



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe



Natolin

ECTS CARD

STUDY PROGRAMME(S) / STUDY TRACK(S)

Master of Arts in European Interdisciplinary Studies
Master of Arts in European Interdisciplinary Studies (Study Track: European Security and Strategy)
Master of Arts in Transatlantic Affairs (Study Track: European Interdisciplinary Studies)
Master of Arts in Transatlantic Affairs (Study Track: European Interdisciplinary Studies - European Security and Strategy)

YEAR

2026-2027

COURSE TITLE

History of European Civilization

SEMESTER

1

PROFESSOR(S)

BUTTERWICK-PAWLIKOWSKI Richard

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

SACCO ZAUT Andrea

COURSE TYPE

Introductory Course

MAJOR(S)

Not applicable

ECTS CREDITS

0

TEACHING HOURS

10

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

10

TUTORIAL(S)

0

COEFFICIENT

0

LANGUAGE(S)

EN

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the very start of their education in Natolin, students should reflect historically on the idea and civilizational heritage of Europe at its longest and broadest. This is the fundamental mission of the European Civilization Chair at the College of Europe. This introductory course, delivered in person, offers a broad-brush outline of the history of European civilization. After introducing these three ideas – history, civilization, and Europe – it briefly outlines the civilizational legacies of antiquity. It then tackles 'the making of Europe' by explaining how the Mediterranean was transformed from the centre of classical civilization into a contested frontier between the Muslim world (*Ummah*) to the south and east (in northern Africa and western Asia) and Christendom – or medieval Europe – to the north and west. It will then focus on the 'rise of Europe' during the half-millennium stretching from the fifteenth-century Renaissance through to the zenith of European hard and soft power around 1900. Most nineteenth- and twentieth-century developments will be covered in the following core course on Central and Eastern Europe. Among the key themes of this course will be the divisions of Christendom, the global expansion of European power, and the conflicts over intellectual and religious renewal between the Renaissance and Enlightenment. These led to revolutionary transformations in politics, society, economy, and culture. Making extensive use of art and music, the course is particularly aimed at those students who have not previously studied the 'History of Europe' in depth or systematically. The course will concentrate on processes, changes and continuities, especially in culture and values, and will keep dates to the necessary minimum.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- Grasp the broad outlines of the history of European civilization and appreciate its richness and diversity (A2, B1);
- Challenge occidocentric accounts of 'Western' or European civilization (A2, B1, MATA1.4);
- Raise questions of general historical significance, ranging widely across time and space (A1, A2);
- Understand the variety of approaches that can be used in understanding, constructing, and interpreting European history (A1).

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

Students are expected to read the following two chapters:

1. Norman DAVIES, 'The Idea of Europe', in Norman DAVIES, *Europe East and West*. London: Random House, 2006, pp. 11-22;
2. Anthony PAGDEN, 'Europe: Conceptualizing a Continent' in Anthony PAGDEN (ed.), *The Idea of Europe: From Antiquity to the European Union*. New York: Woodrow Wilson Center Press, 2002, pp. 33-54.

TEACHING METHOD(S)

Illustrated lectures with discussions.

ASSESSMENT METHOD(S)

None.

COURSE CONTENTS

The course is organized into five topics, each covered in a two-hour lecture:

Topic I: 'Europe', 'Civilization' and 'History';

Topic II: The Making of Europe;

Topic III: Renaissance;

Topic IV: Reformations and Crises;

Topic V: Enlightenment and Revolutions.

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

See Course Outline, Section V, Bibliography.