**University of Guelph**

**School of Languages and Literatures**

**Winter 2023**

\*\**Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.\*\**

**Course Title: EURO\*6010 European Identities (0.50 cr.)**

**Instructor:** Dr. Paola Mayer

**e-mail:** pmayer@uoguelph.ca

**Office hours:**  via Teams, by appointment only

**Guest lecturers:**

Dr. Jay Oliver (Classics)

Dr. Sandra Parmegiani (European Studies/Italian)

Dr. John Walsh (Classics)

**Course description:**

Through an exploration of literature, history, philosophy, sociology, this course looks at the formation of European identities and examines their endurance, their often tenuous and contradictory existence, and their instability in the face of past and recent historical events. Interdisciplinary concepts such as self/other, centre/periphery, and inclusion/exclusion are explored to understand how ideas about individuality, the nation and Europe induce identity creation, contest and change. As Roberto Dainotto reminds us, “it is what has been said and written for around three centuries about and around Europe that still determines what we think and do about it; what our dailies report; and what our policy makers decide.”

**Learning outcomes:**

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

* understand and critique interdisciplinary approaches to the concepts of Europe and identity
* analyze and discuss a set of core concepts and questions about identity, the nation and Europe that span different disciplines in European studies
* evaluate different theories as to the effect of trauma, memory and territory in shaping group identity
* analyze theoretical and literary texts which address the notion of identity in relation to culture, and to explain their strategies
* construct their own arguments with appropriate proofs and present them in a sophisticated, professional manner, either orally or in written form
* learn to engage with and critique scholarly literature
* make responsible use of cultural and historical sources and present their own research in an ethical manner

**Prerequisites**: none

**Texts**

***Required:***

Students are expected to purchase the following texts, in either paper or electronic form. Note: all of them are available on Amazon.

Saul Friedländer, *When Memory Comes.* New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1979 (Kindle edition available).

Amin Maalouf. *Balthasar’s Odyssey*. New York: Vintage, 2003 (Kindle edition available).

Leo Perutz, *By Night under the Stone Bridge: A Novel*. New York: Arcade Publishing, 2013 (Kindle edition available).

Theoretical essays and other shorter works will be available either through the library course reserve (indicated in the Syllabus as Ares Course Reserve) or on Courselink (indicated in the Syllabus as Courselink).

**Method of Presentation**

In-class, Seminar style, Mondays 2:30-5:20

For each week, students are expected to read the assigned texts and prepare answers to discussion questions.

**Method of Evaluation:**

Participation and responses to discussion questions 20%

Seminar presentation (15 min.) 20%

Presentation response (in-class) 5%

Article précis 10%

Pre-recorded essay workshop presentation (10-15 min.) 15%

Research Essay 30%