Europe today is in many respects a remarkable success story. The old nationalist and ideological rivalries that plunged the continent into a disastrous conflict three times during the twentieth century (WW I, WW II and the Cold War) have been tamed. The 28 (still) members of the European Union together have a population of 508 million (2015) and constitute the largest or second concentration of economic power in the world (according to World Bank Statistics, the EU’s combined GDP stood at 19 trillion dollars at market rates in 2015, versus 18 trillion for the US and 11 trillion for China). Its people enjoy a remarkable standard of living, one that in many ways exceeds that of the United States. In recent years, the Union has become an increasingly influential actor across a broad range of international domains, most notably trade and the environment.

Yet, despite these accomplishments, Europe today is in the deepest crisis in its history. The most obvious manifestation of the EU’s troubles is Great Britain’s recent decision to leave the Union (the so-called “Brexit”). Brexit, however, is coming on the heels of a host of other problems, including Europe’s troubles in dealing with a resurgent and belligerent Russia; the continued (if reduced) flood of refugees and asylum seekers, and the rise of populist, right and left-wing parties; and a simmering economic crisis centered on the countries of the Eurozone. While collapse of the common currency has been staved off, economic growth has slowed across the continent, feeding a growing mood of political discontent. Tensions between the relatively prosperous and efficient North and the stagnant southern halves of the continent are growing and are putting severe pressure on the Union’s carefully crafted institutions.

The United States is far from a disinterested observer of these developments. For decades, US global leadership has been premised on a close partnership with the countries of Western Europe. The Obama government continues to look to Europe in dealing with many pressing global problems, including trade, the environment, terrorism, and managing turmoil around Europe’s periphery, especially in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Yet deep tensions have emerged across the Atlantic between the United States and many European governments on a variety of
trade and security issues, and Europe’s manifold crises are undermining its ability to act as a partner for the United States even if and when the two sides agree on a common purpose.

In short, while the nightmares of the past may have dissipated, new and troubling questions have emerged that seem destined, for better or for worse, to keep Europe on the center stage of world politics.

This course is designed to equip the students with the background knowledge and analytical skills needed to understand the processes that are shaping European affairs. This course will proceed in two stages. First, it will briefly review some of the major theoretical perspectives in International Relations in order to provide students with a conceptual “tool kit” for dealing with concrete empirical issues. This tool kit will then be used to provide theoretically informed overview of the development of international relations in the old Europe prior to the end of the Cold War. In the next section, we will also look in some detail at the foreign policies of the major actors in European affairs - Britain, France, Germany, Russia and the United States, as well as a number of smaller European powers. The third and final section of the course be spent examining in detail selected central issues in contemporary European affairs, with the main focus on the continued evolution of European policy regarding economics, internal security and foreign and security policy.

**Required Texts:**


Additional readings will be assigned for the different units of the course. All readings, unless otherwise specified, will be available on line, either through the web or through e-journals at the BU library website (http://www.bu.edu/dbin/ejournals/ej/index.php).

**Course Requirements:**

1) Two short (50 minute tests) based on the required readings - 50% identify key terms, 50% short answer. A review sheet will be passed out one week prior to the examinations in order to help the students prepare. Questions for earlier exams will not be repeated on later exams, but students are expected to demonstrate on the later exams a solid grasp of material covered earlier in the course. In this sense the exams are indeed cumulative.
2) A short 2-3 page memo and a longer 8-12 page term paper on a topic pertaining to the international relations of Europe, chosen by the student. The memo is due November 14 and should look at an issue that is of interest to the student and which they wish to write a paper about. They will briefly examine the issue. The term paper should ideally off from the memo and makes an analytical argument regarding the topic raised in the memo. Students may change topics of they like, but are encouraged to avoid doing so. The term paper is due the last day of class (December 12). Please consult “Guidelines for Term Papers” which will be sent to you early in the semester for directions on how to write your paper.

