

Varieties of Contemporary European Culture

Syllabus Spring 2011

Karel B. Müller
mullerk@vse.cz
Monday 1.30 and by appointment

Course description:

The main objective of the course is to acquaint students with the similarities and differences of contemporary European civil societies and to examine the role of cultural, social and political factors in the processes of European integration. Stress will be laid on the description and interpretation of presently existing varieties of European civil societies, but the course will also help the students to understand the main historical roots of European cultural plurality, i.e. the political, economic and cultural processes that engendered this plurality. In the course Europe is conceived in traditional geographic terms, i.e. it includes not only countries of the European Union, but also countries of Eastern Europe as well as Balkans.

Grading policy

Class participation:	20 %
Paper plus presentation:	30 %
Mid-term:	20 %
Final:	30 %

Schedule of classes

Week 1

24 January - Overview of course

26 January - **Defining Europe** – syllabus as required reading

Week 2

31 February - **Defining Europe**

Delanty, Gerard (1995). *Inventing Europe*, London: Macmillan Press, chapter 2 'The Origins of the Idea of Europe', pp. 16-29, chapter 3 'The Westernisation of Europe', pp. 30-47.

2 February - **The Concept of the Nation in European Cultures**

Hroch, Miroslav (2000). *In the National Interest*, Prague: Charles University, chapter 1 'From Ethnic Groups to National Movements', pp. 5-42.

Week 3

7 February- **The Concept of the Nation in European Cultures**

Hroch, Miroslav (2000). *In the National Interest*, chapter 2 'An Orientation in Typology', pp. 43-63.

9 February - **Modernity & Process of Modernization in Europe**

Hall, Stuart and Gieben, Bram (eds) (1992). *Formations of Modernity*, Polity press & The Open University, chapter 1 'The Enlightenment and the Birth of Social Science', pp. 18-58.
Hobsbawm, E.J. : *Nations and nationalism since 1780*; (Cambridge, CUP 2004), pp. 14-45.

Week 4

14 February - **Modernity & Process of Modernization in Europe**

Giddens, Anthony (1990). *Consequences of Modernity*. Polity Press, pp. 10-29.

Hobsbawm, E.J. : *Nations and nationalism since 1780*; (Cambridge, CUP 2004), pp. 80-100.

16 February - **Theories and Models of Socio-cultural Regionalization Processes of Europe**

Gellner, Ernest (1997). *Nationalism*. London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, chapter 6 'Stages of Transitions', pp.37-49.

Hobsbawm, E.J.: *Nations and nationalism since 1780*; (Cambridge, CUP 2004), pp. 101-130.

Week 5

21 February - **Theories and Models of Socio-cultural Regionalization Processes of Europe**

Gellner, Ernest (1997). *Nationalism*. London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, chapter 7, pp. 50-58.

Hobsbawm, E.J.: *Nations and nationalism since 1780*; (Cambridge, CUP 2004), pp. 131-162.

23 February - **Inventing Central Europe**

Delanty, Gerard (1995). *Inventing Europe*, London: Macmillan Press, chapter 4 'The Limits of Europe: The Shifting Frontier', pp. 48-64.

Week 6

28 February - **Inventing Central Europe**

Kundera, Milan (1984). The Tragedy of Central Europe, *New York Review Books*, 26. April, pp. 33-38.

White Stephen, Batt Judy, Lewis G. Paul (eds.) (2003). *Developments in Central and East Europeans Politics*. New York: Palgrave Macmillian, chapter 1 'Introduction', pp. 3-22.

2 March - **Civil Societies in Europe & the Concept of Civil Society**

Müller, B. K. (2006). The Civil Society - State Relationship in Contemporary Discourse: A Complementary Account from Giddens' Perspective, in *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, Vol. 8, No.2, pp. 311-330.

Week 7

7 March - **Mid-term test**

9 March - **British Isles: student presentations**

During weeks 6 – 8 students are obliged to present their own research conducted on one of the topics covered within this period. They are also required to submit the outline of their presentation (300 - 400 words) one class in advance. The final paper (2500 words, 15% tolerance) is due on May 6th (in the last class). Students are encouraged to use the internet to access relevant resources on their chosen topic. They can also refer to readings from previous sessions, plus consult the suggested readings below (more in the NYU library available):

Crouch, Colin (1999). *Social Changes in Western Europe*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Chapters 10 and 14.

Unwin, Tim (1998). *A European Geography*. Harlow, Essex: Longman. Part I 'European Cultural Identities'.

Inglehart, Ronald and Baker, Wayne E. (2000), Modernization, Cultural Change and the Persistence of Traditional Values'. *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 65, No.1, pp. 19-51.
Inglehart, Ronald (1990). *Cultural Shift in Advanced Industrial Society*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Week 8

14 March - **Scandinavia and protestant Baltic countries: student presentations**

16 March - **Western Mediterranean: student presentations**

Week 9 – Spring Break – No classes

Week 10

28 March - **Eastern Mediterranean: student presentations**

30 March - **Central and Eastern Europe: student presentations**

Week 11

4 April - **Northwestern Europe, ie France, Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxumbourg: student presentations**

6 April - **Crisis of the Modern State: European Civil Society as a Challenge of Globalization**

Bauman, Zygmunt (1998). *Globalization*. Polity Press. Chapter 1.

Week 12

11 April – Public Holiday (no class)

13 April - **Crisis of the Modern State: Global Changes & Crisis of Welfare State**

Bocock, Robert and Thompson, Kenneth (1993). *Social and Cultural Forms of Modernity*. Polity Press & The Open University, chapter 'Class and Changes', pp. 13-25.

Habermas, Jürgen (2000). Beyond the nation state? On some consequences of economic globalization. In E. O. Eriksen a J. E. Fossum (eds) *Democracy in the European Union. Integration Through Deliberation?* London/NY: Routledge, pp. 29-41.

Week 13

18 April - **Civil Societies in Europe or European Civil Society?**

Victor Perez-Diaz (1998). The Public Sphere and a European Civil Society“, in Alexander, C., Jeffrey (ed.) *Real Civil Societies. Dilemmas of Institutionalization*. London: Sage, pp. 211-238.

20 April - **Europe as the Sphere of Publics?**

Schlesinger, P. a Kevin, D. (2000) Can the European Union become a sphere of publics? In E. O. Eriksen a J. E. Fossum (eds) *Democracy in the European Union. Integration Through Deliberation?* London/NY: Routledge, pp. 206-229.

Week 14

25 April - - National Holiday – No classes

27 April - **European Modernity and Politics of Identity**

Hoover, K. (1997) *The Power of Identity. Politics in a New Key*. New Persey: Chatham, chapter 2 'Identity Formation in Theory and Practice', and chapter 3 'The Political Pathologies of Identity Formation', pp. 13-43.

Week 15

2 May - **European Identity and Post-National Citizenship**

Müller, B.K.: Search for a European Identity – Psycho-Sociological Perspective; in *Central European Journal of International & Security Studies*; Vol. 12007, No.1, pp. 100-112

Delanty, Gerard (1995). *Inventing Europe*, London: Macmillan Press, chapter 10 'Conclusion: Towards Post-National Citizenship', pp. 156-163.

4 May - **The EU as a global network state**

Castells, M. (2000). *The Information Age: Economy, Society and Culture III. End of Millennium*. Oxford: Blackwell, chapter 5 'The Unifications of Europe: Globalization, Identity, and the Network State', pp. 239-265.

Week 16

9 May – **Final exam**