe: Constructing Authority in the European Union*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2015;

6. EVALUATION

- **Take- home essay (40%):** 1400-1800 words max;
- **Final written exam (40%):** 2-hours exam with several questions on the course content.
- **Participation (20%):** attendance, constructive participation in the class discussions and, if volunteer, a presentation in class.