

European Studies

The major and minor in European studies are administered by the European Studies Committee: Professors Christiansen (economics), Wittig Davis (German studies, *chair*), Gill (politics), Jones (Russian), Lass (anthropology), Remmler (German studies), Schwartz (history), Vaget (French), Varriano (art); Associate Professors King (history), LeGouis (French), Romero-Diaz (Spanish); Crumbaugh (Spanish), Frau (Italian).

Contact Persons

Carmen Sullivan, *senior administrative assistant*

Gabriele Wittig Davis, *chair*

Europe is rapidly becoming America's main competitor for world leadership as it reinvents democratic, political, and economic life. Its rich and complex cultures are rapidly evolving into a new type of international society with innovative legislative, juridical, and executive structures. Europe's new unity and distinctiveness rest upon its historic intellectual, artistic, and religious heritages and upon the dynamism of the continuing integration of those heritages with each other and with those of immigrants from around the globe.

The European studies major and minor offer students the opportunity to develop a critical, focused understanding through interdisciplinary study of European topics within a global context. The major is useful for students who wish to pursue the study of European developments in their own right, and for students wishing to integrate work in art, literature, music, theatre, or other disciplines with studies in history and the social sciences. The major requires a specialization, competence at the 300 level in a European language other than English, and interdisciplinary course work concerning Europe both East and West, modern and premodern. The minor is structured in a related fashion. Students should consult the list posted on the European studies website for a sample of courses that count toward European studies.

Requirements for the Major

Credits

- A minimum of 40 credits
- At least 20 credits at the 300 level in at least two disciplines

Courses

The following courses are required:

- History 151, Modern and Contemporary European Civilization
- European Studies 316 (German Studies 331), Europe and Islam: From 1,001 Nights to the Nightmare of Al Qaida?

Other

In addition to European Studies 316 and History 151, the following requirements must be met.

- Two courses must have substantial content in European literature, film, or culture, at least one of which is taught in a European language other than English at the 300 level.
- One course must have substantial content in European thought, history, or social science.
- One course must have substantial content in Eastern Europe and/or in Europe beyond the European Union's borders (e.g., Ukraine, Russia, Moldova, Turkey).
- One course must have substantial content on Europe before 1800.

At least four courses that constitute a specialization within the major should be at the 200 level or above. A specialization can be disciplinary, regional, topical, or historical. The specialization must be approved by the student's advisor.

European studies is an interdisciplinary major. Students who pursue an interdisciplinary major automatically fulfill the College's "outside the major" requirement (see p. 8).

Requirements for the Minor

Credits

- A minimum of 20 credits
- At least 8 credits at the 300 level

Courses

The following courses are required.

- History 151, Modern and Contemporary European Civilization
- European Studies 316 (German Studies 331), Europe and Islam: From 1,001 Nights to the Nightmare of Al Qaida?
- One course with substantial content in European culture taught in a European language
- One course with substantial content in European thought, history, or social science

Other

- Each student is expected to exceed the minimum foreign language requirement set by the College, in a modern language of Europe.
- Students are strongly encouraged to spend one or two semesters of study abroad and to undertake a senior independent project.
- Students interested mainly in medieval Europe might want to take a major in medieval studies.

Study and Internships Abroad, Undergraduate and Graduate Research, and Teaching Fellowships

For information regarding opportunities for study and internships, undergraduate and graduate research, and teaching fellowships in all academic fields, arts, humanities, social sciences, and sciences, please check the European studies website and contact the chair.

Course Offerings

100f First-Year Seminar

Fall 2011

100f(1) Goodbye, Conventional Wisdom (First-year seminar; speaking- and writing-intensive course; Same as Critical Social Thought 100-04) One of the hallmarks of a liberal arts education is to draw on a broad base of knowledge in order to interrogate common assumptions. No one exemplifies this critical approach better than French philosopher Michel Foucault. One of the most influential thinkers of recent times, Foucault revolutionized several academic disciplines and even questioned the very notion of a discipline itself. He did so by revealing the history and transformations of ideas now viewed as self-evident. This first-year seminar invites students to develop similar analytical skills. Following Foucault's lead, the course pays special attention to preconceptions about government, freedom, identity, and sexuality.

Meets Humanities I-B requirement

J. Crumbaugh

4 credits

100f(3) Stalinist Europe

(First-year seminar; Same as History 101f-02)

An exploration of revolutionary terror. Centered on the Hungarian and Czech experience from the start of the Cold War, this course covers the Communist takeovers and expropriations of the late 1940s, the Yugoslav deviation, and various policies and spectacles of the Rakosi and Gottwald regimes, including the show trials. It then turns to the unraveling after Stalin's death, in which memories of terror played an important role. Assignments balance historical studies with memoir, art, fiction, and film. Emphasis lies on comparative analysis of politics high and low.

