
**Politics, Nations and Identity in the New Europe:
Switzerland and the European Union****CAS IR 418 / PO 247 – Spring 2016**Instructor: Dr. Djacoba Liva Tehindrazanarivelo
djacoba@bu.edu**1. Content**

What is Europe, and are the Swiss in or out of it? Who can come in and who should stay out of Europe? This course is designed as an introduction to some of the most pressing political, social and cultural issues in present-day Europe. Focusing on the host country, Switzerland, it will set this small independent nation in the context of European history and specifically its relations with its big neighbor, the European Union which brings together 28 States and is struggling to construct a common European identity. The course will start with the history and rationale of the European Union (EU), the EU Foreign and Security Policy, the EU citizenship, and the challenges relating to EU enlargement, currently and in the future, in terms of the quest for a common European identity. In the second section, it will look at Switzerland's history, society and politics, notably its unique system of semi-direct democracy, and its impact on the relationship between Switzerland and the EU. The final section will address the highly controversial and pressing topic in contemporary Europe, namely the immigration issue, or crisis, where politics, nations and identity play significant roles.

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 and Europe.

2. Texts

A reading kit will be distributed to the students, containing all required readings. Suggested additional readings are posted in Learn Blackboard.

3. Requirements and grading

The assignments for the course consist of two written papers, one oral presentation, and a grade for participation. The objectives of each of them will be explained in greater detail on the first day of the course.

- i. *Participation (10%)* are a key component of students' grade. This includes punctuality and active, engaged, intelligent comments in class, based on the lectures and the discussions of the texts from the reader. As these discourses are integral parts of their grade, students are strongly advised to read carefully the required readings. Excused absences are only permitted in the case of illness accompanied by a doctor's note. Unexcused absence as well as lateness will affect the grade.
- ii. *Critical review of a reading (30%)*: Each student has to write a critical review of one of the course readings. A guideline for writing a critical review will be posted at Learn Blackboard and discussed during the first class. The paper – of 3 pages maximum, including references – shall be sent by email to the instructor 24 hours before the day of its presentation in class. A 10% penalty per 8-hour late submission applies.

- iii. Class presentation of the critical review (15%): Each class will be introduced by a student's oral presentation of the critical review s/he sent to the instructor a day before. The presentation is of 10 minutes maximum, followed by questions and discussions. The reading to be reviewed by each student will be collectively attributed in the first class.
- iv. Final Exam (45%): The exam will consist of nine questions on the whole course (5 points each), based on lectures, class discussions and field visits.

4. 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'.

5. Schedule

SECTION I: HISTORICAL AND BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE OF CONTEMPORARY EUROPE

Class 1: Friday, January 15 2-5 pm **Room:** PM 15

Introduction

- Organization of the course
- Major issues and concepts: identity, nation, citizenship, allegiance and their politics

Required reading:

1. Sonkoly, Gábor, 'Cultural Heritage', and Malečková, Jitka, 'Identity, in *Bridge over Troubled Waters? The Link between European Historical Heritage and the Future of European Integration*, Workshop Report, EU Horizon 2020, Roma, 17 Oct. 2014, 14-27.

Class 2: Monday, January 18 2-5 pm **Room:** PM 16

Understanding the 'European construction' (Part 1):

- From the interwar period to WW II
- The idea of the EC and the development of the EU

Required readings:

2. Opello, Walter and Opello, A.R. Katherine, 'Chapter 9: From Military Competition to Economic Cooperation', *European Politics. The Making of Democratic States* (Boulder and London: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2009), 201-231.
3. Kubicek, Paul, 'Chapter 3: The Development of the European Union', *European Politics* (Boston et al.: Longman, 2012), 65-79.

Class 3: Tuesday, January 19 2-5 pm **Room:** PM 15

Understanding the 'European construction' (Part 2):

- The EU enlargement: process, and spatial limits
- The creation of EU citizenship and the quest for an European identity

Required readings:

4. Fligstein, Neil, 'European Integration, Nationalism and European Identity', *Journal of Common Market Studies* (Vol. 50, No. 1, 2012), pp. 106-122.
5. Subotic, Jelena, 'Europe is a State of Mind: Identity and Europeanization in the Balkans', *International Studies Quarterly* 55 (2011), 309-330.

Class 4: Monday, January 25 2-5 pm **Room:** PM 15

Topic 1: The EU Common Foreign and Security Policy

Topic 2: The relations between Greece and the EU: *Grexit* or not?

Required readings:

6. European Peacebuilding Liaison Office, *Common Foreign and Security Policy structures and instruments after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty*, EPLO Briefing Paper 1/2012.
7. Biscop, Sven, 'Peace without Money, War without Americans: challenges for European Strategy', *International Affairs* (Vol. 8, No. 5, 2013), pp. 1125-1142.
8. 'Greece: the way ahead', *The Economist*, 11 July 2015. *See more documents in Blackboard*

SECTION II: SWITZERLAND'S UNIQUE SYSTEM AND RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EU

Class 5: Tuesday, January 26 2-5 pm **Room:** PM 13

Topic 1: The creation of the Swiss nation

Topic 2: Contemporary Swiss citizens: immigration and integration policies

Required readings:

9. Fossedal, Gregory, 'Chapter 2: 1291' and 'Chapter 3: Willensnation', *Direct Democracy in Switzerland* (New Brunswick and London: Transaction Publishers, 2002), 11-27.
10. D'Amato, Gianni, 'Switzerland: A Multicultural Country without Multicultural Policies?', in Steven Vertovec and Susanne Wessendorf, *The Multiculturalism Backlash. European Discourses, Policies and Practices* (London and New York: Routledge, 2010), 130-151.

