



IFE course syllabus

Course title

Towards a European Society

Course taught by

Pascal Cauchy is Professor of History at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris ("Sciences Po") and Visiting Professor at the State University of Moscow. Pascal also served Sciences Po as Dean of International Studies and is currently attached to that institution's Center for History both as researcher and administrator. Pascal joined Sciences Po after nine years of research and teaching in Moscow and is a specialist in the historiography of communism. He has published "A History of the IVth Republic" (Presses Universitaires de France) and is currently researching the work of Blandine Kriegel, a historian of communism.

Purpose of the course

This course follows "French Political Life Yesterday and Today" and imparts to students the basic notions of the history of the European Union and its current structures (and which students enrolled in this course will have already taken). The current course aims at a broader and deeper understanding of Europe, developing a panorama of the meaning of the term 'Europe' using a hybrid approach at once historical/cultural and institutional/political. The purpose is to help students acquire the basic knowledge needed to be an informed citizen of/in Europe, able to read and interpret accurately European current events.

Description of the course

By the end of the Medieval period, what became known as Western Christendom had undergone considerable change. Europe developed on the basis of overseas conquest. Technical, artistic and religious revolutions accompanied this tremendous expansion. For four centuries, a European model of civilization was developed and imposed on the world. This powerful creative movement was not, however, without its tensions, its fault-lines and its destructive aspects.

The approach this course takes is to highlight and examine the key moments, what Solzhenitzyn called the nodal points, of the European adventure as a way of understanding what drove this movement. Subsequently, and based on the understanding of the European historical ensemble, the course will reflect on the political, economic, social and even cultural convergence constituting the European integration which has been taking place over the past seventy years.

Course format

This course meets weekly for 2.5 hours throughout the 12-week internship period. The course is a lecture/seminar whereby the professor presents material for development in class discussion. Students prepare short oral presentations on topics related to each session (see course outline).

Course outline

- I** Europe, an introduction
- II** Charles V, a Renaissance prince
- III** Copernicus versus Nostradamus
- IV** The Reformation, Calvin and the Jesuits
- V** Was Peter's Russia European?
- VI** Voltaire the European or the Republic of Letters
- VII** The Industrial Revolution, a European revolution

- VIII** An international specter, from Socialism to Communism
- IX** The Cold War
- X** Consumers and Activists
- XI** Becoming European
- XII** Final examination

Readings

- BRAUDEL (Fernand), « L'Europe », in *Grammaire des civilisations*, Champs – Flammarion, réed. 2006
- QUERMONNE (Jean-Louis), *Le système politique de l'Union européenne*, Montchrestien, « Clefs », Paris, 2002 (5ème éd.).
- BECKOUICHE (Pierre), RICHARD (Yann), *Atlas d'une nouvelle Europe*, Autrement, « Atlas/Monde », Paris, 2004.
- ECHKENAZI (José), *Guide de l'union européenne*, Nathan, Paris, 2004.
- GROSSMAN (Emiliano), IRONDELLE (Bastien), SAURUGGER (Sabine), *Les mots de l'Europe. Lexique de l'intégration européenne*, Presses de Sciences Po, Paris, 2001.
- GUISAN (Catherine), *Un sens à l'Europe. Gagner la paix (1950 – 2003)*, Odile Jacob, Paris, 2003.
- OLIVI (Bino), GIACONE (Alessandro), *L'Europe difficile*, Gallimard, Paris, 2007 (3ème éd.).
- BERTRAND (Geneviève), *La prise de décision dans l'Union européenne*, *La documentation française*, Paris, 2002 (2ème éd.).
- DOUTRIAUX (Yves), LEQUESNE (Christian), *Les institutions de l'Union européenne*, *La documentation française*, Paris, 2001 (4ème édition)

Internet links:

- Official site of the European Union: www.europa.eu.int
- The European Commission page with founding texts and current events in all areas of European policy: www.europa.eu.int/comm
- The European Parliament: www.europarl.eu.int
- European current events: www.euractiv.com and www.euobserver.com
- Foundations and think-tanks working on Europe questions
- Fondation Robert Schuman (France): www.robert-schuman.org
- Notre Europe, founded by Jacques Delors (France): www.notre-europe.asso.fr
- Centre for European Reform (UK): www.cer.org.uk

Grading

Students' work is evaluated on the basis of formal oral presentations, a written final examination, as well as readiness for and participation in class discussion, and attendance.

Equivalent in American university course offerings

This course is designed specifically as an introductory overview to the development of European civilization. An equivalent course would be any course intending to introduce students to European history focusing on transversal elements rather than specific cultural or political histories on the continent.