Meets Humanities I-B requirement

J. King

4 credits

100f(4) Fire and Sword in the Caucasus: A Family Saga

(First-year seminar; writing-intensive course; taught in English; Same as Politics 151, Russian Eurasian Studies 151f(01)) Situated be-

tween the Black and Caspian Seas, and squeezed between Europe and Asia, the political and cultural landscape of the Caucasus is an intriguing reflection of over 2,000 years of imperial contestation, migration, and occupation. Tracing the fate of one Georgian family through empire, war, revolution, and independence, we explore the politics and culture of everyday life in the Caucasus. This interdisciplinary course will incorporate music, literature, history, and politics to understand the comprehensive and complex nature of change in this region, its connection with global developments, and its impact on ordinary citizens' lives over the last 200 years.

Meets Social Sciences III-A requirement

S. Jones

Prereq. fy; 4 credits

151fs Modern and Contemporary European Civilization

(Same as History 151f-01) Surveys the major movements and developments in Europe during the era of European expansion and dominance—from the devastations of the Thirty Years War to the Second World War—and up to the current era of European Union. Topics include: the French Revolution and the birth of nationalism; the scientific and industrial revolutions; the modern history of international relations; imperialism, fascism, the Holocaust, the two World Wars, and the present and potential roles of Europe at the dawn of the twenty-first century.

Meets Humanities I-B requirement

R. Schwartz, J. King

4 credits

221f The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy

(Same as History 221) This course focuses on the Italian peninsula and urban life in Florence, Naples, Rome, Milan, and Venice from the fourteenth through the early seventeenth centuries; it follows the little people (*popolo minuto*), artisans, and elites in their challenges to government, law, church, and society. It looks broadly at the economic, political, social, and cultural factors that gave rise to disturbing questions about traditional conceptions of temporal and cosmic order, about men and women's relationships to one another and the world about them, about

wealth, guilt, the shortcomings of human nature, and the potential of the human spirit.

Meets Humanities I-B requirement

F. McGinness

4 credits

223fs Topics in German Studies

This course examines the cultural, political, and social developments from 1800 to the present by investigating a significant topic. The selection of materials is exemplary rather than comprehensive and is based on thematic, historical, generic, and other units.

Fall 2011

223f The Art and Science of Revolution in German Cultures

(Speaking- and writing-intensive course; same as German Studies 223f-01) Revolutions are deeply embedded in cultural, economic, political, and environmental structures. Some are violent, some are peaceful; some evolve out of historical processes over long periods of time; and others emerge spontaneously without warning. Still others are material in nature, such as the industrial revolution or the end of the Berlin wall. The seminar explores the causes, forms, and impact of major revolutions in German cultures from the invention of the printing press to the most recent "Wende" that led to unification. Other revolutions include the French Revolution, the German Revolution of 1848, the founding of the Weimar Republic, and the student movement in 1968.

Meets either language requirement or

Humanities I-A requirement

K. Remmler

Prereq. Previous study of German; 4 credits

Spring 2012

223s What's So Funny? Humor and Comedy in German Cultures

(Speaking- and writing-intensive course; same as German Studies 223s, Film Studies 220s(04)) Germans have no sense of humor, right? Yet preeminent cultural critic Marcel Reich-Ranicki claims that, next to England, no other country demonstrates a cultural tradition as deeply steeped in humor and comedy. Who is right? Are Germans humorless robots or born with funny bones? We will

challenge the notion of humor as a universal concept and examine the comic as a cultural phenomenon. Based on selections from works by Freud et al, we will explore diverse forms of the comic in a range of media: from Goethe's erotic poetry to film classics like *The Blue Angel*, and recent films about popular humorist successes of the 1920s such as the Comedian Harmonists, the first Boy Band.

Meets Language requirement or Humanities I-A requirement

G. Wittig Davis

Prereq. Previous study of German; 4 credits; expected enrollment 25; Students enrolled in 223 are expected to enroll in the complementary two-credit tutorial (German Studies 224). The 224 tutorial will stress current forms of humor, comedy, and satire in film and popular media.

230fs Topics on Culture and Literature:

Introduction to the Civilization of France

In order to explain the complexity of present-day France, this course will explore its most conflictual historical moments—feudalism, absolute monarchy, political and social revolutions. Students will learn the social and historical context of French art and architecture. (Speaking-intensive course; Same as French 230f-01) While exploring the decisive periods of France's past, students will also examine the development of art and architecture, from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century, and familiarize themselves with the mentality of each period (emphasis on medieval cathedrals and Renaissance castles, Baroque and Rococo works of art, and nineteenth-century paintings). Course content can be found at

<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/courses/nvaget/>.