3) Students are expected to attend class on a regular basis. They are to report to the instructor when they come or leave class so that attendance can be taken. Students are allowed up to two unexplained absences a semester. After that, unexcused absences will be penalized one point on their final grade per absence.

4) Class Participation – Class participation is not required, but strongly recommended. While the course is structured as a lecture course, the instructor will pose questions to the class and encourages students to ask questions during lecture. Students who constructively participate in the class will receive a bonus on their final grade. The instructor reserves the right to penalize students for obstreperous class room conduct

Breakdown of Grading:
Midterm – 25%
Final – 25%
Memo - 10%
Final paper – 40%

Students are required to hand in their own work. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students are urged to familiarize themselves with the definition of plagiarism to be found in the student handbook and on line at [http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code/](http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code/). If you have any questions regarding the proper format for citations, the handling of citation, and so forth, please come and see me.

Week I - Course Introduction and Review of International Relations Theory September 7 and 9

Readings:


Start reading the David Mason book, A Concise History
Week II - The History of International Relations in Europe - Development of the European System and WW I, September 12, 14 and 16

Readings

Mason, A Concise History, chapters 1-8 (1-101)

Week III - The History of IR in Europe – WW I, WW II and the Cold War – September 19, 21 and 23

Readings:

Mason, A Concise History, chapters 9 -14 plus conclusions (103-200)

Week IV - The Foreign Policies of the Great Powers I – Britain and France September 21, 23 and 25

Readings: Ronald Tiersky, European Foreign Policy, chapters 8 and 9


Week V –The Foreign Policy of the Other Powers II – Germany, Italy and Poland

Readings: Ronald Tiersky, European Foreign Policies, chapters 8, 9 and 11


Jakob Mischke and Andres Umland, “Germany’s New Ostpolitik,” Foreign Affairs April 2014

Week VI and VII - Russia and the Ukrainian Crisis October 5, 7, 9, 13,14 and 16
(Note Monday the 12th there is no class, instead class will be held on Tuesday the 14th – what is known at BU as a “substitute Monday.”)
Readings: Ronald Tiersky, *Europe Today* chapter 6


Alexander Moytl, “Putin’s Trap,” *Foreign Affairs* September 1, 2014

Brandon Friedman, “Russia’s Leverage in the Middle East,” *Tel Aviv Notes* 9:1 January 2015, 6 pages, http://dayan.org/sites/default/files/Tel%20Aviv%20Notes_Friedman_11.1.15.pdf

Interview with Zbigniew Brzezinski in the German news magazine, Der Spiegel July 2, 2015 http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/interview-with-zbigniew-brzezinski-on-russia-and-ukraine-a-1041795.html


**October 19– Midterm – Part I Multiple Choice - identify and explain the significance five from a list of seven terms people Part II: Short Essay - select and discuss in an essay one topic from a list of three possible topics.**

Week VIII - The United States, NATO, TTIP and the New Europe October 22 and 24

Tiersky, *Europe Today* chapter 14


**Week IX  - European Union I - Origins and Institutional Structures I  October 26, 28 and 29**

Ronald Tiersky, *Europe Today*, chapters 9 and 12


**Week X – EU Economic Integration I November 2, 4 and 6**

Ronald Tiersky, *Europe Today*, chapters 10

**Research Memo due on the 2nd**
Week XI – The Eurocrisis November 9, 11 and 13

Tiersky, Europe Today Chapter 11


Per Polak, “The Euro Deflation Crisis,” Foreign Affairs May 28, 2014

Week XII - European Union III – Immigration and the Internal Security November 16, 18, 20 plus 23 (Thanksgiving break from 25)

Tiersky, Europe Today, chapter 12, pp.177-210 (33)


Week XIII — Open November 20, December 2 and 4

Week XIV Course Conclusions December 7 and 9

Term Papers due on the last day of class!

Final Exam (during Exam period)