

# GONZAGA-IN-FLORENCE SYLLABUS

Course: EUROPE-U.S. RELATIONS AFTER WWII (HIST 343)  
Credits: 3 Credits  
Instructor: Steven Schouten, PhD



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## OFFICE HOURS

On Appointment. Available from Monday to Friday by e-mail ([Steven.Schouten@eui.eu](mailto:Steven.Schouten@eui.eu)) or mobile phone: +39.349.807.2332.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION AND ITS OBJECTIVES

This course will offer a detailed description and analysis of the development of US-Western European relations since World War II. Though it will include contemporary developments of those relations, its emphasis will lie on the period of the Cold War, from 1945 to 1993, and thus on the background and wider context of contemporary US-Europe relations. Special attention will be paid to studying the phenomenon of the Cold War itself, moreover, and to the image and place of America in Europe during and after that age. As transatlantic relations depended to a large extent on personal contacts and characters, the course will also pay attention to the biographies of the most relevant historical actors after 1945, including those of Soviet and other non-Western leaders. At the same time it will pay in-depth attention to the most important organizations in the transatlantic relationship (like NATO, UN, EDC and EU).

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTATIONS

The principal objective of the course is to stimulate a better understanding of the main developments and characteristics of US-Western Europe relations since WWII, as well as the development of personal skills and performances. With respect to the latter, you are not only expected to be present during this course, but also to actively participate, through discussions, presentations, through internet and other kind of research, as well as through the (active) formulation of your own thoughts and ideas, especially about the role and place of America in today's Europe, to be expressed in a debate that will conclude the course shortly before the final exam.

## GRADING SYSTEM:

Gonzaga University grading system.<sup>1</sup> The final grade will be the outcome of: class participation (incl. presence and presentations): 10% - midterm exam (written): 30% - 1<sup>st</sup> paper: 10% - 2<sup>nd</sup> paper (update of the 1<sup>st</sup>): 10% - debate: 10% - final exam (oral): 30%.

## REQUIRED READING:

Lundestad, Geir, *The United States and Western Europe Since 1945*, Oxford: Oxford UP, 2003.  
Gaddis, John Lewis, *The Cold War*, New York: Penguin Press, 2005.  
Diner, Dan, "USA-SA-SS: Post-War Projection" in: Dan Diner (ed), *America in the Eyes of the Germans: An Essay on Anti-Americanism*, 2003, pp.105-150.  
De Grazia, Victoria, "A Descent Standard of Living: How Europeans Were Measured by the American Way of Life" in: *Irresistible Empire: America's Advance through Twentieth Century Europe*, 2006, pp. 75-129.<sup>2</sup>

## SOME ENTRIES TO FURTHER READING (NOT REQUIRED):

Judt, Tony, *A History of Europe since 1945*, New York: Penguin, 2005.  
Winston Churchill, *Sinews of Peace (Iron Curtain)* [speech online]; available from <http://www.winstonchurchill.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=429> (Accessed November 23, 2007).  
LeCarré, John, *The Spy who came in from the Cold* (1962)

<sup>1</sup> 0 - 59 = F, 60 - 69 = D, 70 - 72 = C-, 73 - 76 = C, 77 - 79 = C+, 80 - 82 = B-, 83 - 86 = B, 87 - 89 = B+, 90 - 92 = A-, 93 - 100 = A.

<sup>2</sup> Except for Gaddis' book, all material will be presented as copies by the instructor. Gaddis' book can be purchased at the Paperback Exchange, Via delle Oche 4, in Florence – phone: 055-293460.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **PART I: US-EUROPE RELATIONS DURING THE AGE OF THE COLD WAR, 1939-1990**