Meets either language requirement or Humanities I-A requirement

N. Vaget

Prereq. French 203, or placement score of 450+, or department placement; 4 credits

240s Russian Politics: From Communism to Capitalism

(Taught in English; Same as Politics 209, Russian and Eurasian Studies 240) Russia was transformed by communist revolution into a global superpower that challenged the domi-

nant ideologies of liberalism and nationalism. It became a powerful alternative to capitalism. In 1991, this imperial state collapsed and underwent an economic, political, and cultural revolution. What explains the Soviet Union's success for 70 years and its demise in 1991? What sort of country is Russia as it enters the twenty-first century? Is it a democracy?

Meets Social Sciences III-A requirement

S. Jones

4 credits

254s Doubt, Dissent, and Heresy in the Age of the Inquisition

(Same as History 254) The Holy Office of the Inquisition of the Roman Catholic Church proved an effective instrument for controlling religious and political orthodoxy from the Middle Ages through the early modern era. Its range of activity spanned investigations into doctrinal purity, groups of dissenters, Jews and Muslims who converted to the Christian faith, scientific discoveries, witchcraft, cunning folk, the black arts, and popular dissent. This course examines this institution and the social political, mental, and imaginary world it monitored to safeguard "faith and morals" in this life and access to salvation in the next.

Meets Humanities I-B requirement

F. McGinness

4 credits

260fs Topics in European History

260f(1) Environmental History: Ecological Thinking and Practice in Europe, 1500 to the Present

(Speaking-intensive course; Same as History 256) Studies European views of nature and the natural world from the late middle ages to the present, using historical accounts, Shelley's *Frankenstein*, poetry, paintings, and other primary sources. A case study of environmental change investigates the impact of industrialization and the railway system on the human and physical environments in nineteenth-century Britain. Central to this part of the course will be a hands-on introduction to new methods of computer-assisted mapping and data analysis known as Geographic Information Systems (GIS). No background in GIS is expected.

Meets Humanities I-B requirement

R. Schwartz

4 credits

260s(1) Market Cultures in Western Civilization, 1600 to the Present

(Same as History 207) The history of the modern world has often been told as the history of markets and their expansion over time and place, culminating with what is often called “market society,” a society in which market relations are said to shape all of our everyday lives. What does it mean to live in a market society and how have past cultures responded to the supposed intrusion of market relations? We will explore the cultural history of markets and market relations over the past several hundred years, with particular emphasis on European and North American cultures. We will also study institutional histories of markets—how they were built and organized—alongside the ways in which people thought about and responded to forms of market exchange in everyday life.

Meets Humanities I-B requirement

D. Fitz-Gibbon

4 credits

260s(2) City Life in Modern Europe, 1750-1950

(Same as History 255s-01) “Our age is pre-eminently the age of great cities,” wrote Robert Vaughan in 1843. Many Europeans questioned whether the greatness of cities was such a good thing, but most agreed that the history of nineteenth-century Europe could not be written without reference to them. We will examine that history from the perspective of Europe’s largest cities between the mid-eighteenth and twentieth centuries. Taking greatness in its broadest sense, our readings will treat both the feats of urban transformation and the murkier histories of streets, sewers, sex, and slums. We will learn of the unruliness of cities and of their being ruled through government, social reformers, planners, and engineers.

Meets Humanities I-B requirement

D. Fitz-Gibbon

4 credits

260s(3) History in Literature: Historical Times, Historical Places, and Novel Spaces

(Same as History 260s-01) Studies the connections between history, geography, and literature in 19th and 20th century Europe.

Case studies on Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* (1818), Victor Hugo’s *Les Misérables* (1862), and Thomas Hardy’s *Tess of the D’Urbervilles* (1891) will be undertaken in relation to broader comparative perspectives on the history and geography of European novels from Jane Austen’s *Persuasion* (1817) to Eric Marie Remarque’s *All Quiet on the Western Front* (1929), as suggested by secondary accounts such as Franco Moretti’s recent *Atlas of the European Novel, 1800-1900* (1998).

