# Master Syllabus Department of Geography

**GEOG 357: GEOGRAPHY OF EUROPE** 

## **Course Description**

Examines the changing physiographic, climatic, economic, and political environments of Europe. While addressing the entire European cultural area, from the Atlantic Ocean in the west, to the Ural and Caucasus mountains in the east, primary emphasis is given to countries of Western, Northern, Southern, and Central Europe. (3 credit hours).

## **Course Objectives**

The successful outcome of this course should provide students with: (1) increased knowledge and proficiency on the various environmental and cultural (demographic, political, economic) geographic scales of Europe as the continent; (2) enhance the proficiency in Europe's place recognition, in both locational and contextual aspects; (3) develop the curiosity and interest in continuing additional intellectual pursuits that construct an appreciation of geographical regions, places, and ideas, in Europe and elsewhere in the World as well; (4) enhance students ability in understanding better the origins and manifestations of environmental and human processes and problems which today confront both us and the Europeans.

#### **Course Rationale**

Europe is an important geographic entity in the world's global community. It is an area encompassing a wide, and rich, variety of landscapes, nationalities, cultures, and also represent substantial economic potential. Historically, Europe was the place of dynamic human development, which influenced the entire World. The present-day Europe continues its dynamism and global interactions. In this sense our knowledge of Europe may contribute to our understanding of the entire World, including ourselves.

#### **Course Content and Format**

Student will be presented material mainly in a lecture style format, including various multimedia presentations and discussion sessions with students representing specific countries, depending upon availability (in cooperation with Ball State Rinker Center for International Programs). Students will develop and present to class a multivariate project on a specific European country, and an analytical and mapping project on an assigned pan-European theme.

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An example of a potential outline of major topics of this course, with time allotment to each topic at the discretion of the instruction:

- 1. The Region
  - Land: What is Europe?, Location, Borders, Sub-regions a.
  - Environment: Waters, Relief, Climate, Vegetation, Environmental Issues b.
- 2. Population and Culture
  - a. Population Development
  - Migrations b.
  - Ethnicity, Languages C.
  - d. Religions
- 3. History, Politics and Urbanism: past and present
  - Historic Background a.
  - European Unification and Devolution b.
  - Cities and City-scape C.
- 4. Lifestyle: Work and Leisure
  - Industrialization: Economic Regions a.
  - b. Post-industrialism
  - Labor issues C.
  - Transport and Tourism d.
  - **Consumption Patterns** e.
  - **Education System** f.

#### **Textbook Suggestions**

Ostergren, Robert C., and Le Basse Mathias, 2011: The Europeans: A Geography of People, Culture, and Environment, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. New York, NY, The Guilford Press, pp. 417.

Blouet, Brian W., 2012: The EU and Neighbors: A Geography of Europe in the Modern World, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Hoboken, NJ, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., pp. 535.

# **Methods of Evaluating Student Performance**

Forms of evaluation might include: examinations, map quizzes, in-class and take-home assignments, class projects and class participation.

### **Evaluation of the Course**

Student evaluation of the course using university, and departmental, course evaluation forms and procedures.