- WEEK 1: JANUARY 7 – THE HISTORICAL SETTING: THE UNITED STATES AND WESTERN EUROPE BEFORE 1945  
Readings:
  - Lundestadt, Introduction, pp.1-21; Chapter 1, pp.22-26;
- WEEK 2: JANUARY 14 – COOPERATION ESTABLISHED: “EMPIRE” BY INVITATION, 1945-1950  
Readings:
  - Lundestadt, Chapter 2, pp. 27-62;Presentations: Stalin – Truman – Berlin: symbol of the Cold War
- WEEK 3: JANUARY 21 – THE ATLANTIC COMMUNITY, GERMANY’S ROLE, AND WESTERN EUROPE’S INTEGRATION, 1950-1962  
Readings:
  - Lundestadt, Chapter 3, pp. 63-110;
  - Gaddis, Introduction and Chapter 1, pp.1-47.Presentations: Eisenhower – Kennedy – Khrushchev - Adenauer
- WEEK 4: JANUARY 28– DE GAULLE’S CHALLENGE TO AMERICA’S HEGEMONY, 1962-1969  
Readings:
  - Lundestadt, Chapter 4, pp. 111-141;
  - Gaddis, Chapters 2 and 3, pp.48-119;Presentations: De Gaulle – Johnson – Brezhnev - Brandt
- WEEK 5: FEBRUARY 4 – THE UNITED STATES, WESTERN EUROPE, AND OUT-OF-AREA DISPUTES, 1945-1975  
Readings:
  - Lundestadt, Chapter 5, pp.142-167;
  - Gaddis, Chapter 4, pp. 119-155.Presentations: Castro – Nasser – EDC – EU – NATO – UN
- WEEK 6: FEBRUARY 11 – CONFLICT AND COOPERATION: AMERICAN-WESTERN EUROPEAN RELATIONS (NOT) REDEFINED, 1969-1977  
Readings:
  - Lundestadt, Chapter 6, pp. 168-200;
  - Gaddis, Chapter 5, pp. 156-194.Presentations: Nixon – Kissinger – Giscard d’Éstaing - Schmidt
- WEEK 7: FEBRUARY 18 – FROM BAD TO WORSE: THE UNITED STATES AND WESTERN EUROPE, 1977-1984  
Readings:
  - Lundestadt, Chapter 7, pp. 201-225;
  - Gaddis, Chapter 6, pp. 195-236.Presentations: Carter – Reagan – Mitterrand – Kohl
- WEEK 8: FEBRUARY 25 – THE END OF THE COLD WAR AND COOPERATION IN THE END, 1984-1993  
Readings:
  - Lundestadt, Chapter 8, pp. 226-248;
  - Gaddis, Chapter 7 and Epilogue, pp. 237-266.Presentations: Bush (senior) – Gorbachev – Thatcher – Yeltsin
- WEEK 9: **MARCH 3 – REVIEW AND MID-TERM CLASS EXAM (WRITTEN)**

**PART II: AMERICANISM AND ANTI-AMERICANISM IN WESTERN EUROPE – GERMANY, FRANCE AND GREAT-BRITAIN, 1945-1993**

WEEK 10: MARCH 10 – HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND CHARACTER OF AMERICANISM AND ANTI-AMERICANISM IN WESTERN EUROPE DURING THE COLD WAR.

Readings:

- Diner, pp. 105-150.
- De Grazia, pp. 75-129.

Presentations: Fast Food Industry (MacDonald) – Film Industry – Reactions to American Anti-Communism (Sartre, Maoism) – Terrorism (RAF)<sup>3</sup>

*This session will be concluded by a first paper about your own experiences as Americans in Europe. What has been your experience as an American in Europe? Did you detect Americanism and/or anti-Americanism – and when yes, where, how and when? Which of the two phenomena was more dominant? Please focus on your experiences in one of the three abovementioned Western European countries. Paper to be handed in on March 17 (latest).*

**PART III: US-EUROPE RELATIONS AFTER THE COLD WAR, 1993-TODAY**

WEEK 11: MARCH 17 – AMERICA'S NEW STRONG ROLE IN EUROPE, 1993-2001

Readings:

- Lundestad, Chapter 9, pp. 249-268;

Presentations: Clinton – Blair – Schroeder – Chirac

WEEK 12: MARCH 24 – NO CLASS (EASTER HOLIDAY)

WEEK 13: MARCH 31 – TRANSATLANTIC DRIFT: THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE

Readings:

- Lundestad, Chapter 10, pp. 269-294;

Presentations: Bush (junior) – Merkel – Sarkozy – Putin

*This session will be concluded by a second paper that develops the abovementioned (first) paper through inclusion of the relevant historical contexts, before and after 1993, to explain – or to seek to explain – your experiences of Americanism and Anti-Americanism. This should lead to an in-depth analysis of the contemporary place and role of the United States in Europe and to the formulation of (at least) one hypothesis about US-Western European relations today, to be presented and defended during the debate in class on April 7.*

*Paper to be handed in on April 7 (latest).*

**PART IV: AMERICANISM AND ANTI-AMERICANISM IN WESTERN EUROPE – GERMANY, FRANCE AND GREAT-BRITAIN, 1993-TODAY**

WEEK 14: APRIL 7 – DEBATE: EXPERIENCES, VIEWS, AND HYPOTHESES OF AMERICAN STUDENTS IN EUROPE

WEEK 15: APRIL 14 – FINAL CLASS EXAM (ORAL)

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<sup>3</sup> Depending on the course's total number of students and their interests, both the number of presentations and the suggested topics are subject to change.