Meets Humanities I-B requirement

R. Schwartz

4 credits

315fs Topics in German and European Studies in a Global Context

315f(1) “Uncommon Women” Conquer the World: Archival Memories Come to Life

(Speaking- and writing-intensive course; Same as German Studies, Gender Studies 333) A gift of a voluminous scrapbook by an alumna (1912) studying German at MHC serves as the basis for this hands-on investigative course about global learning and daily life at MHC, in Germany, and Europe. Each student researches her individual area of interest to explore this crucial era when women in Europe pushed open all doors to higher education (1908), when women scientists, artists, and public leaders achieved prominence. Key question: how did women’s education support women in defining and constructing their own paths to professional success, commitment to global public service, and desire for pleasure and personal happiness? Research outcome: bilingual media project.

Meets either language requirement or Humanities I-A requirement

G. WittigDavis

Prereq. open to students who have completed at least 8 credits beyond German Studies 201 or permission of department; 4 credits; Students with interest in this topic and in global and European studies, but insufficient or no prior knowledge of German, should enroll in

German Studies 330 (2 cr.) taught in English.

***315s(1) Global Europe?: Immigration and Representations of Im/migrants in Film and Text**

(Speaking- and writing-intensive course; taught in English; Same as German Studies 315) The course focuses on key issues facing contemporary Europe as it attempts to integrate large im/migrant populations: such legal issues as the development of asylum, immigration, citizenship, and anti-discrimination/hate laws and such cultural issues as the meanings of integration vs. assimilation; multicultural vs. pluralistic societies; the roles of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam in the construction of European societies and cultural identities; perceptions of (Post-)Colonialism and the interceptions of gender, race, class, and nationality; and the (dis)integrative role of language. Focus on the emergence of European Union rules vs. representative national policies in Germany, France, and Great Britain.

Meets multicultural requirement; meets Humanities I-A requirement
G. Davis

Prereq. Previous study of German; majors/minors in the department should simultaneously enroll in both German Studies 232 (taken for 300-level credit) and GRMST-315 or EURST-316 to receive major/minor credit, and read, write about, and discuss selected materials from EURST-316 or GRMST-315 in German.; 4 credits

316s European Studies Seminar

Spring 2012

316s European Studies Seminar
Europe and Islam: From 1,001 Nights to the Nightmare of Al Qaida?

(Same as German Studies 331s; Speaking- and writing-intensive course; taught in English.) What defines European or Islamic “culture” and “civilization”? Europe has dreamt of the Tales of 1,001 Nights, has created “exotic” images of “Orientalism.” But what about the blossoming of art and science under Islam: the Alhambra, Avicenna’s Canon of Medicine? Yet recent global events have triggered an ancient European angst based on the collective memory of the Cru-

sades and tales of the legendary assassini; the Ottomans’ siege of Vienna and conquest of the Balkans. What role do the media play in the representation of Europe and Islam? Our sources: films, fatwas, facts and fiction, presented by Muslim filmmakers, scholars, and religious authorities. Note: Discussions with European and U.S. scholars, including an MHC alumna at the University of Chicago Law School.

Meets multicultural requirement; meets Humanities I-A requirement
G. WittigDavis

Note: Language requirement in German met only if seminar is taken in conjunction with 2-credit tutorial (German Studies 332) taught in German. For credit toward minimum major or minor in German Studies, students must also complete the 2-credit German Studies 332 complementary tutorial, in German. 4 credits

323s Germans, Slavs, and Jews, 1900-1950
(See History 323)

Meets Humanities I-B requirement
J. King

Prereq. permission of instructor, written application prior to academic advising period (http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/history/300-level_application.html) required; 4 credits

365f(01) Modern Europe: The Twentieth Century: Minority Rights in Modern Europe

(European Studies 316f-01) This course will compare the rights regimes of various national, racial, and religious minorities in twentieth-century Central Europe, including Czechs, Germans, and Jews in late imperial Austria, Germans in interwar Czechoslovakia and Poland, Jews and Roma (“Gypsies”) in Nazi Germany, Germans in Nazi client states, Serbs, Croats, and others in Communist Yugoslavia, and “guest workers” in the Federal Republic of Germany since the 1960s. Readings, discussion, and research will center on political struggles in daily life as well as over the longer haul, constitutional law, and different approaches to the dilemmas of reconciling difference with equality.

Meets Humanities I-B requirement
J. King

Prereq. permission of instructor, written application
(<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/history/300->

level_application.html) required; 4 credits;
expected enrollment 15

395fs Independent Study

Does not meet a distribution requirement

The department

1-8 credits

European Studies Courses and Related Courses Offered in Other Departments

Apart from the required courses (European Studies 316s and History 151fs), there are many courses offered on campus that could be included in the European studies major. For a detailed list, consult the Courses page of the European studies website. Contact the chair to clarify if other MHC and Five College courses qualify for the specific major or minor requirement in question.

Check course catalogue for additional courses offered by European studies faculty.