

Global Learning Semesters

Course Syllabus

Course: European Cultures

Department: International Relations & European Studies

Host Institution: Intercollege, Nicosia, Cyprus



Course Summary		
Course Code	Course Title	Recommended Credit Hours
EUS 210	European Cultures	3
Subject	Contact Hours	Prerequisites
European Studies	42-45	None
Department	Level of Course	Language of Instruction
International Relations & European Studies	Lower Division	English

Course Description

This course provides an introductory overview of European Cultures. It challenges you to engage with other ways of knowing and being, and to rethink your taken-for-granted knowledge and beliefs. Through the course, students will develop critical skills for using anthropological approaches to increase their understanding of and respect for diversity in our rapidly changing world.

Prerequisites (if applicable)

None.

Instructor Information

Ms. Evi Eftychiou is a Phd student at the University of Hull in UK. She holds an MSc in Social Anthropology from the London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London. She also has a BA in Sociology and a Minor degree in Political Science. She is a member of the European Association of Social Anthropologists and member of the Executive Council of the Cyprus Sociological Association.

Ms. Eftychiou is currently involved in several local and European research projects. Her research interests include the social construction of reality, nationalism, culture and environment and rural development policies. She is currently studying the impact of cultural tourism policies on local communities as well as the power relations involved in the construction of an "authentic" Cypriot tradition.

Learning Outcomes

There are two objectives of this course: First, to acquaint you with the concept of culture, emphasizing the diversity of human experience and variation in human formations. Second is to challenge you reflect critically on your own culture and society. In this course, I hope we cultivate a fundamental capacity for understanding unfamiliar and familiar cultures and an ability to interpret "difference" in cultural context.

Course Outline

1. What is Culture? (Characteristics of culture and the method of participant observation)
2. Religion in Southern Italy: Suffering and sanctity (Evil eye and demonic possession)
3. Cypriot Weddings (As a symbolic struggle between tradition and modernity)
4. Hunters and Hunted in Modern Greece (Gendered beliefs on status and prestige)
5. Gypsies in Eastern Europe (Social and economical organization of gypsies)
6. Gender Interaction in Red-Light District of Amsterdam (Reproducing and confronting gender power relations)
7. Antifeminism in Eastern Europe (Social reactions to feminism)
8. Austrian (Homo)Sexualities (Legal framework, social reactions to outing)
9. National Identity in Belgium (Ethnic boundaries among Walloons and Flemish)
10. Social Memory in Cyprus (Nationalism and the social construction of social memory)
11. EU Cultural Policy (Practices of Europeanization)
12. Class Presentations and Discussion
13. Final Exam

Tasks and Assignments

You will be asked to write a **paper** (2500-3000 words – approximately 10-12 pages). The methodology used will include bibliographical research and fieldwork as well. Think of it as an ethnographic record of your observations and evaluations of your experiences in Cyprus. Your “field notes” should be recorded on a regular basis and should reflect your observations, and an analysis of class readings, discussions, lectures, films, as well as your personal experiences (past and present) i.e. interviews, news events, social encounters, work experience, TV programmes, etc. **The paper should be more than a log of events, but must also include your reactions to, thoughts about and an analysis about observations, events, etc., in light of issues addressed in the class.** As mentioned earlier, reflexivity and application of anthropological concepts discussed in class and in the readings are basic analytical tools.

You will be asked to prepare a **presentation** of your findings during the class.

Plagiarism (including from internet/multimedia encyclopedias) will result in immediate failure of the entire course.

Evaluation and Grading

Grading

Paper	40%
Presentation	10%
Final Exam	40%*
Participation	10%

*Attendance at the final exam is mandatory.

Readings and Resources

- Anthony Giddens, 2001. Chapter 2: Culture and Society, In *Sociology* (4th Edition), Polity, Cambridge
- McKevitt C.J., 1988. Suffering and sanctity: an anthropological study of a saint cult in a southern Italian town, Submitted thesis at the London School of Economics and Political Science
- Argyrou Vassos, 1996. *Tradition and Modernity in the Mediterranean, The wedding as symbolic struggle*, Cambridge University Press
- Zinovief Sofka, 1991. Hunters and Hunted: Kamaki and the Ambiguities of Sexual Predation in a Greek Town, In Loizos Peter and Papataxiarchis Evthymios, *Contested Identities: Gender and Kinship in Modern Greece*
- Sharon Bohn Gmelch, 1986. Groups that Don't Want In: Gypsies and other Artisan Trader and Entertainer Minorities, *Annual Review of Anthropology*, Vol.15, 307-330

- Manuel B. Aalbers, 2005. Big sister is watching you! Gender Interaction and the unwritten rules of the Amsterdam red-light district, *The Journal of Sex Research*, v.42, p.54.
- Occhipinti Laurie, 1996. Two Steps Back?: Anti-feminism in Eastern Europe, *Anthropology Today*, Vol.12, No.6, p.13-18
- Bunzl Matti, 1997. Outing Performance/Outing as Resistance: A Queer Reading of Austrian (Homo)Sexualities, *Cultural Anthropology*, Vol.12, No.1, p.129-151
- Georges Van Den Abbeele, 2001. No Joking Matter: "the Other" Belgium, *Social Identities*, Vol.7, No 4
- Papadakis Yiannis, 1995, The Politics of Remembering and Forgetting (*chapter from his unpublished doctoral dissertation at Cambridge University*)
- Shore Chris, 1993. Inventing the "People's Europe": Critical Approaches to European Community "Cultural Policy", *Man*, New Series, Vol28, No.4, p.p.779-800

Other Academic Policies

Class attendance is compulsory. If unable to attend a class, students must inform the course lecturer in advance. A maximum of 20% excused absences is tolerated; however beyond this percentage, students will be withdrawn from the course. Moreover, any work missed due to absence must be completed on return to class.

Materials and Supplies

EUS -210 Course pack: includes all the reading material.