

Western European Politics and Transatlantic Relations since 1945

Course tutor(s) Dr Christopher Reeves

Teaches at the Centre of European Studies and at the Institute of American Studies. His teaching and research interests include: History of Transatlantic Relations in the twentieth century, European history in the twentieth century, and political and security issues in East Central Europe

Description

The course will consider some of the most important events and processes which have shaped Western European politics since 1945. The course will focus on these key areas:

- Transatlantic relations since 1945, and how the US has helped shape political developments in Western Europe during this period;
- How the Second World War and the crystallisation of the Cold War affected Western Europe's political development;
- Some of the most important issues and processes in Western Europe's politics since 1945.

The framework of the lectures will be broadly chronological, examining some of the key issues and events as they unfolded. Lectures will be structured in a way in which they attempt to address a series of questions related to the topic under discussion. The workshops will be more thematic, considering particular aspects of European history, and some of the countries' histories.

Type of course

Undergraduate study abroad

Number of ECTS points

6

Prerequisites (if applicable)

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students should have a detailed knowledge of the main issues and events in relation to Western European political history since 1945. Students should be able to use this information analytically when addressing questions in the written exam.

EK1: K_W02 ++: The course, while primarily historical, will draw upon a disparate set of elements from the area of 'European Studies'. At the end of the course, the student will have, for example, a deeper knowledge of various aspects of political science (federalism, international organisations, transatlantic linkages, etc.), and economics (the impact of the Marshall Plan, the European economic miracle, impact of the Oil Shocks, etc.) and how they relate to developments in the history of Western Europe since 1945.

EK2: K_W08 +++: At the end of the course, the student will have a detailed knowledge of the key developments in the history of Western Europe since 1945, how Western Europe's relationship with the United States has evolved during this period, and how developments in Western Europe have impinged upon Eastern Europe (and *vice versa*) – e.g. West Germany's *Ostpolitik*.

EK3: K_U02 +++: At the end of the course, the student will have developed their ability to comprehend and critically analyze literature related to postwar European history. Students will expect to complete a series of worksheets, and show their knowledge and their capacity to critically assess what they have read in the class discussions and the final examination.

EK4: K_U06 +++: By the end of the course the student will be able to articulate their opinions and judgements in relation to various aspects of postwar European history, and will be able to respectfully engage with differing points of view from other students in the class.

EK5: K_K03: ++ By the end of the course, the student will have demonstrated that they are able to prioritise the work-load for the course. Students will be required to complete worksheets, come to the classes prepared to discuss the scheduled topic.

Course grading from 2 (fail) to 5 (very good)

Course communication

Students will be able to contact the Dr Reeves through email: christopher.reeves@uj.edu.pl
During the lecturer's office hour (to be arranged) and leave work in his pigeonhole in the CES office

Notices and announcements

Students will be contacted via email

COURSE ORGANIZATION

Spring Semester

Time and Place: will be posted by CES in the online calendar

Course type (seminar/lecture/workshop, etc.)

The framework of the lectures will be broadly chronological, examining some of the key issues and events as they unfolded. Lectures will be structured in a way in which they attempt to address a series of questions related to the topic under discussion. The workshops will be more thematic, considering particular aspects of European history, and some of the countries' histories.

Contact hour:

- 30 hours of lectures and seminars

Balance of ECTS credits

30 hours of class-room teaching

30 hours: preparation of compulsory and additional readings

30 hours preparation for final exam

30 hours: completion of course worksheets

15 hours: preparation for spoken presentation

15 hours: supplementary research in preparation for leading class discussions

Didactic methods used

Lectures, student presentations, class discussions, and critical analysis of course literature.

Mode and criteria of assessment of learning outcomes

A formal 90-minute written exam will be used to assess learning outcomes: K_W02, K_W08, K_U02

Class discussions and student presentations will be used to assess learning outcomes: K_W02, K_W08, K_U02, K_U06, K_K03

Completion of course worksheets will be used to assess: K_U02, K_K03:

Assessment

Students will be assessed on the basis of seminar attendance, participation and a presentation (30%), and an exam/test (70%)

The bulk of the assessment will be based upon a 90 minute written exam. Students will be expected to select and answer two questions. Students will be expected to answer the questions analytically, using the knowledge that they have gained from the classes, and they should also demonstrate evidence of reading.

The final element in the assessment will be students' attendance and participation in class. This will include a presentation to the class that each student will be required to do. The presentation should also be written-up as a short essay of between 1000 and 1500 words. Deadline for submission of the essay will be **9 June 2017**. Essays are to be submitted to the office. Students will be expected to contribute fully to the discussion, and show that they have read and are able to critically engage with the selected literature.

Students who fail to give a presentation/ or hand in an essay without an adequate explanation will forfeit their marks for that component of the course. Marks will also be deducted if an essay is handed in late.

STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

1	The consequences of the Second World War in Western Europe	Lecture
2	Introduction: Western Europe during the Cold War and beyond	Seminar
3	The Rebuilding of Democracy in Western Europe	Lecture
4	Planning for the postwar world	Seminar
5	The Rise of the Atlantic Alliance	Lecture
6	Empire by Invitation? (Part 1) The US and Western Europe 1945-56	Seminar
7	Transatlantic Relations, Decolonization and 'Out-of-area' Disputes, 1945-75	Lecture
8	Empire by Invitation? (Part 2) The US and Western Europe, 1956-69	Seminar
9	The 'Golden Age': the European Economic Miracle	Lecture
10	Britain: the reluctant European?	Seminar
11	<i>Détente</i> and <i>Ostpolitik</i> in Europe	Lecture
12	Germany Divisible	Seminar
13	Western Europe and the New Cold War	Lecture
14	France: Europe's defender against Anglo-Saxon dominance?	Seminar
15	The end of the Cold War in Europe	Lecture
16	The disintegration of 'Yalta' Europe'.	Seminar
17	Economic superpower but military pigmy? Western Europe in the 1990s	Lecture

18	NATO since 1991: an Alliance without an enemy?	Seminar
19	Western European security after 9/11	Lecture
20	Paradise vs. Power?: Transatlantic relations 9/11 and after	Seminar