Read also Steinberg, Jonathan, 'Chapter 7: Identity', *Why Switzerland?* (Cambridge University Press, 1996), 234-259; and Linder, Wolf, 'Multicultural Switzerland and the Challenge of Immigration', *Journal of Minority Studies* (Vol. 5, No. 3, 2011), 201-225 (PDF, [Learn Blackboard](#))

Class 6: Thursday, January 28 2-5 pm **Room:** PM 15

The success of a unique system: Swiss direct democracy and political system

Required reading:

11. Linder, Wolf, *Swiss Democracy: Possible Solutions to Conflict in Multicultural Societies* (New York: St. Palgrave Macmillan, 2010), Chapter 3: Direct Democracy, 92-101; Chapter 5: Comparative Perspectives, 158-173.

Peruse also: *The Swiss Confederation: A Brief Guide 2015* (PDF, [Blackboard Learn](#))

Class 7: Friday, January 29 2-5 pm **Room:** Meyrin or PM 15

Field trip to Meyrin: living together in a community of 100 nationalities

Class 8: Monday, February 1 2.5 pm **Room:** PM 13

Switzerland and its external relations

- The Swiss neutrality and foreign policy
- The Swiss-EU relationship: the Bilateral Agreements and the implementation of the 2014 Swiss vote on 'stopping mass immigration'

Required readings:

12. Gabriel, Jürg Martin, 'The Price of Political Uniqueness: Swiss Foreign Policy in a Changing World', in *Swiss Foreign Policy, 1945-2002*, ed. by Jürg Martin Gabriel and Thomas Fischer (Houndmills, Palgrave, 2003), 1-22.
13. Kriesi, Hanspeter and Trechsel, Alexander, 'Chapter 11: Foreign Policy: Switzerland and the EU', *The Politics of Switzerland. Continuity and Change in a Consensus Democracy* (Cambridge University Press, 2008), 172-189.

Browse also the Press Releases on the latest news concerning Swiss European policy, at <https://www.eda.admin.ch/dea/en/home/aktuell/medienmitteilungen.html>

SECTION III: EUROPE AND IMMIGRATION: CRISIS MANAGEMENT, IDENTITY AND POLICIES

Class 9: Thursday, February 4 2-5 pm **Room:** PM 09

Topic 1: The state of migration in Europe: an overview

Topic 2: The EU migration policies: freedom of movement, border control, asylum policy

Required readings:

14. Fratzke, Susan, *Not Adding Up. The Fading Promise of Europe's Dublin System*, (Migration Policy Institute Europe, March 2015).
15. Parkes, Roderick, '20 years on: rethinking Schengen', *Brief Issue No. 39* (EU Institute for Security Studies, 2015).

Class 10: Friday, February 5 10am-1pm **Room:** PM 16

Dealing with peoples fleeing generalized violence: European identity and values

- The legal status: migrants or refugees?
- The European humanism and values under scrutiny

Required readings:

16. Human Rights Watch, *Europe's refugee crisis: an agenda for action*, Report, Dec. 2015.
17. 'Wave of crises puts European dream at risk', *EU Business Breaking News*, 21 Sept. 2015

Class 11: Monday, February 8 2-5 pm **Room:** PM 15

Dealing with peoples fleeing extreme poverty: anti-immigration pressure v. economic needs

- The status of irregular immigrants: criminals, workers, or contemporary slaves and victims of human trafficking?
- The 'Fortress Europe' and its human and economic costs

Required readings:

18. Bale, Tim, 'Not wanted, but needed', in *European Politics. A comparative Introduction* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013), 339-377.
19. Bertin, Francesca and Fontanari, Elena, 'Militarizing the Mediterranean', in *International Politics / Global Politics* (No. 4, 2011), pp. 22-26.

Class 12: Tuesday, February 9 2-5 pm **Room:** PM 13

Terrorist threats and attacks in Europe: their impact on national identity and cohesion

- The November 13 attacks in Paris and their authors: enemy within and nihilism
- The post 11/13 discourses on identity and (lack of) integration
- The policy of nationality deprivation: the danger of discrimination and statelessness
- Dealing with radicalization and 'foreign terrorist fighters': community assessment

Required readings:

20. OSCE, *Preventing Terrorism and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism: A Community-Policing Approach* (ODIHR, February 2014), 27-47.
21. EU, *Conclusions of the Council of the EU ... on enhancing the criminal justice response to radicalisation leading to terrorism and violent extremism*, Press Release 854/15, 20/11/15
Read also UN Doc. S/2015/358, Annex, 19 May 2015: *Analysis and recommendations with regard to the global threat from foreign terrorist fighters* ([Learn Blackboard](#))

Class 13: Monday, February 15 2-5pm **Room:** IOM or PM 16

Visit to the International Office of Migration: The IOM and the Immigration Crisis in Europe

Class 14: Friday, February 19 9-12am **Room:** PM 07

Final Exam