

SYLLABUS

Subject title: Contemporary Europe facing Globalisation since 1945

Subject code: 31839

Subject type: Mandatory x Optional

ECTS: 5

Teaching language: English

Instructor (academic year 2014 - 2015): Jean Monnet History Professor Fernando Guirao

Summary:

The 'Europe' of today could be understood as the culmination of a set of sophisticated mechanisms of co-operation and integration that have attempted to respond collectively to the most important challenge that the West has had to face in politico-economic terms in the last 70 years: national governance in a global environment. The course is divided in three parts. The first analyses the impact of World War II and the period of post-war reconstruction (1944-51) from an international as well as eastern and western European perspectives; the second part focuses on understanding the nature and causes of the European golden age (1951-68) from an economic, political and social perspectives; and the third part deals with the problems of the current 'European model'—built around the European Union—which is, in essence, the failed adaptation to the exhaustion of the 'reconstruction model' (1969-2014).

General and specific competencies

General:

- To increase the ability to gather and analyse in a critical manner historical sources
- To enhance the ability to read and discuss academic texts in English

Specific:

- To enhance trans-disciplinary approaches (economics, political science, and history)

- To analyse in great detail policy formation and policy implementation
- To enhance the long-term perspective in historical analysis
- To enhance the reading of the present using historical methodology
- To learn about the reasons of policy disparity within Europe

General themes:

1. How to define 'globalization' by 1945? The Bretton Woods System
2. Great diversity in post-war reconstructions in Europe
3. 'National reconstructions' vs. 'globalization': The Marshall Plan
4. 'The German problem': the Europeanisation of the Federal Republic of Germany (I) – the European Coal and Steel Community
5. 'The German problem': the Europeanisation of the Federal Republic of Germany (II) – the European Economic Community
6. The engines and nature of the 'golden age' in Western Europe
7. The engines and nature of the 'golden age' in Eastern Europe
8. 'The German problem': the Germanisation of Western Europe (I) – the European Monetary System
9. 'The German problem': the Germanisation of Western Europe (II) – the European Monetary Union
10. Reading the on-going EU crises with historians' analytical tools
11. Contemporary Europe facing Globalisation since 1945: What have we learned?

Teaching methodology:

'Globalisation' is one of the most commonly used concepts by authors, journalists and commentators as of today. The way this concept is defined is crucial because the definition will condition how the audience perceives the nature of this phenomenon, the balance between benefits/damages, and the capacity to resist or mould it. A very frequent approach to 'globalisation' presents it as an unavoidable process which no nation would be able to resist and thus, as a consequence, all nations should converge towards a single, uniformed, strait-jacket socio-economic model in which politics would matter little if anything at all. This course will confront students with the contrast between facts and interpretations so that they can reach their own opinion. Understanding increasing inter-dependence—a more neutral way of describing 'globalisation'—requires understanding the economic logic of events. Political historians' traditional uneasiness with economics has limited their scope to understand a great deal of contemporary policy action. By the same token, economists should come to understand in turn that without considering the logic of political systems and the demands of the constituencies providing their main support, no policy action is fruitful in the long term. Long-term trends matter and condition political options (by altering the opportunity costs involved) but the essence of democratic politics is the opportunity to escape deterministic traps. Co-operation and integration among the European nations have widened their scope of action.

Class sessions will combine the instructor's lectures and student discussion of the assigned readings' contents.

Grading:

50% of the grading will derive from the quality of the student participation in class discussion; the other 50% from a final written essay.

Bibliography:

Arendt, Hannah, *Essays in Understanding, 1930-1954: Formation, Exile, and Totalitarianism*, New York, Harcourt, Brace & Co., 1994 (“Approaches to the ‘German Problem’”—published in 1945—and “The Aftermath of Nazi Rule: Report from Germany”—published in 1950) (for session 4)

Eichengreen, Barry,

- “Institutions and economic growth: Europe after 1945”, in Nicholas Crafts and Gianni Toniolo, *Economic growth in Europe since 1945*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1996, pp. 38-72 (session 2)
- *The European Economy since 1945. Coordinated capitalism and beyond*, Princeton and Oxford, Princeton University Press, 2007 (chapters 4 and 6) (sessions 6 and 7)

Gardner, Richard N., *Sterling-Dollar Diplomacy*, Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1956 (for session 1)

Guirao, Fernando and Frances M.B. Lynch, “Reading Contemporary European History. A Milwardian Perspective”, introduction to F. Guirao and F.M.B. Lynch (eds.), *Reading Contemporary European History*, London and New York, Routledge (forthcoming) (session 10)

Keynes, John M., *The Economic Consequences of the Peace*, Volume II of *The Collected Writings of John Maynard Keynes*, London, Macmillan/Cambridge University Press, 1971 (session 4)

Judt, Tony, *Postwar. A history of Europe since 1945*, London and New York, Penguin (session 7).

Maier, Charles S.

- “The Politics of Productivity: Foundations of American International Economic Policy after World War II”, *International Organization*, Vol. 31/4, September 1977, pp. 607–634 (session 2)

- “The Two Postwar Eras and the Conditions for Stability in Twentieth Century Europe”, *American Historical Review*, Vol. 86/2, April 1981, pp. 327–352 (session 2)

Milward, Alan S.

- “Was the Marshall Plan Necessary?”, *Diplomatic History*, vol. 13, no. 2 (Spring 1989), pp. 231-253 (session 3)
- “The Schuman Plan”, chapter 12 of his *The Reconstruction of Western Europe 1945-51*, London, Methuen, 1984 (chapter 4)
- “The Marshall Plan and German Foreign Trade”, chapter 10 of Charles S. Maier and Günter Bischof (eds.), *The Marshall Plan and Germany*, Oxford and New York, Berg, 1991, pp. 452-487 (chapter 5)
- “Politics and Purposes in Fifty Years of European Integration”, *Journal of European Integration History*, Vol. 20, 1/2004, pp. 43-48 (chapter 10)
- “Governance in a Global Environment”, *Journal of European Integration History*, Vol. 20, 1/2004, pp. 49-51 (chapter 10)