



STUDY PROGRAMME

European General Studies

ACADEMIC YEAR

2023 - 2024

SEMESTER

First

COURSE TITLE

Concepts of Europe

COURSE PROFESSOR

Stefania BERNINI and Jan ZIELONKA

COURSE ASSISTANT

Marie Acabo

NATURE OF COURSE (COMPULSORY, OPTIONAL)

Fundamental course

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English

ECTS CREDITS

LAW 3 ; ECO 3 ; POL 4

1. COURSE OBJECTIVE

The objectives of the course are:

- To introduce students to central concepts of European history and society;
- To enable students to develop a critical understanding and interpretations of these concepts and their significance for Europe self-understanding;
- To provide students with a sense of the complexity of Europe across time and space;
- To develop students' critical thinking, and their research and communication skills (written and spoken).

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of the key events, ideas and processes that have shaped contemporary Europe;
- Demonstrate critical awareness of the concepts discussed and of their historical, social and cultural context;
- Demonstrate familiarity with the main scholarly debates discussed in the course;
- Demonstrate research and analytical skills.

3. COURSE CONTENTS

The detailed course outline is available to students on the intranet. The course is structured as follows:

1. What is Europe and European civilisation?
2. The Dark Continent: the legacy of WW1 and WW2
3. Competing Ideologies: communism, fascism, and liberalism



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe



Natolir

Brugge

ECTS CARD

4. The bright continent: post-war integration
5. Cities, empires, and nations in Europe's history
6. The other Europe(s) and Europe's Others
7. Europe contested
8. Reinventing Europe

4. TEACHING METHOD(S)

The course is organised as a two-hour lecture followed by a one hour Oxford-Union style debate on the questions listed below. The aim of the debates is to foster critical thinking and discussion among the participants.

5. COURSE MATERIAL

Students are expected to read the core reading for each week and to explore if they have time optional readings. Please refer to the intranet course page for access to the detailed reading list (required and supplementary readings).

6. EVALUATION

The course will be examined in the following way. There will be an end of course written exam which will account for 40% of the final mark. The term paper will count for 40%. Students will have a choice of questions for their term paper. The remaining 20% correspond to the participation mark. Students are expected to take part in class discussions, class debates and class presentations.