

**Class Days: M/W 3:30-4:45 Taught remotely:** There will be a mix of synchronous and asynchronous delivery as specified on the syllabus.

**Prof. Katja Weber** Email: katja.weber@inta.gatech.edu

**Office Hours:** By appointment (email to set up a virtual meeting or phone call)

### **Course Description:**

This course has several objectives: (1) to investigate the origins of the idea of Europe; (2) to study the major historical developments of the European Communities and their principal actors; (3) to discuss current problems facing the European Union; (4) to ponder future developments; and (5) to examine the EU's relations with the rest of the world.

### **Course Goals and Learning Outcomes:**

- Build knowledge of the role of the European Union, both in Europe and around the world
- Provide an understanding of the functioning of European institutions and the policy-making influence of the EU on regional and global governance
- Demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence Europe and the global system
- Examine current problems and issues at the top of the EU's political, economic and security agenda

### **Course Requirements and Grading:**

**Midterm 30% (take-home essay exam, more info provided later)**

**Introduction of a Member State 30%** (PowerPoint presentation--in teams--of a Member State that covers the key issues surrounding that country's involvement in the EU.)

**Class participation 10%** (You need to share your thoughts in breakout sessions, via chats and by posting to the course's *Discussion* section on Canvas).

**2 Prompts (15% each) 30%.** In your entries of 350-500 words you will be asked to reflect on the readings/course materials and demonstrate critical thinking. It is not enough to merely recount the readings, but rather, you are expected to present your own thoughts (analysis) of the material studied (for due dates see below).

### **Grading Scale**

Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| A | 90-100% |
| B | 80-89%  |

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| C | 70-79% |
| D | 60-69% |
| F | 0-59%  |

### **Course Expectations & Guidelines:**

The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts supports the Georgia Institute of Technology's commitment to creating a campus free of discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status. We further affirm the importance of cultivating an intellectual climate that allows us to better understand the similarities and differences of those who constitute the Georgia Tech community, as well as the necessity of working against inequalities that may also manifest here as they do in the broader society.

### **Academic Integrity**

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. For information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please visit <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/> or <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>.

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on an assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at (404)894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>, as soon as possible, to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

### **Attendance Policy:**

Regular attendance is expected and essential for obtaining a passing grade. Students must have completed all their readings for each class, participate via BlueJeans sessions and contribute to discussions (in breakout sessions, through Q&A, via chat and posts to Canvas "Discussions"). Students also need stay on top of their writing assignments.

### **Extensions, Late Assignments:**

The Power Point presentation needs to be made on the day scheduled. You have to complete the take-home midterm on the scheduled date as well, unless you can document a serious illness or family emergency, as determined by the Dean of Students. You are able to get one extension of a couple of days on one of the two prompts, if needed.

Please consult this website prior to the beginning of class for “Remote Learning Strategies”:  
<https://ctl.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/remote-learning/index.html#/>

Also, please go to “Quizzes” in Canvas and **complete the “Start-of-Semester Survey”** as soon as possible to help me learn about your current circumstances regarding access to technology.

### **Class Schedule and Readings**

John McCormick, *Understanding the European Union, 7th Edition (2017)*

To enhance the quality of classroom discussions, please keep up with current events and news related to developments in European politics. Good sources for staying informed about current issues in the EU for English speakers are the BBC and *Politico* websites, *The Financial Times*, and *The Economist*.

For a wealth of information on the institutions, Member States and current policies of the European Union, consult the EU’s official website: [https://europa.eu/european-union/index\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/index_en)

**Jan. 18**                      **Martin Luther King Day (holiday, no class)**

**Jan. 20**                      **Introduction**

(via BlueJeans meeting which you will receive an invitation for)

I will go over the syllabus, discuss how to interact with me (email me at [katja.weber@inta.gatech.edu](mailto:katja.weber@inta.gatech.edu)), explain the course assignments and go over course deadlines.

Also, please write a brief **autobiography** so I can learn a bit about you. This is a great opportunity to share anything you would like for me to know about you, for instance, if you require special accommodations, etc. Please email your autobiography to me.

**Complete CTL Start of Semester Survey on Remote Teaching which can be found under “Quizzes” on Canvas.**

Please see Remote Learning Student Guide for helpful tips:

<https://ctl.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/remote-learning/index.html#/>

**Jan. 25**                      **Europe at War (Synchronous via BlueJeans)**

View Video: “The Western Tradition: The Cold War”

<https://lbry.tv/@TheChroniclersTale:7/49-The-Western-Tradition-The-Cold-War:4>

Read Tony Judt “The Legacy of War” (**Canvas**)

Discussion and presentation assignments

- Jan. 27**      **Europe in Chaos 1945-47 (Synchronous via BlueJeans)**  
(recording from day 2 of World War II Symposium, Dr. Greenstein & Dr. Birchfield, which I will provide during our synchronous session)
- Read Tony Judt “The Legacy of War” (**Canvas**)
- Feb. 1**      **The New Political & Institutional Geography 1945-1949 (Synchronous via BlueJeans)**
- (recording from day 2 of World War II Symposium, Dr. Weber, which I will provide during our synchronous session)
- No reading; work on your presentation!
- Feb. 3**      **The Idea of Europe (Synchronous via BlueJeans)**
- Read McCormick, Introduction & chapter 2
- Feb. 8**      **The Birth & Evolution of what Today is Known as the European Union (ECSC-EEC) (Synchronous via BlueJeans)**
- Read McCormick, chapter 1 and pp. 48-57
- Feb. 10**     **EU Institutions (European Council, Council of Ministers, European Parliament) (Asynchronous)**
- Read McCormick, chapter 4
- Watch [EU Video on European Council and Council of Ministers \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- At consilium.europa.eu, choose "English," scroll down past the "In Focus" section and click on the video titled "What is the Council?"
- Watch video on European Parliament:
- [https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/parliament-s-2020-so-far\\_N01-PUB-200701-FIRS\\_ev](https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/parliament-s-2020-so-far_N01-PUB-200701-FIRS_ev)
- Feb. 15**     **EU Institutions (European Commission, European Court of Justice) (Asynchronous)**
- Read McCormick, chapter 4
- Read about European Commission Organization and Procedures:  
[https://ec.europa.eu/info/about-european-commission\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/about-european-commission_en)

