

EUROPEAN FORUM RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES



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2018Spring Semester

OPENING CLASS- PLAN

- Guiding themes for the course.
- Objectives and Format
- Course Plan
- Text books and Course Requirements
- Why and What is European Studies ?
- Study case: Migration.

:GUIDING THEMES

- Europe as an object of research.
- Focusing on ‘burning’ topics that will probably be in the center of your current or future research, e.g. Migration, Islam in Europe, Globalization, Glocalization, Nationalism etc.
- The meaning of Science and Research.
- Within and Between the Humanities and the Social Sciences
But Mainly Historical, Sociological and Cultural emphasis.

OBJECTIVES

- Expanding your knowledge of various research methodologies and ideologies.
- Developing research tools – or preparing the path towards your Research Question

FORMAT

The course will be divided into two main parts:

- ▣ 1) Methods and Research Ideologies**
- ▣ 2) 'Doing Research'**

:COURSE PLAN

1. Why European Studies? (19.3. 18)
2. History-Science or Art? (26.3. 18)
3. The Meaning of Science (9.4.18)
4. Contingency and Determinism (16.4.18)
5. Positivism and its Critics (23.4.18)
6. *Annales* (30.4.18)
7. Cultural Turn and Postmodernism (7.5.18)
8. Rafael Y. Lewis, One for all and all for one: History, Archaeology, Environment and the Battle of Arsuf (28.5.18)
9. The Research Question (4.6.18)
0. The Creative Mind (11.6.18)
1. Finding the Source (18.6.18)
2. Concluding Session (25.6.18)

SOME TEXT BOOKS AND SOURCES

- *Sage Handbook of European Studies* , Sage, 2009.
- *The Crafts of Research* , Chicago UP, 2003.
- *European Review* (Journal), 26 volumes,
Cambridge University Press, 1993,.

REQUIREMENTS

- Two Semester Assignments – Article/Book Review and Biographical Summary (30%)
- Participation/Reading – Based on Core Questions (10%)
- Attendance – (10%)
- Concluding Assignment – (50%)

QUESTIONS AND EXPECTATIONS



**KEEP
CALM
AND
ASK
QUESTIONS**

QUESTIONS CONCERNING EUROPEAN STUDIES

1. How can we best study Europe?
(Methodologies, Ideologies, Meanings.)
2. What is included (excluded) in European Studies?
3. What is our time-frame?

EUROPEAN STUDIES VS. EU ? INTEGRATION STUDIES

- Integration Studies [IS] is focused on the study of EU institutions, EU Policy Making and Law (Bureaucracy and Treaties)
- Mainly dominated by scholars of International Relations and Political Science

**‘If I could start again I
would start with
Culture’
(Jean Monnet)**



EUROPEAN STUDIES [ES]

1. A **dominant Multidisciplinary aspect**. Concerned also but not only with the study of Identities; Nationalism; Cultural and Social factors. Europe includes more states/spheres than the EU- Different geographical, cultural and national sphere
2. ES is at least as important (if not more) as IS- Exploring the current and past transformations of Europe. **Delving into meanings**.
3. **Different Literature** – ES Literature is far more ‘rich’
4. The **global** aspect – different from the inward look
5. Not only institutions but also the transformation of other entities – **the study of the processes**.

AN EXAMPLE – WHAT IS THE ‘PROBLEM’ WITH INTEGRATION STUDIES AND ?GLOBALIZATION

1. Economic focus (ignoring other facets e.g. culture).
2. Recent phenomena, despite its long history.
3. Concerned with states while disregarding NGOs and other non-State entities.

It has never been simply the study of a region , but always complexly interwoven with ideas about modernity , the West , Christendom , democracy , and civilization itself (Calhoun, 2003)

THE REFUGEE 'CRISIS' – THE NEED FOR AN EUROPEAN STUDIES APPROACH

- Europe, especially, with the current migration 'waves' is linked to other, various and sometimes distant geographical and cultural spheres.
- How many of you are focusing or intend to focus on the migration to Europe?
- Migration as one of the main themes of present and future research in European Studies.

WORLD HAPPINESS REPORT

□ <http://worldhappiness.report/ed/2018/>



CHANNEX-WHR-web.pdf

This year, for the first time, **countries are ranked not just for the happiness of their overall populations** (as measured by the average life satisfaction of their residents), but also by the **happiness of their foreign-born populations**, people who have been born in countries other than where they now live.

RESPONSE TO THE MIGRATION CRISIS

Writers' respond to the migration to Europe

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2015/sep/12/the-turmoil-of-todays-world-leading-writers-respond-to-the-refugee-crisis>



IDEOLOGY AND METHODOLOGY

- Definitions; How and if are they different?
- The nomothetic/positivistic vs. the hermeneutic modes of inquiring about the world
- regimes of truth” (Foucault)- Any word has an ideological meaning

QUESTIONS FOR NEXT WEEK

- Should we consider History as a Science or an Art? Bring opinions/examples from the readings. Think on your response.
- Is the study of history really needed for European Studies?
- The watershed of 1945--Only post-1945 material or maybe pre-1945?