CAS IR 418 / PO 247 Politics, Nations and Identity in the New Europe: Switzerland and the European Union

Instructor: Dr. Susanne Peters
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2 x 20 hours

What is Europe, and are the Swiss in or out of it? This new course is designed as an introduction to some of the most pressing cultural and political issues in present-day Europe. Focusing on the host country, Switzerland, it will set this small independent nation in the context of European history through a structured comparison with its most powerful neighbors, France and Germany. The history and rationale of the European Union, the current crisis in the Eurozone, the challenges of the EU enlargement and the thorny issue of migration will all be discussed. In a first section we will address historical and background knowledge on key elements of European history and the European integration process as well as the international criticism Switzerland faced in the mid 90s as a result of its policies during and after World War II. In a second section we will compare Switzerland’s society, political culture and political system with France and Germany. Highly controversial and relevant topics for Switzerland and Europe, e.g. where to draw the line of what country is in or out of Europe, immigration policy including relations with Central European states regarding migration of Roma and Sinti will be discussed as well.

The course has four main objectives:
1) understand to what extent history has shaped the political systems and political culture of Switzerland, France and Germany
2) give detailed insight into Switzerland and understand what distinguishes it from Germany and France in regard to its governmental system, political culture and political development
3) understand key controversial issues in European contemporary politics
4) explore to what extent Switzerland is influenced by the dynamics, challenges and future of the European Union

There are no pre-requisites for this class, which should be of interest to students in IR, Political Science, History, or European studies - as well as anyone who just wants to make sense of present-day Switzerland.

Texts:
A course pack will be made available.

Requirements and grading:
Assignments for the course, and the objectives of each of them will be explained in greater detail on the first day of class.

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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
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<td>Presentation of term paper</td>
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<td>Term paper</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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For the term paper a 10% penalty will be applied to any work submitted within 4 hours after the deadline, a 20% penalty after 4 hours delay.

Attendance and participation are a key component of your grade. Class Participation includes regular attendance, to be verified by signature lists. Unexcused absences as well as regular lateness will affect your grade. Evaluations of your participation will further depend on your active participation in class discussions. This includes recurring in-class discussions. These discussions will center on selected texts from the reader. As these discussions are integral parts of your grade, it would be highly advantageous for you to read and scrutinize the texts before class.

There will be one examination to be held in class. The exam questions will consist of:
- A multiple choice section on terms on terms discussed in class
- A short-answer section consisting of 500-word explanations and discussions of terms or phenomena covered in class, in their historical, political and/or theoretical context, and
- An essay question inviting students to think critically about the given subject in a response of 1000 words.

Term Paper: Students will be required to write an empirical research paper for this class. The length of the paper should be about 3,500 words, and should include a bibliography. The bibliography should list at least eight different academic sources. The deadline for handing in the essay is the last day of class.

Form of delivery of written assignments: All documents have to be sent electronically, either in .doc (Word), .rtf or .pdf formats.

Plagiarism
All students are responsible for having read the Boston University statement on plagiarism, which is available in the Academic Conduct Code. Students are advised that the penalty against students on a Boston University program for cheating on examinations or for “plagiarism” may be “expulsion from the program or the University or such other penalty as may be recommended by the Committee on Student Academic Conduct, subject to approval by the dean.”

You can view the entire Academic Conduct Code here:
http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/
Overview:

Class 1 Introduction: Major Issues and Concepts, Organization of the Course

Section A: Historical and Background Knowledge

Class 2 European History: WWI - WWII – Holocaust

Class 3 Switzerland in the Crossfire of International Criticism

Class 4 Division of Europe - Cold War

Class 5 The Origin and Idea of the European Community

Class 6 The Institutions of the European Union

Section B: Switzerland in Comparison to its European Neighbors

Class 7 Comparative Politics and Party Systems in Europe
- Parliamentary versus presidential systems
- The Consensus versus the Westminster model
- Party Systems in Europe