Look through the list of Commissioners and their portfolios and read the 1-page overall guidance statement from President von der Leyen to the College of Commissioners. On the link above, click on "The Commissioners" and then click on "How We Work."

Watch ECJ: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIa47M8rSfM>

**Prompt 1:** Explain the EU to someone who has little prior knowledge of it. Response due **no later than Feb. 17, 2021 at 5pm**; upload your response to "Assignments" on Canvas).

**Feb. 17 Student Presentations (Synchronous via BlueJeans) (order TBD)**

**Feb. 22 Student Presentations (Synchronous via BlueJeans) (order TBD)**

**Feb. 24 Student Presentations (Synchronous via BlueJeans) (order TBD)**

**March 1 Student Presentations (Synchronous via BlueJeans) (order TBD)**

**March 3 Widening versus Deepening the EU (Synchronous via BlueJeans)**

Read McCormick, p. 58 through end of chapter 3; and pp. 211-218

**March 8 Single Market & Euro (Synchronous via BlueJeans)**

Read McCormick, chapter 7 & first half of 8

**March 10 Review for Midterm (format: Q&A) (Synchronous via BlueJeans)**

**March 15 MIDTERM (take-home exam)**

**March 17 Security and Defense (Asynchronous)**

Read McCormick, pp. 194-204

Read Article 42 of Lisbon Treaty (pp. 38/39 of treaty):

<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/3c32722f-0136-4d8f-a03e-bfaf70d16349>

Skim 2016 EU Global Strategy:

[https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/eugs\\_review\\_web\\_0.pdf](https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/eugs_review_web_0.pdf)

**March 22 Security & Defense cont'd (Synchronous via BlueJeans)**

Read Johnston, "A Europe That Protects? US Opportunities in EU Defense"  
<https://www.belfercenter.org/publication/europe-protects-us-opportunities-eu-defense>

**March 24**      **No classes, assignments, or assessments**

**March 29**      **Brexit (guest speaker) (Synchronous via BlueJeans)**

Watch PM Thatcher's 1988 Speech on Europe in Bruges:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D\\_XsSnivgNg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D_XsSnivgNg)

Watch Movie Trailer "Brexit"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5S1EMmCWAE>

Watch HBO Movie "Brexit" (optional)

Recommended for good understanding, in a dramatic 1 and 1/2 hour movie based on true events, the basic dynamics of the Brexit debate and why the "Leave" side bested the "Remain" side.

Watch "9 Lessons in Brexit":

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rcjsZ0ybN4E>

Read PM May's 2017 Art. 50 Letter to begin legal process for Great Britain to withdraw from the EU (see May Article 50- **Canvas**)

Research where we are with Brexit now!

**March 31**      **Refugee Flows/Migration into EU (Synchronous via BlueJeans)**

Watch at home: "Europe's Border Crisis: The Long Road"

<https://vimeo.com/141171981>

Read BBC Summary on Migrant Crisis

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34131911>

**April 5**      **Refugee Flows/Migration into EU cont'd (where to go from here?) (Synchronous via BlueJeans)**

Read Foreign Affairs article on European Migrant Crisis

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/africa/2018-09-05/europe-making-its-migration-problem-worse>

Read Commission Report on Migrant Policy Implementation

[https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/20191016\\_com-2019-481-report\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/20191016_com-2019-481-report_en.pdf)

**April 7      European Muslims Join to Fight with ISIS (Synchronous via BlueJeans)**

Read “Islamic State crisis: '3,000 European jihadists join fight”

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29372494>

Read Morten Bøås and Henriette Ullavik Erstad, “The Effect of Migration on the EU’s Crisis Response: Europe First?” (2018) (**Canvas**)

**April 12      EU: COVID Crisis (Synchronous via BlueJeans)**

Read European Council Report on COVID

[https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/20191016\\_com-2019-481-report\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/20191016_com-2019-481-report_en.pdf)

Read article on initial EU Coronavirus response

<https://www.politico.eu/article/coronavirus-europe-failed-the-test/>

**April 14      The EU and Southeast Asia (Synchronous via BlueJeans)**

Read Katja Weber, “EU-Southeast Asian Relations: What Lies Ahead?” (**Canvas**)

**April 19      The EU as a Global Actor (Asynchronous)**

**Prompt 2:** Discuss the EU’s relations with either Latin America (or a country in that region) or Africa (or a country in that region). Your response is due **no later than April 22, 2021 at 5pm**. Upload your response to “Assignments” on Canvas.

**April 21      The Future of the EU (Synchronous via BlueJeans)**

Read McCormick chapter 10

Read Matthijs “The Right Way to Fix the EU”

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2020-04-13/right-way-fix-eu>

**April 26      Wrap Up (Synchronous via BlueJeans)**