

Geography 349 – Europe

Fall 2006

Professor Robert Ostergren
Office: 444 Science Hall; 262-2138
Hours: MW 3:45-4:30, or by appt.
Email: rcosterg@wisc.edu

Topical Outline

PART I. PEOPLE AND ENVIRONMENT

1. **Defining Europe:** European identities; Europe, the European Union (EU), and the World; Europe and its regions. Read: Chapter 1
2. **European environments:** Europe's physical setting (location, outline, climate), terrestrial environments (Northwest Highlands, North European Plain, Hercynian Uplands, Alpine and Mediterranean South, Iceland); the surrounding seas. Read: Chapter 2

MAP QUIZ (Wednesday, Sept 20)

3. **Population:** origins and growth of Europe's population; plague and pestilence; the demographic transition; the Atlantic migrations; "since" the demographic transition, immigration and asylum, population policy and the "graying" of Europe. Read: Chapter 3
4. **Human-environment interaction:** Traditional European agricultural systems; environmental change – the introduction of exotics, the impacts of industrialization, contemporary environmental problems and challenges. Read: Chapter 4

FIRST EXAM (Wednesday, Oct 4)

PART II. CULTURE AND POLITY

5. **Language:** language and culture; origins and differentiation of Europe's linguistic realms – Hellenic, Romanic, Germanic, Celtic and Balto-Slavonic Europe; non-Indo-European languages; Europe's common language; language policy and the EU. Read: Chapter 5
6. **Religion:** the rise, spread and division of Christian Europe; Islam in Europe, past and present, the Jewish Diaspora and the Holocaust; religion and place – the spiritual and the profane; religion and the built environment; secular Europe; religious values and the EU. Read: Chapter 6

7. **Polity:** political and territorial identity through the Ages; nationalism and the nation-state; ethno-nationalism; supranationalism and the European Union; the 2004 EU expansion; EU Governance and the future of the EU project; Euro-regionalism – the a Europe of regions? Macro-regions. Read: Chapter 7

SECOND EXAM (Monday, Nov 6)

PART III. TOWNS AND CITIES

8. **Europe's urban heritage :** the classical foundations of European urbanism; the rise of medieval towns and cities; renaissance and baroque refinements; the dawn of modernity – the industrial/Victorian city. Read: Chapter 8
9. **Modern and post-modern urbanism:** modernity and urbanism between the wars; the impact of World War II, post-war reconstruction and development (western and socialist); urban systems; the post-modern city. Read: Chapter 9

Part IV. WORK AND LEISURE

10. **Making a living:** employment sectors; labor markets and the conditions of work: feminization and flexibility; education and training; wealth and income; social protection and the welfare state; the European social model. Read: Chapter 10
11. **Consumption, leisure and popular culture:** revolutions in retailing and consumerism; Eurobrands – consumption and culture convergence; the European rite (right) of holidaymaking - tourism, past and present; popular culture and entertainment – movies, television and e-culture. Read Chapters 11 and 12

THIRD EXAM (Wednesday, Dec 13)

Course Requirements

READING:

Textbook: Robert C. Ostergren and John G. Rice, *The Europeans: A Geography of People, Culture and Environment* (New York: Guilford Press, 2004).

EVALUATION:

- (1) Map Quiz on physical features and political units (Wednesday, Sept. 20), 20 pts.
Students are asked to locate physical features and political units on a blank outline map. For preparation purposes, lists of physical features and political units, as well as blank outline maps are provided during the first week of classes. These preparation materials may also be found at [Learn@UW](#).

(2) Three exams (Wednesday, Oct. 4, Monday, Nov. 6, and Wednesday, Dec. 13), each 60 pts. Exams usually feature a mixture of testing techniques (multiple choice, map questions, short answer, etc.) and are non-cumulative. Students are responsible on exams for both lecture and reading materials.

GRADING:

Grades are distributed according to the following scheme (with some allowance for upward adjustment if necessary):

93 – 100%	A
88 – 92.9	AB
80 – 87.9	B
75 – 79.9	BC
68 – 74.9	C
60 – 67.9	D
< 60	F

EXTRA CREDIT:

Students may earn up to 4 points extra credit. Credit is earned by submitting a copy of a news item relevant to course material, accompanied by a brief paragraph or two relating the item to course material. The idea here is to encourage students to stay abreast of news events in Europe. News items may come from any source, but often the easiest way is to follow one of the on-line news services. Some good English language options are: *BBC News* (www.bbcnews.com), *Deutsche Welle* (www.dw-world.de), *The Economist* (www.economist.com), *International Herald Tribune* (www.ihf.com). All have good regional coverage. For links to more news services, see the list on the course web page at [Learn@UW](#). Don't be in a rush to submit. To earn maximum credit, follow the news daily or weekly and choose an item that seems to have strong geographical relevance as defined by topical discussions in class and text. You may submit only one extra credit item.

ABSENCES:

If you miss an exam due to illness or emergency, please contact me as soon as you can conveniently do so to arrange a makeup. If you know you will miss an exam for reasons other than illness or emergency, please consult with me in advance so that your absence can be excused and arrangements for taking the exam at an alternative time can be made.

LECTURE POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS:

Lecture PowerPoint presentations will be made available to you at [Learn@UW](#), usually within a day or so. This is intended to help you review materials and study for exams, not as an alternative to class attendance.

GRADS and HONORS: Please see me about additional course requirements.