Class 8 Switzerland: The success of a unique system I
- Origin
- Society
- Political System

Class 9 Switzerland: The success of a unique system II
- Direct Democracy
- Federalism
- Neutrality and Foreign Policy

Class 10 Switzerland and the EU
• Economy
• Bilateral Treaties

Class 11 **France: End of Exceptionalism**

• Political system
• Economy and Society

Class 12 **Germany: Learning from the past**

• Political system
• Society and Economy

Class 13: **Switzerland in comparison to its neighbors and the US**

• Comparison of Political culture
• Comparison of Governmental system

**Section C: Controversial topics for Switzerland and Europe/EU**

Class 14: **Who belongs to Europe?**

• EU enlargement policy – Balkan countries - Ukraine
• Turkey’s membership

Class 15: **Immigration policy**

• Switzerland, France and Germany
• European Union

Class 16: **Migration Policy**

• The effects of the Schengen agreement on Switzerland
• Roma and Sinti in Central Europe

Class 17: **The effects of the Euro Crisis on Europe’s Social Peace**

• A divided Europe
• Europe’s “lost generation”

**Section D Conclusion and Exam**

Class 18 **Student Presentations**
Class 19 **Student Presentations and Wrap up**

Class 20 **Exam**

**Term Paper Due**

**Readings:**

**Class 2 European History: WWI-WWII-Holocaust**

*Required*:

*Additional*

**Class 3 Switzerland in the Crossfire of International Criticism**

*Required*

*Additional:


**Class 4 Division of Europe – Cold War**

*Required:*


*Additional:*


**Class 5 The Origin and the Idea of the European Community**

*Required:*


*Additional:*


**Class 6 The Institutions of the European Union**

*Required:*


*Additional:*
Emmanouilidis, Janis and Stratulat, Corina, “Implementing Lisbon: narrowing the EU’s ‘democratic deficit’?” *European Policy Centre*, (March 2010), 4 pages.


**Class 7 Comparative Politics and Party Systems in Europe**

*Required:*


*Additional:*


Class 8 Switzerland: The Success of a Unique System I

Required:


Additional:
Church, Clive and Head, Randolph, A Concise History of Switzerland (Cambridge University Press, 2013).

Steinberg, Jonathan, Why Switzerland ? (Cambridge University Press, 1996)

Fahrdi, Dieter, An Outline History of Switzerland, From the Origins to the Present (Pro Helevetia, Arts Council of Switzerland, 1997).

Nappeu, Gregoire, Swiss History in a Nutshell, (Basel: Bergli Books, 2010)


Class 9 Switzerland: The Success of a Unique System II

Required:


**Additional:**


**Class 10 Switzerland and the EU**

**Required:**


**Additional:**

Breiding, James, *Swiss Made. The Untold Story behind Switzerland’s Success* (Profile Books: 2013).


http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/politics/Prospect_of_US-EU_trade_accord_makes_Swiss_fret.html?cid=35011134

**Class 11 France: End of Exceptionalism**

**Required:**


**Additional:**


**Class 12: Germany: Learning from the Past**

*Required:*


*Additional:*


Heilbrunn, Jacob, “All Roads Lead to Berlin”, *The National Interest (November-December 2012)*, pp.41-47
Class 13 Switzerland in Comparison to its Neighbors and the US

Required:


Additional:


Class 14 Who Belongs to Europe? – EU Enlargement Policy

Required:

Additional:


Terzi, Oezlem, The Influence of the European Union on Turkish Foreign Policy, (London and Burlington: Ashgate 2010).

Class 15 Immigration Policy

Required:

Additional:


Class 16 Migration Policy

Required:


Class 17 The Effects of the Euro Crisis on Switzerland and Europe

Required:


Moravcsik, Andrew, “Europe after the Crisis”, Foreign Affairs (May/June 2012), pp.54-69.


