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Course title:	Europe and the World – From Colonialism to the EU
Track:	A-Track
Language of Instruction:	English
Contact hours:	(6 per day)
ECTS-Credits:	4

Course Content

Europe and its role in the world have changed dramatically over the last century. Once European empires dominated the greater part of the world. Today Europe consists of a number of middle-sized and small states. At the same time many of these states like the UK, France but also Germany still play a very prominent role on the global stage, individually but also as part of the European Union.

Looking back, as an historian, there is much to investigate: Why did the European powers lose their empires? How did they do to come to terms with their loss of power? In which ways did Europe still very much take center stage in many of the global developments of the 20th century?

The course tries to give an answer to these questions by analyzing the history of Europe's international involvement. We will start with the Age of Imperialism and go on chronologically. Major parts concern the First and Second World War, warfare that devastated the whole continent, with Germany always at the heart of the conflict. Then, we examine the process of decolonization, which the colonial powers resisted as long as they could, by sometimes peaceful, but more often violent means.

The Suez Crisis, eventually, came as a turning point. In times of the Cold War, it revealed to Great Britain and France that their precarious international position was irrevocable and forced them to adopt new strategies. Regional integration (or close bilateral cooperation) was one of them, a special transatlantic partnership another, and the acquisition of the atomic bomb a third. Last but not least, they both tried to retain considerable influence over their former colonies, in political as well as in economic matters.

All in all, this is an international history of the 20th Century from a strictly European, or to be more precise, a Western European point of view, as very strong emphasis will be laid on the three main European powers: Great Britain, France and Germany. In cursory overviews as well as in particular case studies it will be made clear that Europe's role in the world was not always beneficial, far from it.

The organization of the class will be roughly similar from session to session. In the morning sessions, there will be brief oral presentations based on the reading material made available as well as PowerPoint-based lectures and discussions. In the afternoon sessions, work groups will be formed to study different kinds of source material (mostly texts, but also tables, pictures and caricatures) using historical methods. Field trips and guest speakers will complement the agenda.

Student Profile

Students from all academic levels and backgrounds are welcome.

Prerequisites

There are no specific prerequisites for this course other than intellectual curiosity and the willingness to engage with a broad range of historical works and documents.

Course Requirements

Active participation is expected, in class, in group work, and in discussions with guest speakers. To be prepared, careful reading of the texts in the course reader is imperative. Furthermore, you will have to give at least one oral presentation, complete one short essay (3-5 pages) and pass the final exam.

Grading

Participation: 20%
 Oral presentation/short essay: 40%
 Final exam: 40%

Literature

A course reader will be made available.

Course Schedule

Date	Program*	
Monday, July 25, 2016	<p>9-10:30 am 11-12:30 am</p> <p>2:00 pm</p>	<p>Introductions. Imperialism British, French, and German Imperialism: Motives, rivalries, methods of penetration, differences. Scramble for Africa; Primary sources</p> <p><i>Field trip:</i> Colonial Berlin (guided city tour)</p>
Thursday, July 28, 2016	<p>9-10:30 am 11-12:30 am</p> <p>2:00 pm</p>	<p>First World War 1914: Origins, causes, and interpretations; 1917. US entry into the war, Allied command</p> <p><i>Field trip:</i> German Historical Museum (guided tour: From the Foundation of the German Reich to the First World War)</p>
Monday, August 1, 2016	<p>9-10:30 am 11-12:30 am</p> <p>2:00 pm</p>	<p>Second World War 1940: Fall of France; 1941: US entry into the war; 1945: Wartime conferences and the reorganization of Europe</p> <p><i>Group work:</i> primary sources</p>

Thursday, August 4, 2016	<p>9-10:30 am 11-12:30 am</p> <p>2:00 pm</p>	<p>Decolonization British and French decolonization: a comparison (India 1947, Algerian War, Mau Mau Uprising in Kenya); Questions of Postcolonialism</p> <p><i>Guest speaker:</i> Decolonization in Africa (Alexander Keese, Professor of Contemporary History, University of Geneva)</p>
Monday, August 8, 2016	<p>9-10:30 am 11-12:30 am</p> <p>2:00 pm</p>	<p>Europe in the Middle East and Southeast Asia Suez Crisis 1956 (Israel and Egypt); Indochina: French and American War</p> <p><i>Group work:</i> primary sources</p>
Thursday, August 11, 2016	<p>9-10:30 am 11-12:30 am</p> <p>2:00 pm</p>	<p>European Integration Schuman Plan 1950, Europe as a Third Force, Treaty of Rome 1957; Eurafrique (Commonwealth, Françafrique)</p> <p><i>Group work:</i> primary sources</p>
Monday, August 15, 2016	<p>9-10:30 am 11-12:30 am</p> <p>2:00 pm</p>	<p>Transatlantic Relations Atlantic Community, France and NATO 1966, Gaullists and Atlanticists; Cultural Diplomacy (Congress for Cultural Freedom, American Foundations)</p> <p><i>Guest speaker (to be confirmed)</i> The State of the Transatlantic Relations (Marco Overhaus, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik)</p> <p>Essay due (3-5 pages)</p>
Thursday, August 18, 2016	<p>9-10:30 am</p> <p>11-12:30 am</p> <p>2:00 pm</p>	<p>Final Exam</p> <p>Europe after the End of the Cold War <i>Guest speaker (to be confirmed):</i> Germany as Europe's Lead Power? (Hans Kundnani, German Marshall Fund of the United States)</p> <p><i>Field trip (to be confirmed):</i> German Foreign Office</p>

**Field trips may be subject to change depending on the availability of speakers. On field trip days adaptation of class times is possible.*