# UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

# SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

# WINTER 2022

## COURSE TITLE: EURO\*6010 European Identities (0.5cr)

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Office: MCKN Room #275

Office hours: online Monday 2:00pm-3:00pm and by appointment

Classes: Tuesday 2:30pm-5:30pm MCKN #521

## COURSE OUTLINE

### Course objectives:

### This core course in European Studies examines ideas of the ‘nation/nationality/nationalism’ and of ‘Europe’ and their relationships to identity. Through an exploration of literature, history, philosophy, sociology, the 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. In the course, 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:

To familiarize students with disciplinary, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research, including the differences in their principles and practice To introduce students to interdisciplinarity in research about Europe To introduce students to a set of core concepts and questions about identity, the nation and Europe that span different disciplines in European studies To learn about the ways different disciplines in European studies permit us to examine the meaning of the core concepts and explore the questions of identity

To understand a selection of cross-disciplinary theoretical and other writings addressing the core concepts and questions To examine a series of theoretical and literary texts which address the notion of identity in relation to culture.

### Prerequisites: none

### **Text**:

#### Required:

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

Maya Ombasic, *Mostarghia*. Windsor: Biblioasis, 2019 (Biblioasis e-book and Kindle edition available)

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

Claudio Magris. *Blameless*. New Haven & London: Yale University Press, 2017 (Kindle edition available).

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

W.G. Sebald. *The Emigrants*. New York: New Directions, 1997 (Kindle edition available).

#### Recommended:

### A series of recommended texts, which are listed in the weekly syllabus, will be posted on CourseLink. They will be discussed in class and are mandatory readings.

### **Method of Presentation**:

Lectures, Seminar Discussions, In-class Presentations. This course will be taught in remote synchronous mode unless we going back to in-person teaching.

### **Method of Evaluation:**

Active Participation 15%

Seminar Presentation (15 min.) 15%

Presentation Response (in-class) 2 x 10% = 20%

Workshop Presentation (10-15 min. + discussion) 15%

Research Essay (18-20 pages PLUS Bibliography) 35% \*\*

**\*\* late submissions will carry a penalty of 3% per day**

Class Participation

Thoughtful and engaged participation in all class discussion and in-class work is, of course, encouraged. That said, it is the quality of one’s class participation that will be assessed, not the quantity. Participation is graded as follows:

To earn an above-average Participation mark the student:

• Completes all assigned readings in time for the class in which they are taken up

• Attends all classes

• Volunteers questions or points of interest from the assigned readings to generate discussion

• Volunteers ideas or questions to help discussion once it starts, and when called on offers well-considered responses

• Responds to other students’ ideas by asking questions or building on their points

NB: As a component of the participation mark, each student must meet with the instructor outside of class BEFORE her/his/their scheduled seminar presentation and BEFORE the Essay Workshop Presentation.

Seminar Presentation

Beginning in week 4 until week 11, and after at least one consultation with me, according to the schedule, you are required to present on one of the primary literary text(s) and critical-theoretical readings assigned for that day. You may use:

Power point (or other) slides, but either way you are required to submit your notes to me following the presentation (NOT before). The presentation must include a provisional MLA style Works Cited list (not annotated), either electronic or hard copy.

The specific objective of the presentation is to consider the literary text(s) in light of the questions about identity that the course addresses.

Its more general objectives are:

• To fill in the gaps in our knowledge. The student presenting the material to the class should be prepared to enhance the class’ understanding of the text/film under discussion by providing an interpretation informed by the theoretical and methodological concerns of the course

• To demonstrate a critical understanding of relevant secondary (critical-theoretical) readings

• To hone your public presentation skills

Presentation Response

From week 4 to week 11 each student will respond in class on two occasions to the seminar presentation by a fellow student. Two students will respond to the seminar presentation during each class, as per the schedule. When signing up, be sure to choose two dates other than that of your own seminar presentation. These responses will follow immediately after the main presentation, with which they will constitute the main impetus for discussion. You should speak for no more than 5 minutes, offering us your initial critical-analytical response to your fellow student’s presentation. It is assumed, therefore, that you will have already completed each day’s assigned readings and will be prepared to speak to these from your own perspective. You are NOT required to submit any notes following these responses; to earn a mark you MUST be present on the day assigned.

Essay Workshop Presentation

On Week 12 there will be an in-class workshop on the theme: "European Identities from Kafka’s Prague to the Present.”

You are required to present a workshop-style version of your term essay (10-15 min./ 5 to 7 pp. max. with optional Powerpoint slides and handouts). Anyone who goes over the limit will be asked to conclude, as we need to reserve some time for questions and discussion following each presentation. You are required to submit your notes to me following the presentation (NOT before). Whether or not you use Powerpoint, an MLA style Works Cited list (not annotated) is also required.

Research Essay

Your essay thesis must be based in the critical contrast/comparison of any TWO primary texts,

from the course syllabus; either: (a) one book from your original presentation plus one other; or (b) one text from your presentation and one other text from outside the course. For option (b) you MUST consult with me at least two weeks in advance of the due date before finalizing your choice of the second text. I hereby reserve the right to penalize any essay focusing on an un-authorized non-course primary text. Finally, no matter what your choice, your thesis must be predicated upon the comparison-contrast of two works in prose (autobiography, novel, memoir, story collection, life writing, etc.). Your essay’s thesis should focus on the general question of the representation of identity in relation to interdisciplinary concepts such as self/other, centre/periphery, and inclusion/exclusion. You are encouraged to plan the paper so as to be able to expand it for submission to an appropriate venue for publication following the conclusion of the course. For the time being, aim for 18-20 pages. Please follow MLA format throughout, including WC list (not annotated). Due date: April (TBA). You will submit the Research Essay to the appropriate CourseLink Dropbox.

Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the Undergraduate Calendar for information on regulations and procedures for [Academic Consideration](https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-consideration-appeals-petitions/).

Drop Date

Courses that are one semester long must be dropped by the end of the last day of classes; two-semester courses must be dropped by the last day of classes in the second semester. The regulations and procedures for [Dropping Courses](https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/dropping-courses/) are available in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Copies of Out-Of-Class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs.  To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS).  Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required, however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to make a booking at least 14 days in advance, and no later than November 1 (fall), March 1 (winter) or July 1 (summer). Similarly, new or changed accommodations for online quizzes, tests and exams must be approved at least a week ahead of time.

More information: [www.uoguelph.ca/sas](http://www.uoguelph.ca/sas)

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring.  University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct.  Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The [Academic Misconduct Policy](https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-misconduct/) is outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Resources

The [Academic Calendars](http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/index.cfm?index) are the source of information about the University of Guelph’s procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.

Disclaimer

Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings, changes in classroom protocols, and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via Courselink and/or class email.

This includes on-campus scheduling during the semester, mid-terms and final examination schedules. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website (<https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/>) and circulated by email.

Illness

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g., final exam or major assignment).

COVID-19 Safety Protocols

For information on current safety protocols, follow these links:

* <https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campuses/how-u-of-g-is-preparing-for-your-safe-return/>
* <https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campuses/spaces/#ClassroomSpaces>

Please note, that these guidelines may be updated as required in response to evolving University, Public Health or government directives.